CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION
The phenomena of migration is universal and India is no exception of this process. But the process of migration in modern India (Post British India) is more rapid and voluminous than during the pre-British era.

The reasons for low and lesser migrating trends in traditional India (Pre-British) was owing to the fact of village self-sufficiency and self-reliance. This fact is strengthened due to the structural factors such as traditional economy which was characterized by subsistence oriented cropping pattern; mutually dependent service and social pattern relationship in the form of jajmani system of socio-economic organisation. Further the absence of industrialisation and urbanisation which is typical of modern India was also one another reason.

However the former migrating trends that took place were characterized by marital movements, movement by trade and commerce guilds, natural calamities and movements of individuals who were highly skilled professionals/artisans for royal patronage.

The advent of British changed this scenario. The British policy revised the traditional economic
organisation (jajmani system) by encouraging and promoting monetarised and market oriented cropping pattern, rational beaurocratic and entrepreneurial organisation, industrialisation and urbanisation. Consequently the village self-sufficiency and self reliance were shattered.

The total condition of the sub-sufficient village system demolished, demoralised and subsequently changed its shape after the advent of Britishers. British policy envisages a one way traffic of excavating or producing raw materials in India and export them to their country. Then the finished products were forced upon us to buy. Naturally the industries turned up large establishments of finished goods within a minimum period of time. They need to find out the way of market control to dispose all their stocks. As the raw material came to them virtually free, so as the production cost at less and helped to attract the common man from the large population of the country. The other way, which they followed to get maximum markets was the monopolisation. They used all the measures to dis-integrate and demolish the self-sufficiency in village system. So as to find the demand for the production. The measures included heavy taxation on locally produced
goods, banning the production of some goods, placing the curbs on raising certain particular crops and also forcing the farmers to raise some commercial crops which they want. The most important activity which was demolished was the weavers production of cloth, and broke the self-sufficient village system in the whole breadth and the length of India. The textile cloth was cheap and durable and the people were attracted to buy that cloth. Besides the tax on weavers cloth was heavily raised and the cloth rate naturally be so high. This reduced the demand for weavers cloth to mill cloth. Thousands of families lakhs of people lost their livelihood due to this phenomena. The other artisan industries which suffered due to the colonial markets were viz., metal industry, copper industry, etc.

As a consequence the most affected sections of population were the artisans. The artisans could not face the competition from the industrial products nor they could fit into the village socio-economic structure, which is now highly monetised and market oriented. Thus the artisans have lost their village patronage and thus have been forced to seek other opportunities elsewhere particularly the urban centres.
"In twentieth century, urban agglomerations and cities in India have grown faster than the smaller towns and rural areas. Industrialisation of cities on large scale due to availability of necessary infrastructure attracted manpower from both small urban areas and rural areas.

This was coincided with the increase in the population pressure on arable land in rural areas which forced some of the working age population to seek employment in non-agricultural sector either within the rural areas or in the urban areas. At the same time the village industries did not expand to the extent of providing additional employment opportunities to the tune of additional or addition of the labour force available in rural areas. While jobs were created in cities due to expansion of industries, a part of the demand for additional labour in such expanded or newly established industries particularly in big cities was met from within urban areas. However supply of additional labour force from within urban areas was inadequate.

Therefore, a large portion of working age population from rural areas and from small towns migrated
to cities in search of jobs. Expansion of big cities due to similar and other reasons was spectacular during last five decades. Population growth at higher rate in the cities was mainly due to the inflow of population in them from other parts of the country. Inflow of population also changed structure of the cities.

Post-independence era changed Indian conditions rapidly towards greater industrialisation, urbanisation and modernisation. Nehru's National Policy (in Five Year Plans) emphasized of the large scale industries with the help of developed nations. The licencing policy was eased out for rapid industrialisation. The organised way of development took place through five year plans. Major irrigation, electricity, steel, transport became very important sectors and ambitious plans were drawn and implemented side by side explosion of population nullified the results of developmental activities. At the time of independence population was nearly 30 crores and raised to the double after the span to 20 years i.e., nearly 60 crores. This explosion in population was one of the major causes of migration towards urban areas from rural community. As we noted above the industrialisation created many skilled and unskilled employment opportunities for
rural youth. The conditions of pre-independence British Raj was repeated once again, big landlords, upper classes and caste grabbed the majority of seats in law making bodies like assemblies and Parliament. These people, constructed law to their own benefits and at the same time blatantly formed the rules against the rural poor. The landlords legalised their property under the guise of the Indian constitution. This over exploitation of poor let the rural people into rags, rural poor were out of job mostly for six to eight months. Even in the season they depended on the mercy of landlords and used to get very meagre wages for full day work. So under their depriving conditions people have to search for green pastures in urban areas. Industrialisation in urban areas absorbed all their surplus labour. These poor people atleast got one square mean per day. The rural artisan is again crippled by the industrialisation was in the past during the British colonial regime. Once again artisans left their traditional occupations and migrated along with the other families to the urban areas as unskilled labourers. This happened especially in the case of rural artisans. But highly skilled artisans remained in the trade because of the curious phenomenon which is came to known as "Orientalism".
Modern concepts like co-operation movement greatly helped in organising the artisan sector, for example large number of weavers came together and formed into small co-operative societies. These societies are encouraged by the Government and given help in infrastructural matters, loans, subsidies are given to the weavers, Government took great initiative to sell the cloth produced by weavers under the organisations like Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Weavers Society (APCO) Co-optex of Tamil Nadu. These organisations and many like the open sales departments all over India and encouraged customers to buy their goods, offering attractive and substantial rebates and reductions on the original rate. State and Central Governments helped by giving their contributions of money to give subsidies.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

All the above said conditions have triggered the migration of rural artisans in general and silk weavers in particular to the urban and semi-urban settings, silk weavers became one of the more skilled classes of the Indian artisans due to the national and international market. The good and continued demand for the oriental goods both within and outside the
country is one of the reason for the survival and greater trends of migration of silk weavers to urban centres. Similar situation is found in Dharmavaram town of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh, which is one of the major silk producing centre in India. In recent years Dharmavaram town is swelled with rural migrants and most of them have settled in silk weaving.

While many studies have been conducted on migration, not many studies have focussed on skilled artisan migrants like silk weavers. As such it is not clear while the skilled artisans who could survive the onslaught of industrialisation have to migrate to urban centres and continue in the same vocational pursued namely the silk weaving. Further it is also not clear, the characteristics of the migrants as well as the consequences of these rural to urban migration. Therefore the present study aims at study the immigrant silk weavers of Dharmavaram to understand the process, reasons and consequences of these immigrants. To facilitate the present study the following objectives have been formulated.
OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the demographic characteristics of the immigrant silk weavers at the time of these migration with reference to the age, marital status, and accompanied personal.

2. To understand the reasons for migration.

3. To analyse the changes in occupational status, number of working hours, and duration of employment, changes in income levels as a consequence of rural to urban migration.

4. To portray the socio-economic profile of the immigrant silk weavers in an urban setting; and

5. To understand changes perceived in levels of living and a sense of achievement as a consequence of rural to urban migration by the immigrant silk weavers.

The above objectives, as mentioned earlier, are pursuade in the context of Dharmavaram town of Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh.
UNIVERSE:

Dharmavaram town is selected for the present study due to following considerations:

a) It is a popular and traditional centre for silk weaving;

b) the largest loomage is situated in this town when compare to other silk producing centres in the State, and

c) majority of the artisans involved in silk weaving in Dharmavaram town are recent immigrants.

Dharmavaram comprises 15,527 households of which 7,536 (48.53 per cent) are involved in weaving. For the present study the weavers who have settled after 1981 in Dharmavaram town are considered as immigrant weavers. The municipal authorities estimates that such households number 2,395 and it constitutes 31.78 per cent of the total weaver households of the Dharmavaram town.

SAMPLING:

Most of the immigrant silk weavers are clustered in certain wards of Dharmavaram town and can be considered homogeneous population because of their
occupation involvement namely silk weaving. And hence a random sampling technique has been adopted to choose a vital sample of hundred immigrant households out of a total 2,395 immigrant silk weavers households and it constitutes 4.17 per cent.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION:

The study is based on primary data. The data were collected by administering a schedule. Schedule covers details such as age and marital status and the accompanying persons at the time of migration, reasons for migration, status of occupation, working hours, duration of employment, income levels, before and after migration and questions related to present socio-economic status.

In addition to primary data, secondary data is also collected from relevant reports and records of municipality and Directorate of Handloom and Textiles.

ANALYSIS:

The data so collected is arranged in simple table of form and wherever necessary percentages were calculated. Considering the sample size no statistical techniques are employed. The data were analysed with
reference to the caste background of the immigrant weavers.

CHAPTERIZATION:

The first chapter presents an introductory background of the present study and states the problem of the study and methodology of the present study.

The second chapter deals with the concept and factors of migration.

The third chapter describes the weaving industry in Anantapur with special reference to Dharmavaram. This chapter also presents a profile of Anantapur district, where the Dharmavaram town is located.

The fourth chapter presents the demographic features of immigrant silk weavers at the time of migration. This chapter also presents reasons for their migration.

The fifth chapter explains the consequences of rural to urban migration. The consequences are analysed with reference to changes in occupation, number of working hours, duration of employment and income levels.
The sixth chapter portrays the present socio-economic status of the immigrant silk weavers of the Dharmavaram town and also their perception with regard to changes in levels of living and their sense of achievement.

The seventh chapter is the last chapter in which the summary and large findings of the study are presented.