CHAPTER III

SILK WEAVING INDUSTRY IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT
ANANTAPUR DISTRICT PROFILE:

It is generally held that Anantapur is known after the big tank Ananthasagaram near the western and eastern sluices of which, the villages of Ananthasagaram and Bukkarayasamudram were constructed by Chikkadevaraya the Minister of Bukka I the Vijayanagara ruler. The district derives its name from Anantapur its headquarters town.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES:

Anantapur district is one of the ceded districts and is surrounded on the east and north by Cuddapah and Kurnool districts respectively and on its southern and western flanks by the State of Karnataka. The district can be roughly divided into three natural regions viz., the northern, the central and the southern.

1. Gooty, Tadapatri and Uravakonda in the north with large area of black cotton soils.

2. Anantapur, Singanamala, Kalyandurg, Kambadur, Rayadurg, Kanekal, Dharmavaram, Cheennakothapalli, Kadiri and Penukonda in the centre with the arid tracts extents of poor soils, and
3. Hindupur and Madakasira in the south with their comparatively poor soils. The soil in the southern region though continues to be red is superior to that found in the central taluks and has more cultivation and vegetation.

POPULATION:

According to 1981 census the population of Anantapur district is 25,45,850 and there is an increase in population compared to 1971 census by 20-40 per cent. The table 3.1 gives the particulars of population of the district.

The district has an area of 19,130 kms. with a density of population of 133 per sq.km. The percentage of rural population is 79.12 while that of urban population is 20.88. Among the Rayalaseema districts, this district has the second largest percentage of urban population. The Scheduled Castes population of this district forms 13.69 per cent while the Scheduled Tribes constitute 3.22 per cent to the total population. Of the total population 42.25 per cent are workers, while 57.75 per cent are non-workers. Out of the workers 40.82 per cent constitute cultivators, 34.57
TABLE 3.1

CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION - ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>1981</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decinial growth rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District population</td>
<td>21,15,321</td>
<td>25,45,850</td>
<td>4,30,529</td>
<td>20.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density population</td>
<td>111 sq.km</td>
<td>133 sq.km</td>
<td>22 sq.km</td>
<td>19.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male population</td>
<td>10.86 lakhs</td>
<td>13.08 lakhs</td>
<td>2.22 lakhs</td>
<td>20.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>947 females per 1000 males</td>
<td>946 females per 1000 males</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural population</td>
<td>17.39 lakhs</td>
<td>20.15 lakhs</td>
<td>2.76 lakhs</td>
<td>13.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population</td>
<td>3.76 lakhs</td>
<td>5.31 lakhs</td>
<td>1.55 lakhs</td>
<td>41.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Census Report, Government of India.

per cent constitute agricultural labourers and 24.6 per cent other workers. The number of females per 1000 males is 946. Of the 252 urban areas in the state, 11 are located in this district. The number of inhabited villages are 934, while that of uninhabited villages is 28.
LAND UTILISATION:

Forests cover one-tenth of the district area (10.21 per cent) while barren and uncultivable lands like hills etc., cover 9.91 per cent. The area put to non-agricultural uses such as buildings, roads, water ways etc., accounts for 8.2 per cent while there is a perceptable increase in the net area sown, the only persistent drawback is the vast extent of barren and uncultivable land. About the fifth of the area is available, but fallow. The pattern of land utilisation is shown in Table 3.2.

FAMINES:

Anantapur district experience frequent famines right from the beginning of this century, the district has been hit by severe drought conditions for 27 times. In a period of 20 years from 1948 to 1968 alone, it has been affected by famine conditions 12 times. Every time on an average about 60 per cent of the total dry cultivable area has been affected by such recurring famines, besides poor rainfall and the unfertility of a major portion of the soils, are the factors which account for the poverty striken appearance of the district.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>Area in Acres</th>
<th>Percentage to Total Area of the District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Total geographical area</td>
<td>47,28,534</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Forests</td>
<td>4,82,999</td>
<td>10.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Barren and uncultivable land</td>
<td>4,68,396</td>
<td>9.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Land put to non-agricultural use</td>
<td>3,87,588</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Land under miscellaneous trees and other grows not included in the net area sown</td>
<td>57,045</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Permanent pasture and grassing lands</td>
<td>64,864</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cultivable waste</td>
<td>2,47,690</td>
<td>5.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Fallow lands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Current fallows</td>
<td>5,08,056</td>
<td>10.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Other fallow lands</td>
<td>2,70,778</td>
<td>5.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Net area sown</td>
<td>22,41,418</td>
<td>47.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Area sown more than once</td>
<td>88,806</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Gross area sown</td>
<td>23,30,224</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Net irrigated area</td>
<td>37,137</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Area irrigated more than once</td>
<td>82,625</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Gross area irrigated</td>
<td>1,19,402</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Government of Andhra Pradesh, District Statistical Abstract for Anantapur district.
RAINFALL:

The annual normal rainfall of the district is 544mm which is 352 mm less than the state average rainfall. This clearly indicates the scanty rainfall in the district. The Anantapur district is declared to be one of the 6 districts in India affected by severe drought frequently.

IRRIGATION:

There are three major rivers viz., the Pennar, the Hagari and the Chitravati. The streams that flow in the district are the Papagni, the Maddileru, the Kushavati and the Jayamangali. The Tadakaleru and the Pandameru are two small rivers that flow in the district. Besides the above, project irrigation facilities also are available in the district. They are the Tungabhadra High Level Canal and the Mid-Pennar reservoir which have an irrigation potential for about 1.25 lakh acres. The Upper Pennar Project near Perur, Pennar Kumuduati Project and Bhairavanithippa Project cover an extent of about 28,500 acres. There are 137 PWD and 1,078 panchayat tanks in the district.
AGRICULTURE:

The main crops in the area are paddy, groundnut, castor, cotton, ragi, jowar pulses, sugarcane and sericulture.

SERICULTURE:

At present there is mulberry cultivation in 52,000 acres in Anantapur district. There is an average production of 15,000 tonnes of cocoons per year. Most of the produced cocoons are lifted to Karnataka state. There is good potential for the establishment of silk reeling units, twisting, dyeing units in the district if the cocoons are reeled in the district.

There are about 18,000 silk weaving looms in the district. There is scope for establishment of 2,000 looms when the proposed silk reeling and twisting units are established. 10 silk weaving, artisan complexes are functioning in the district.

MINERALS:

Minerals that are available in the district are barytes, limestone, steatite, white clay, iron ore, diamonds, gold, white shale, serpentine, calcite, dolomite.
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES:

RAIL:

The district has four railway lines running through it. The length of railways in the district is a little over 250 km with railway junctions at Guntakal and Dharmavaram.

ROAD:

The district has good road facilities. The two highways intersect each other at Anantapur. Besides national highway, there is a very good network of state highways and all roads are linked with important towns and villages. The district has 1,990 kms of roads maintained by the Public Works Department, 2,106 kms by Zilla Parishads and 4,409 kms under the Panchayat Samithi.

TRANSPORT:

In addition to the existing railway facilities, there are number of organised lorry transport services in the district. There is passenger transport services covering most of the villages.

BANKING FACILITIES:

The district is served with 183 branches of different nationalised and commercial banks. The
Syndicate Bank is the Lead Bank of the district. Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation is financing through their branch office located at Anantapur.

POWER:

Anantapur district is getting power mainly from Thungabhadra Hydro Electric Scheme. There is an integral power grid connecting Nagarjunasagar, Kothagudam and Thungabhadra.

TRAINING FACILITIES:

There is one Engineering College, one Polytechnic, one Government Industrial Training Institute, apart from private industrial training institutes. ANSET an organisation of Government of Andhra Pradesh, which is catering needs of training in youth for self-handicapped training centre which trains the physically handicapped in the district in various trades.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES:

The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation has created basic infrastructure facilities by establishing industrial estates at Anantapur, Sadlapalli (Hindupur taluk), Kadiri, Tadpatri, Gooty and Guntakal.
EXISTING STATUS OF INDUSTRIES:

LARGE AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES:
There are 10 large and medium industries existing in the district, on food and agro processing, chemical and allied, textile, tyre industry, electrical and engineering industries.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES:
There are 2,226 small scale/tiny industries in the district as on 1.6.1983 with an investment of Rs. 1,489.15 lakhs providing employment to 15,458 persons both registered and unregistered.

ARTISAN BASED DECENTRALISED SECTOR:
The district is dominated with silk weaving, cumbly weaving activity on artisan-based industries. Silk sarees of Dharmavaram are well-known throughout the world. There is good scope for improvement in the silk weaving activity. Sericulture department has taken projects to provide facilities for the sericulture. Rearing and reeling, twisting which will facilitate the silk weaving activity. One medium scale industry is also fast coming up to production which produces the silk cloth. Thereby the silk weaving is going to multiply its activity from this year onwards.
Cumbly weaving activity is the next to silk weaving in the district. The cumblies of the district being supplied to military through APCO. There is good demand to expand the activity and improve in quality.

There are 42,542 artisan-based units are functioning and providing employment to 85,922 persons in different trades in the district.

WEAVING INDUSTRY IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT:

The outstanding feature of handloom industry in Anantapur district is co-existence of cotton, silk and wool industry with equal prominence. Cotton handloom industry is predominant in Tadpatri and Uravakonda taluks. The silk industry is concentrated in Dharmavaram, Rayadurg, Hindupur and Penukonda and to some extent in Anantapur and Uravakonda taluks. Wool handloom industry is the main occupation of KURUBA community in the taluks of Kalyandurg, Rayadurg, Penukonda and on small scale in Madakasira and Hindupur taluks. The Table 3.3 gives taluk-wise loomage in Anantapur district.

The Table 3.3 reveals that there are 19,754 looms in the district of which cotton looms are 7,822, silk looms are 7,888 and wool looms are 4,044. Furthermore details can be known from Table 3.3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Cotton looms</th>
<th>Silk looms</th>
<th>Wool looms</th>
<th>Total looms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anantapur</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gooty (including Uravakonda)</td>
<td>1,917</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tadpatri</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dharmavaram</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>3,608</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>4,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hindupur</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>1,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Penukonda</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>1,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rayadurg</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1,801</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>2,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kadiri</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Madakasira</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kalyandurg</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>1,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,822</td>
<td>7,888</td>
<td>4,044</td>
<td>19,754</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present there are 97 co-operatives in the handloom sector in the district, under the administrative control of the Assistant Director of Handloom and Textiles as given in the Table 3.4.

**TABLE 3.4**

THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Type of co-operative societies</th>
<th>Number of co-operative societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cotton Weavers' Co-operative production</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Cumbly weavers' Co-operative production and sale societies</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Power loom Weavers' Co-operative production and sale societies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Housing Societies for weavers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Silk-weavers Co-operative production and sale societies</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the above there are sericulturists co-operative societies under the control of the Deputy Director of Sericulture, Hindupur.

From the Table 3.4 it can be noticed that out of the 96 co-operatives, only 15 silk co-operative societies are there. The Table 3.4 gives detailed picture of the co-operative societies in the districts.

We can know more details, with regard to the handloom industry from the table 3.5.

**TABLE 3.5**

**TABLE SHOWING THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cotton</th>
<th>Silk</th>
<th>Wool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of looms in the district</td>
<td>7,822</td>
<td>7,888</td>
<td>4,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of looms in the Co-operative sector</td>
<td>3,094</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of societies</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of members in the Co-operative Societies</td>
<td>4,579</td>
<td>1,358</td>
<td>3,190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Hand Book, Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Anantapur District, 1980, p.3.
The Table 3.5 reveals that though the number of silk looms in the district are 7,888 (official) the co-operative societies are only 15. It shows that the co-operative societies were failed. The Table 3.5 reveals more details about the handloom industry in the district.

COTTON HANDLOOM INDUSTRY:

Cotton handloom industry in the district is concentrated in Tadapatri and Uravakonda taluks and these two taluks account for more than 90 per cent of the total loomage of the district. It is also existing on a small scale in Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Rayadurg, Penukonda and Hindupur taluks. The total loomage as per the recent enumeration conducted are 7,822. The varieties of production are mainly sarees, dhoties, gada cloth, towals etc., which are useful for the poor section of the community, specially those in villages engaged in agriculture. The sarees produced have local market and also in some parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana area.

Out of the total loomage of 7,822 in the district, the 44 weavers co-operative societies covered only 3,094 looms of which only 2,290 are active.
Controlled cloth is being produced in about 1,670 looms. The rest of the looms are in private sector under the influence of Master Weavers and individual weavers.

The impact of Master Weavers over this industry is more in Tadapatri and Uravakonda taluks and efforts are being made to enroll more weavers as measures of co-operatives.

The average production of the cotton cloth of handloom is estimated at Rs. 15.00 lakhs per month of which more than 50 per cent are sarees, which find good market in backward districts. The total production of the weavers co-operative societies in the district during 1978-79 as 87.91 lakhs.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES:

Four Weavers' Co-operative Societies in the district were given assistance of Rs. 1.75 lakhs under package scheme for the introduction of new techniques and new designs etc. The societies i.e., Kothapeta Weavers Co-operative Production and Sale Societies Limited, Uravakonda and Chowdeswari Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sale Societies Limited, which were assisted during 1972-73 and 1973-74 have
been implemented schemes. The Peddapur Weaver's Co-operative Production and Sale Society Limited, Peddapur, which was assisted during 1975-76 has completed the construction of the weaving shed etc., has purchased frame looms. The Lakshi Narasimha Weavers' Co-operative Society Limited, Uravakonda, which was financed during the year 1979-80 has purchased the site for the looms shed and the foundation was laid by the Honourable Minister.

DYE UNITS:

Three societies i.e., Chowdeswari Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sale Society Limited, Uravakonda, Kothapeta Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sale Society Limited, Uravakonda, Peddapur Weavers' Co-operative Societies Limited, Peddapur at Tadpatri taluk have got their own dye units. In addition five educated unemployed, with Government financial assistance, have set up dye units at Tadpatri and Peddapur of Tadpatri taluk and the societies are taking advantage of these units.

HOUSING SCHEME FOR WEAVERS:

At present there are two housing societies for weavers, one at Muddireddipalli in Hindupur taluk and the other at Uravakonda.
The Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended to the Government of India to sanction a colony of 100 houses to the Chowdeswari Weavers’ Co-operative Society, and 50 houses to the Peddapur Weavers’ Co-operative Society, under housing programme for weaker sections. Proposals for sanction of 145 houses to 5 other societies have also been submitted to the Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

SILK HANDLOOM INDUSTRY:

Silk handloom industry is concentrated at Dharmavaram and Rayadurg of the district and it is also existing on a small scale in Anantapur, Uravakonda, Penukonda and Hindupur taluks. As per the recent enumeration the total number of silk looms in the district are 7,888. However, this figure is widely varies with the figure given by the Master Weavers’ Association Ex-President, Mr. K. Sreeramulu. According to him there are nearly 18,000 looms are there in Anantapur district and 15,000 looms in Dharmavaram taluk only. In view of the cotton handloom industry facing crisis many of the cotton looms in Dharmavaram and Rayadurg areas have switched over to silk cloth production. Major portion of the industry is under the control of Master Weavers and independent weavers.
Out of the total of 7,888 looms in the district only 1,463 are covered by silk weavers cooperative societies and of which only 430 are active looms. There are 15 silk co-operative societies with a membership of 1,463 and a paid up share capital of Rs. 6.22 lakhs. The industry requires large capital requirements and the production moves very slow in the market as it got only seasonal market. One society at Muddireddypalli is dormant and efforts are being made to revise the same. During the year 1975-76 the Dharmavaram Silk Weavers' Co-operative Society was given financial assistance of Rs. 33,000. The society has extended export orders of Rs. 12,000 to the Andhra Pradesh State Development Corporation and order for conversion of silk into white cloth of the Palamaner Sericulture centre worth over Rs. 45,000. On its own account the society has produced sarees worth Rs. 3.00 lakhs. The total production of the silk weavers co-operative societies during the year 1976-77 is worth of Rs. 4.34 lakhs. During 1977-78 share capital contribution of Rs. 27,000 were sanctioned to silk weavers co-operative societies.

The 7,888 silk looms in the district requires about 2.74 lakhs kgs of raw silk annually. At present,
it is being purchased mainly from Karnataka state through the Karnataka Silk Marketing Federation is there at Dharmavaram. Local sericulturists are not able to meet the demand of silk required by the industry. Even though there is sufficient acreage in Anantapur and Chittoor districts there is no cocoon market in the state as the reeling activity is not in an established stage in the district. Even the private reeling units in and around Hindupur are not functioning satisfactorily. A scheme has to be drawn up to establish a regulated market for cocoons and also a net work of reeling units around the production centres. The D.P.A. L.M.B's and the commercial banks are associated with the schemes and the Deputy Director of Sericulture, Hindupur incharge of the scheme.

The active silk weavers' Co-operative societies working in the district have produced silk cloth worth Rs. 19.27 lakhs during 1978-79 and of which a stock worth of Rs. 12.38 lakhs have been produced by the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society during 1978-79, sales in the open market amounted to Rs. 5.62 lakhs.

Silk industry is a private sector is also facing the problem of accumulation of stocks. They are
facing a very competitive market from the synthetic fabric cloth introduced in large quantities in the market.

Credit limits to the tune of Rs. 73,000 have been sanctioned under the Reserve Bank of India credit scheme to the Dharmavaram Silk Weavers' Co-operative Society, Kasepalli Silk Weavers' Co-operative Society, Rayadurg Silk Weavers' Co-operative Society and Kesava silk Weavers's Co-operative Society worth of Rs. 20,000, 16,000, 12,000, and 25,000 respectively in the year 1977-78.

Government sanctioned Rs. 3,00,000 towards share capital contribution to 8 silk weavers' co-operative societies in the district for 1977-78.

SILK WEAVING INDUSTRY IN DHARMAVARAM TALUK:

The silk weaving industry is existing here more than 100 years in view of the cotton handloom industry facing a crisis many of the cotton looms in Dharmavaram and surrounding areas have switched over to silk cloth production.

In Dharmavaram weaver's community is predominant. There are four types of weavers communities.
Out of the four communities thogata and padmasale community constitute 75 per cent of the weavers community. These communities traditional occupation is weaving. Here we find other than weavers community pursued. Weaving as a primary occupation. Major portion of the silk industry is under the control of master weavers and to some extent independent and contract weavers. The co-operative sector is having very few looms.

According to local source, there are as many as 25,000 looms are there in Dharmavaram taluk. However, this figure varies with the official figure given by the Assistant Director of Handloom and Textiles of Anantapur. According to local sources, there are nearly 400 and above registered master weavers. Approximately 8,000 labour weavers are there under the control of master weavers of Dharmavaram. In Dharmavaram 3,600 labour weavers are there. In Dharmavaram taluk 3,000 labour weavers are there (excluding Dharmavaram town), and out of Dharmavaram taluk we can find 2,000 looms under the control of Dharmavaram master weavers. Nearly 70 to 75 per cent of the villages in Dharmavaram and Anantapur taluks are having handlooms under the control of Dharmavaram master weavers. There are
nearly 6,000 independent or contract or individual weavers in Dharmavaram. Under the co-operative sector the estimated loomage is only 400. The total weavers in Dharmavaram taluk are 15,000. This is the latest figure given by the local Master Weavers Association ex-president.

Though the silk weaving industry is predominant in Dharmavaram, the government's hand towards the development of the industry is negligible. There are only 7 silk co-operative societies with the membership of 400. These societies are producing silk sarees and jacket pieces. During the year 1975-76 these societies produced finished goods worth of Rs. 1,32,615 and affected sales valued Rs. 1,42,975. The master weavers and independent weavers producing and marketing the silk cloth was estimated worth of Rs. 3,00,000 per month.

In Dharmavaram, 15 dyeing units, one reeling centre, one sericulture development agent and one government cocoon market are there. Here the water is very suitable for dyeing purposes and the dyeing is more bright. Due to this reason Sri.K.Narayana Swamy, Master Weaver of Dharmavaram got one medal in Wembley exhibition held at London, 1934.
Here in silk weaving industry we can find both traditional and shuttle varieties of sarees, and it can also wear the varieties for cheaper unlike Kanchi and Arani centres of Tamil Nadu. Dharmavaram silk centre is equal to the remaining silk centres in the state and this centre is equal to one of the centres of Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh states.

In Dharmavaram an ordinary weaver may earn Rs.10/- per day and skilled weaver earn Rs.25/- per day working 8 hours a day. With regard to the development of silk weaving industry by the government is negligible. It needs a silk bank for giving sufficient looms to develop the industry. The government should provide necessary marketing facilities for raw silk. Government should raise more co-operative societies and the sales tax on the silk industry should be removed by the government.

The data for the present study is collected from various streets of Dharmavaram town. As our purpose is to study the socio-economic condition and migrational potentiality we have selected the streets which are not in the purview of organised sector.
As stated earlier, the manufacture of silk fabrics started in Dharmavaram in between 1900-1905 and by 1950 it has completely replaced the manufacture of cotton fabrics. This switch over to silk fabrics was due to the suitability of climate and water for the production of silks reputed for durability, colour fastness and fine texture, resulting in giving maximum profits to manufacturers, besides raising the wages of weavers several times. The availability of skilled labour, the technological innovations in the industry, marketing facilities, availability of weaving material, and communication facilities have resulted in the change over from cotton to silk weaving.

The silk cloth manufactured at this place answers a special demand and it takes a long time for the mill fabrics to compete with the fabrics of the handloom industry. Besides this the margin of wages earned by silk weavers for exceed the earnings of cotton weavers. The average monthly income of weaver engaged on contrast border saree is ₹. 300 - 350 and that of the income of weaver working on shuttle loom is 350-450. These figures for exceed the earnings of cotton weavers whose monthly income do not exceed ₹. 200 even
if he is fully engaged on the loom. Finally the silk industry accommodates both men and women and thereby give independent profession for them to live.

Today, the silk industry in Dharmavaram has bloomed, employing 10,000 looms producing 1,20,000 sarees, besides plain cloth altogether worth 25 lakhs in a month. The average consumption of raw silk for the said sarees is about 60,000 kgs per year. The number of weaving families in the town has increased many a fold. Many weavers families from Kurnool and Cuddapah district, besides native district of Anantapur, have come and settled in the town to make a living. Previously, weaving was mostly alone by weavers caste praised of thogata, padmasale, devanga, kummisale and sakulasale. These castes even to this day they are extraordinarily loyal to their caste occupation and they do not like to leave caste profession, however, bad the conditions may turn. Besides, the original caste other castes are in weaving profession since the work is paying. Hence weaving now-a-days is not the prerogative or domain of one particular caste and people of all castes are engaged in weaving either directly or indirectly.
Even though the industry is offering scope for many to live, yet, the forces controlling the industry are capitalists, and as such capitalistic tendency in the industry exists.

Broadly weavers are divided into three categories. i.e.,

1. Weaver with silk cloth producers.
2. Independent weavers and
3. Member weavers in weavers co-operative society.

WEAVERS WITH SILK CLOTH PRODUCERS:

The numerical strength of this class of weavers is fast dwindling and this due to availability for weavers raw materials means and environment. Immigrant weavers forms the bulk of this category and among native weavers the most economically backward. Every weaver of this category is given a complete set of loom warp and weft besides advance of money free of interest ranging from Rs. 1,500 to 3,000 by the employer to secure the weavers to work permanently under him. This amount guarantees and blind the weaver to silk cloth producer as worker and debtor and the weaver has to pay back the amount at the time of serving his services with the latter.
Regarding his position he is treated fine by the employer since there is dearth of weavers to work and if the weaver is prompt in bringing out the finished goods the latter would not leave the former. The forces operating in the industry are such that in course of time this category of weavers may totally disappear from the scene.

INDIVIDUAL WEAVERS:

The second category of weavers are individual weavers. They are the wage earners in the past and with the availability of raw material on cash and credit this class has come into existence. They own a loom and most of them obtain raw material from silk cloth producers or from the shops on credit and carry out weaving while the rest carry out weaving with the cash they have or with the loans from the banks and corporations they manufacture the goods and dispose them in the market or to the creditor at the prevailing market rate and while doing so take profit which include wage for their work most of the weavers in Dharmavaram (nearly 75 per cent) are of this type and they are happy with the mode of work since every weaver wish is to be independent, free from silk cloth producers.
WEAVERS IN SOCIETY:

The weavers working in society forms in the third category among weavers. They are members in their respective societies and supply the finished goods to societies in which they have membership and take wages for their labour. They are independent in the sense that they work for the societies with or without advance and avails all facilities are notified in the co-operative society acts.

WAGE EARNERS:

A weaver gets from the employer or from the society a complete set of framed loom (for plain sarees) worth ₹ 1,500 or loom with dobby ₹ 2,000 warp and weft both dyed besides jeri. The padugu or warp yarn is used for length and is of superior variety, reeled on machine. The weft or paka yarn is used for width and is of thick variety mostly reeled by hand on charaka. Two types of sarees are produced in Dharmavaram. The first variety of saree is produced on shuttle loom, in which 750-900 grams of yarn is used for warp and 1050-1100 grams for weft produce 5 sarees of 6 yards each. The length of warp would be of 32 yards and 2 yards that remain after the production
of 5 sarees is counted as waste. The second variety is contrast border saree in which 450 grams weft is used for producing 3 sarees of 6 yards each. The length of this warp would be of $20\frac{1}{2}$ yards and $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards will be left over as waste. Design will be specified by the owner or by the society and jeri will be given as per the design used in the saree.