

### **CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINALITY**

It is certify that the dissertation” Challenges in Sualkuchi Silk Industry from the perspective of women entrepreneurship” has been done by Jogita Ray of M.Com 3<sup>rd</sup> semester bearing roll number PC-221-200-0013 under Gauhati University, under my guidance.

The report embodies an original piece of work done by him and he has not attempted to copy it from any work done by any other student from any course under Gauhati University or any other University. The findings are his own.

Date :

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Place :

## CERTIFICATE OF DECLARATION

I, Jogita Ray declare that this project report titled **“Challenges in Sualkuchi Silk Industry from the perspective of women entrepreneurs”** for the purpose of partial fulfilment of M.Com Semester course curriculum under Gauhati University has been prepared by me. This report is the result of my own efforts, and it has not submitted to any other University.

I also do hereby declare the information disclosed in the project report is true to the best of my knowledge.

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## **CHAPTER-1 INTRODUCTION**

‘Sualkuchi’ is the main Centre of Kamrup district of Assam where large amounts of silk are produced. Sualkuchi has the largest number of cottage industry engaged in handloom among the whole Assam state. The pride village Sualkuchi is situated under kamrup rural district of Assam. This village is known as the ‘Manchester of Assam’ and was established by MumaiTamuliBarbaruah, a great administrator of the Ahom Kingdom. It is situated on the bank of Brahmaputra, about 35 kms West from Guwahati city, it is the block of Kamrup district with geographical area of 90 kms. Here weaving is a dominant occupation among the population. The weaving tradition in this area started in the 11<sup>th</sup> century when King Dharma Pal, of the Pal Dynasty sponsored the craft and brought 26 weaving families from Tantikuchi to Sualkuchi. Now Assam silk industry is centralized in Sualkuchi. Sualkuchi is the textile Centre of Assam. Muga silk and Pat silk along with Eri silk or Endi cloth from this region are famous for their quality. Mekhela chadors and gamosas made from this indigenous material are in high demand through whole world. These products are not only used for domestic consumption but also exported to many countries around the world.

To provide Financial assistance in an integrated manner to the handloom weavers and to strengthen the design segment of the fabric, the government of India has taken new initiatives in addition to ongoing programmed by launching new schemes, namely Deen Dayal HathkarghaProtsahan Yojana and set up a national Centre for Textile Design. Focus has also been given on the Enforcement of Handloom Act, 1985 that aims to protect millions of handloom weavers from the enforcement made on their livelihood by the poor loom operators and textile mill sector, by reserving

certain categories of textile articles for exclusive production by handlooms. The government has also set up the National Handloom Development Corporation to provide boost to the implementation of the various welfare schemes for the development of the weavers. Some of the very important schemes includes Health Package Scheme for providing financial assistance for treatment of diseases like Asthma, tuberculosis, maternity benefits to women weavers etc. Thrift Fund Schemes to meet expenses towards children's education, marriages and religious ceremonies. A new insurance scheme for providing coverage against loss or damage to dwellings due to flood, fire and so on. The government has also set up Export Promotion Council as the nodal agency for export promotion efforts related to cotton handloom textiles. Further handloom weavers' comprehensive welfare scheme is providing Life, accidental and disability insurance coverage to handloom weavers as well as workers under the components Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi Banker Yojana.

‘Her father protects her in childhood, her husband in her youth, her son in her old age. A woman is never fit for independence.’ MANU, MANUSMRITIS

‘Norm and ideals arise from the yearning that is an expression of freedom, it does not have to be this way, it could be otherwise’ Iris Marian Young, Justice and the politics of Difference.

The story of civilization is the story of men and women struggling up from necessity, from their helpless dependence on nature of freedom, and their partial mastery over nature. The basic assumption then with which we must start any theorizing about the past, is that men and women-built civilization jointly. In this struggle, in this long march of humankind, it was essential that most nubile women devote most of their adulthood to

pregnancy childbearing and rearing. One would expect that men and women would accept such necessity and construct beliefs, mores and values within their cultures to sustain such necessary practices. Thus, the first sexual division of labour by which men did the big game hunting and women the food gathering, served a functional purpose and hence were acceptable to men and women alike. However, sometime during the agricultural revolution, relatively egalitarian societies with a sexual division of labour based on biological necessity gave way to more highly structured societies which was characterized by the power of some men over other men and all women. The shift here described coincides with the formation of the first archaic states in around 600 B.C, it is at this point that the earliest form of patriarchy is seen. The transition to patriarchy marked the beginning of the subordination of women in all spheres of life to patriarchal values and norms. Today, the subversion of women's rights. According to the 1993 UN Human Development Report, there is no country in the world in which women's quality of life is equal to that of men. The qualities that may have fostered human survival in the Neolithic era are no longer required of modern people. Nevertheless, women are still expected to follow the same roles and occupations that were functional and species essential in the Neolithic Age. What is of even greater concern is that women's contributory role in society, economy and polity have seldom been acknowledged by policy makers or academics. In fact, since their inception, the social sciences have been dominated by men, and as a natural extension have been equally dominated by the assumption of male supremacy as a social constant, a universal fact of psychological and biological life. It was almost forgotten that humankind consist of women too. History was written from the perspective of mankind. She was sometimes glimpsed in some history textbooks that too perhaps because her achievements were considered

significant by male standards. Women in history thus have largely remained invisible or have been added on, never part of theory construction or the historiography research agenda which has remained, “rational”, “scientific” and “universal”. As feminists point out, “women frequently have been the objects of history rather than historical subjects in their own right.” Thus, the recorded and interpreted record of the past of humans is only a partial record, in that it omits the experience of one half of humanity and that it is distorted, in that it tells the story from the viewpoint of the male half of humanity only.

It is seldom realized that the widespread practice of arbitrarily defining women’s work has a very serious consequence. It systematically understates woman’s contribution in productive activity which has an adverse impact on their status in society, their opportunities in public life and the gender blindness of development politics on the other hand, it indirectly justifies the gender biased differentials even where men and women are engaged in the same kind of work. The underestimation of woman’s work in contemporary society reflects the complex, exploitative and inequitable socioeconomic system in which we live. What is needed therefore is a gender-neutral tools of analysis, methodology, approach and concept which will help us to question smug theoretical assumptions of masculine universals and famine specificities without at the same time belittling or making invisible the role of men in society.

In the guest and attempt to turn the attention away from the masculine constant, the study focuses on the role played by women in a particular sector of an economy (namely handloom weaving) in a specific geographic context. In fact, textiles, is a sector where women appear to name traditionally played a very important role. In India, it is said that the success in cotton handloom

weaving on sericulture silk spinning on raw - jute extraction was inescapably dependent on women's labour and the traditional skills that went with it. With the rise of cotton and jute mills in the 1850's and introduction of more mechanized production, women were employed in the factories where they loped with a host of discriminatory practices. However, the sericulture and weaving industry in India in general and assam in particular remained household based.

Even through little attempt at formalization was seen in their sector till late colonies period, the present study has used the term industry in the context of silk manufacturing, because all the stages of silkworm rearing and silk production, a certain degree of community organization, division of labour, investment in land to be brought in for silk worm rearing etc., comes into play. The above-mentioned factor, incidentally, are the basic prerequisite of an industrial enterprise. Perhaps for this reason too, historians of this region like P.C Choudhury and P.C Goswami, among others, have categorized silk as an industry. This study therefore also uses the term industry in this context.

The date of introduction of silk manufacture in Assam or the tradition of silk weaving in Sualkuchi cannot definitely be ascertained. However historical records point to the fact that the Kotonis or the rearers of the Pat silk entered Assam in the 12 A.D. It appears then that this craft flourished under the Pala Kings. During the time of the Assamese poet, Sri Chandra Bharali, a contemporary of king Naranarayana of Coch Behar, weaving of Pat silk was an established practice in Sualkuchi.

An interesting legend relates that a poor Brahmin widow gave birth to three sons after the death of her husband and was excommunicated by the society for her alleged unchastity. In her distress, she sought help from a holy



hermit, who taking pity on her, changed her three sons into three silkworms, viz Eri, Muga and Pat.

Eri is also called Endi silk and is obtained from a silkworm known as *Attacus ricini*. The vernacular as well as the scientific name of the insect denotes its connection with the era or the castor plant which is its principal food plant. The Eri is a multivoltine and produces 6 or 7 broods in a year. The spun Eri thread is devoid of luster but is soft to the touch and remarkably durable, qualities that make Eri cloth particularly suitable for rough wear. It is light but warm, the ordinary cold season wear of the Assamese villagers was generally made of this cloth.

The Pat worm is a *Bombyx* and is akin to the common silkworm of Europe, China, Japan and Bengal. The worm feeds exclusively on the leaves of the mulberry tree. The cultivation of this crop was practically confined to a section of the Kotonis or Jugi caste the polupohas of the three varieties of silk grown in Assam the Pat silk was the most valuable and only the well-to-do could afford to wear the Pat cloth.

Muga silk is produced by an insect known to Science as *Antheraea* Assamese. Thus, silkworm is not known to be cultivated outside of Assam, a fact which gives relevance to its scientific name. The silk yielded by the Muga is of a golden yellow colour. The Muga worm assumed two varieties when it was fed on the champa (chapa) and the Tetraether Polyantha (Mezankoriadakuri) plant. Champa silk is described as very fine white silk which used to be worn only by the Ahom Kings and their nobles. Similarly, the Mezankori silk as reported by Hamilton constituted the dress of the higher ranks, most of it being dyed with lace.

The process of silk manufacturing, involves four major stages that of rearing the cocoons, twisting and reeling the thread and weaving. Since silk processing and manufacturing, is a household industry, it would be interesting to assess the role played by women in it. By focusing on the household for an understanding of the condition, position and contribution of women to socio-economic production, it is by no means suggested that the household is the 'proper' place for women. However, given that in majority of societies women experience the family as the core of their social relationships, there is a necessity of analysis at the theoretical level into the household to understand the nature of the domestic work and of the relation between the sexes within the household.

The objective of the study will be to understand the participation and role of women in silk weaving and sericulture in Assam with reference to Sualkuchi and its consequences for gender relations in this sector. Since there appears to be a process of continuity and change in the history of this sector of the economy and the gender roles, to trace these processes, the work covers a period ranging from the early origins of silk weaving in Assam, to the contemporary times with the focus on Sualkuchi. While in conventional historical terms this might seem too long a period, but considering the focused nature of the work, the period is viable. While admittedly a single study in itself is not enough to draw generalization on gender relations in the North-east, it can be hoped that each study like the present one will help one to draw comparisons of gender equations across time and space in the North-East and in the process help to arrive at a more holistic picture of the society and economy of the region.

In the Kamrup cluster of Assam, most of the houses have Sal looms, and all the family members work as a team in weaving at a very young age and skills are transferred from mother to daughters/sons. The entire family gets involved in the value chain of weaving (Baishya M 2016). About 80 percent of the women weavers from the Sualkuchi block receive their wages monthly, and 20 percent of the women weavers accept their payments weekly, no women weaver receive their payments daily or annually. For the Kamrup cluster, most of the houses possess Sal, and it is attached to the house where weaving is done collaboratively along with the family members. Around 16% of women weavers face problems in the workplace; 22% of women weavers suffer from uncongenial accommodations, 36% of weavers from the Sualkuchi block face problems regarding payment, 16% of weavers of the Sualkuchi block have issues with the required work periods and time, 6% of the women weavers from the Sualkuchi block had problems with lavatory facilities and the weavers do not get enough leisure time.

Based on the data, the researchers discovered that the working condition for women weavers are not conducive to wellbeing. Health related issues exist for the weavers of the Kamrup cluster, and the Boko block weavers earn less than INR 2500 per month. The process of making designs in the traditional style is very extricate and time consuming. As a result, the weaves of Kamrup cluster suffer from money eye-sight problems. There is no proper worksheet for the weavers to keep looms and fabrics safe from rain and Sun damage.

The weavers of the Kamrup cluster are demanding various welfare schemes from the govt of India and the govt of Assam. Some of the benefits which the weavers of Sualkuchi are demanding include free medical aid,

weavers' loans, and home loans. Soft loans are also on the list of demands of the Sualkuchi silk industry. The govt of Assam conducted an Entrepreneurship Development Programmed in which training was provided for two weeks.

Value added products like Pat pillows, Muga umbrellas, Eri silk children's cloths, Eri jeans fabric, Muga curtains, Pat curtains, Muga and Pat ties, Muga plain fabric and Pat plain fabric and possible.

Direct sales from the production unit to the buyer need to be facilitated through online platforms. Most of the weavers of the Kamrup cluster are from the financially weaker section and need immediate cash.

### **1.2 HISTORY OF THE SUALKUCHI SILK INDUSTRY**

Although silk was cultivated and woven by women all around Assam, the silk clothes of a particular place named Sualkuchi achieved much fame during the Kamrupa as well as Ahom rule.

Sualkuchi is said to have been established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by King Dharma Pala of the Pala dynasty that ruled western Assam from 900 AD to about 1100 AD. Dharma Pala, the story goes, brought 26 weaver families from Tantikuchi in Barpeta to Sualkuchi and created a weavers village close to modern day Guwahati. Silk was given royal patronage during that period and Sualkuchi was made an important Centre of silk weaving.

The hand-loom industry of Sualkuchi creates cotton textiles, silk textiles, and khadi cloth. These traditional textiles hold high social and moral value in and outside the state. However, Sualkuchi is best known for its silk textiles, both mulberry and Muga silk. Muga, “the golden fiber”, is produced only in Assam; it became known as Assam silk from its association with the region. Such

activities have been intimately linked with the culture and tradition of the Assamese people since the long past.

The weaving industry of Sualkuchi received a big boost during the Second World War. The growing demand for fabrics and their increasing prices encouraged a few Tanti families to begin weaving commercially. They started weaving factories by engaging hired wage weavers.

## **Chapter –2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Review of literature**

1. **Goswami (1999)** in her book Assam in the Nine- tenth Century: Industrialization & colonial Penetration argued that the manufacture of the silk was left entirely in the hands of the women. Every household was in possession of a loom. Spinning and weaving of both cotton and silk were carried out by women of the family principally for making clothes for personal use
2. **Daimari (2005)** in his book Economic Development of Assam: Problem and Prospects argued that cottage and handloom industries have great importance in an agrarian economy like Assam. The rural families can sustain and run their livelihood in these industries.
3. **Kalita (2018)** in his book Cloth Industry of Sualkuchi clearly discusses the strength challenges of the handlooms industry of Sualkuchi. He highlighted the crisis of the handlooms, their modernization of open markets, rising prices of silk materials, impacts of G.S.T on the silk industry of Sualkuchi, changing market economy and so on.
4. **Sarmah (2016)** in his book status of women engaged in the Handloom Industry in Assam have discusses about the role of women engaged in the handloom sector, in the production of the handloom fabrics. He argues the handloom weaving activities have a glorious tradition in the economy of Assam as well along with the rest of the northeast region. Such activities are intimately linked with the culture and traditions of the Assamese people since the long past. He held that it is practiced by all sections of the people irrespective of caste, creed and community.

5. **Phookan (2012)** in his book *Handloom Weaving in Assam* clearly discusses about the important role played by handloom sector in India's economy. It provided 19 percent of Country's Cloth production, contributed to the Country's export earnings. It is the oldest and largest industry. This industry is silk Oriented.
6. **Bharali (2020)** in his book *In the Historical Search of The Sualkuchi* clearly discusses about the historical location of the Sualkuchi, its cultures, socio-political life of the people of Sualkuchi, religious ethos, education, its production process of handlooms besides the changing economy of Sualkuchi.
7. **Baishya (2005)** in his book *Silk- -Industry in Asam* clearly discusses the handloom industry in Assam especially the Sualkuchi's handloom industry. In spite of the host of competing glossy fabrics and man-made fibers. Sericulture on which the silk industry survives is by far the best rural industry to provide jobs and generate income in the rural areas. It also helps create a humanized habitat of green cover in the face of the increasing ecological degradation around us.
8. **Mahapatra (1989)** in his book *Economics of Cotton Handloom Industry in India* discusses about the socio-economic background of the handloom weavers, employment and organization characteristics. Mahapatra in his book clearly suggested that credit facilities should be provided to the weavers.
9. **B. Premsundar and J Kannan (2013)** in their article discusses empowerment through handloom sector. It and J Kannan in their article discuss the empowerment through handloom sector. It is one of the largest economic activities, after agriculture. Our country's own power loom and Khadi movement totally deteriorated the overall status of

handlooms and its weavers. Mainly it burdens the life of women, a major workforce in the handloom sector, compared to men. Nearly of handloom workers are women, of which the state of Sikkim records the lowest in number, whereas the state of Assam records the highest. On a whole purpose of this paper, it is familiarized with the current status and livelihood problems of unorganized women handloom workers.

10. **Devi M (2013)** in this article, it has been shown about the role of female weaver to empower them in the family as well as society through engaged themselves as a weaver in the silk industry. Reasonably 200 units of silk factories are taken as samples and on the basis of that data are collected to analysis the study. The analysis highlights the female weaver's participation in percentage as well as the male participants and also shown weavers participants from the owner's family member and hired group.
11. **Jain J & Ratan A (2017)** in this article, Silk industry in Assam, India is centered at Sualkuchi, Kamrup district. Silk in the protein fiber produced by silkworm for spinning the cocoon. The objective of our study is to prescribe a conceptual model using the concepts of distributed economics and sustainability to preserve the unique culture of the area which is diminishing due to lack of the products demand.
12. **Singha R, Singha S (2020)** in this article, most households in Assam weave cloth and every girl child in the household acquires weaving skills at a very young age from her mother. In Sualkuchi, there are approximately 6872 female weavers. These weavers are very concerned about the preservation of traditional handloom weaving as they feel that over time the skills required for this could disappear.



13. **Saikia R(2019)** in her article, Assam silk fabrics have earned immense recognition from all over the world. The whole Assam silk industry is now centered in Sualkuchi. The traditional handloom silks still hold their own in world markets. Mahatma Gandhi during his tour of Assam that to promote Khadi and Swadeshi, he remarked, “Assamese women weave fairy tales in their cloths”. In the context of silk weaving in Assam (Sualkuchi), it provides self-employment to the masses, especially women. Here the people of Sualkuchi emerge as a center of excellence and empower the aspirants through innovation and quality to discover their skill for over all development of the society.
14. **Phookan (2010)** in his book Muga silk clearly discusses Assam Muga silk or golden fiber. The production of this involves a large number of people at every step. It is not only sensuous, durable but also strong and beautiful. Golden silk is widely distributed and cultured in the Brahmaputra valley. He held that the silk to weave is the primary qualification of a young girl for her marriage. Thus, Assam perhaps has the largest concentration of handloom and weavers in India.
15. **Srinivasulu (2010)** in his book Textile Policy and Handloom Sector have already discusses about the handloom weavers who are classified on the basis organization of production into cooperative, master-weaver and independent weaver segments. He also talks about the government’s role, argued that govt should take steps to provide the weavers with semi-automatic looms and requisite training.

## **2.2 Research Gap**

Various studies have been done on Sualkuchi Silk Industry, which is relating to women entrepreneurs, generation, advantages of women entrepreneurs by various research scholar but very few of the study have been done in study area regarding the Sualkuchi Silk Industry and the challenges associated from the perspective of women entrepreneurs. So, in this study an attempt has been made by researchers to find out the problem of this sector so that measurement can be taken for the upliftment of this sector.

## **Chapter –3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter explains the significance of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, limitation of the study and research question. The section of research methodology aims to highlight the design and methodology of the study. It thoroughly about the research design data collection, sampling design and tools and techniques for analysis of the data.

#### **3.1. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The production of various silk fabrics can be seen all over Assam, but this activity is mainly concentrated in Sualkuchi which is a prominent silk weaving center. The present research work is an attempt to study the silk industry of Sualkuchi in the Kamrup district of Assam situated about 30 kms from Guwahati city. The study deals with silk weaving and how to weave communities and their families have been waging a struggle to safeguard the culture heritage of the silk village. This handloom weaving tradition has a very important effect on the socio-economic lives of the people of Assam. It is said that the weaving industry has successfully sustained its worth by transfer of skills from one generation to the other. The condition of the Sualkuchi Silk Industry is gradually deteriorating due to various factors, so it is necessary to understand the problems and prospects of this industry for which it is required to study the phenomenon in different settings. The present study might help in bringing the ongoing problems of the weaving community to light and might help in formulating policies and programmed for the development of this industry.

### **3.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The urgent needs of the handloom industry are to be addressed and substantial growth in both employment and output must be achieved. Detailed research on the process and production, social structure, weaving condition, marketing of products, problems faced by the weavers, its prospects and so on is necessary. All these issues will provide impetus for growth prospects of the weaving industry. The most important problem this silk industry is facing at recent times is the dearth of weavers from outside. These problems need to be investigated for the smooth functioning of this sector. The Suakuchi silk industry in the Kamrup district was chosen for detailed research study. The pathetic condition of handloom industry in Sualkuchi demands through investigating into the problems and measures to plug the loopholes and find remedies to the problem confronting silk handloom weavers and entrepreneurs. The people of Sualkuchi demand a change in the present situation of the silk village of Sualkuchi. For these research study samples are limited, therefore the outcome of the study is limited to the specific area it may not be same for the weavers of other parts of the state.

### **3.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the study are:

- I. To Analyse the socio-economic condition of women entrepreneurs in the study area.
- II. To examine the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in the study area.

### **3.4 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

- I. Required information for the study has been selected from 50 female weavers of Sualkuchi. Therefore, the outcome of the study is limited to the specific area, and it may not be same for the weavers of other parts of the state or country.
- II. Respondents were unlikely or unable to answer all the related questions of the questionnaire.
- III. Secondary data were collected from govt officials where data were not maintained properly and lack of continuity
- IV. There may be Biasness of respondents in their responses.
- V. **Since the time was limited and**

### **3.5 RESEARCH QUESTION**

- I. What is the socio-economic condition of women entrepreneurs of the study area?
- II. What are the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs of the study area?

### **3.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research methodology comprises of the research design, data collection method, sampling tools and techniques, statistical tool for analysis and data interpretation.

#### **3.6.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The present study is descriptive in nature. It studies the problems of women entrepreneurs with special reference to Sualkuchi area, Kamrup district. This research has used structured questionnaire for the collection of data.

#### **3.6.2 AREA OF THE STUDY**

The area selected for the study is Sualkuchi, Kamrup district, because this area has a mass production of handlooms.

### **3.6.3 SAMPLE SIZE**

In the study area there are numbers of women weavers but due to paucity of time the researcher has selected 50 women weavers to conduct the study.

### **3.6.4 SAMPLE TECHNIQUE**

Convenient sampling technique is used for the purpose of study.

### **3.6.5 SOURCE OF DATA**

To achieve the objective of the research, the data is collected from both primary and secondary data.

- **PRIMARY DATA:** The primary data has been collected through questionnaire and personal interview from a total of 50 women weavers of the study area.
- **SECONDARY DATA:** The secondary data has been collected from various journals, articles, websites, books, etc.

### **3.6.6 TOOLS AND TECHNIQUE OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The data obtained from various sources are analyzed by using various statistical tools such as tables, bar diagram and pie charts. And the interpretation is done based on the analysis.

## **CHAPTER- 4**

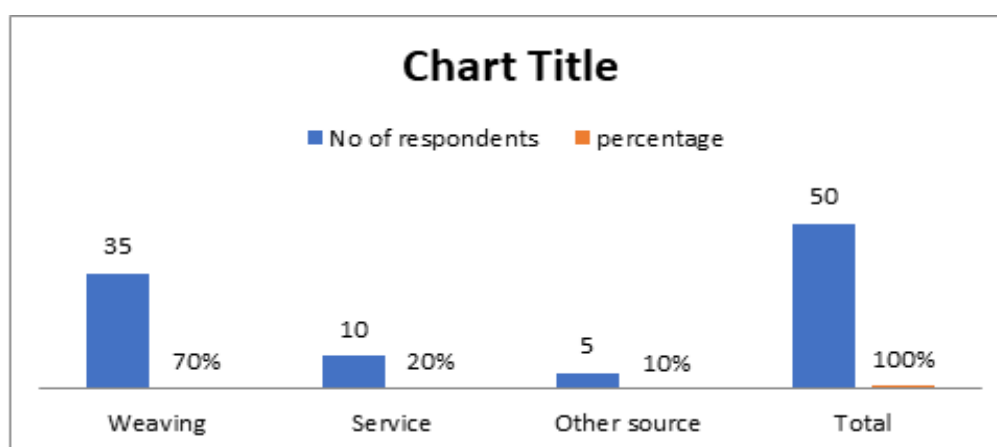
### **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

Data without analysis do not provide relevant information, hence this chapter is concerned with data presentation finding obtained from the study and presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the respondents and the respondents in this study area the owner of the silk industry. Primary data is the data analysis of sample which I had collected from 50 respondents of Sualkuchi, Kamrup district.

**TABLE- 4.1: Table showing Age of the Respondents**

Age group	No of respondents	Percentage
5-25	12	24%
26-35	25	50%
36-45	8	16%
46- above	5	10%
Total	50	100%

*Source: Primary Data, 2023*



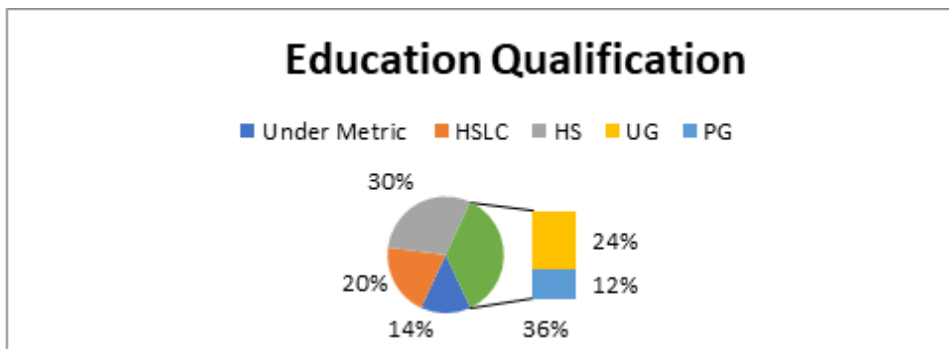
**Fig 1: Diagrammatic representation of age structure of the respondents.**

From the table and figure shown above it has been found that 24% of the respondents belong to the age group 5-25 years, 50% of the respondents belong to the age group 26-35 years, 36-45 years, 46- above. Here it can be interpreted that the majority of the respondents age structure is 26- 35 years.



**TABLE- 4.2: table showing education qualification the respondents**

Education Qualification	No of respondents	percentage
Under Metric	7	14%
HSLC	10	20%
HS	15	30%
UG	12	24%
PG	6	12%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		



**Fig 2: Diagrammatic representation of Education Qualification**

The researcher has taken 50 no of respondents for study above the table shows that the education qualification of the respondents. The education qualifications of the respondents are under metric, HSLC, HS, UG, PG respectively 7, 10, 15, 12 and 6. From the study it has been found that most of the respondent's education qualification is HS and below it.

**TABLE- 4.3: table showing marital status of the respondents**

Marital status	No of respondents	Percentage
Single	10	20%
Married	35	70%
Widow	3	6%
Divorcee	2	4%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

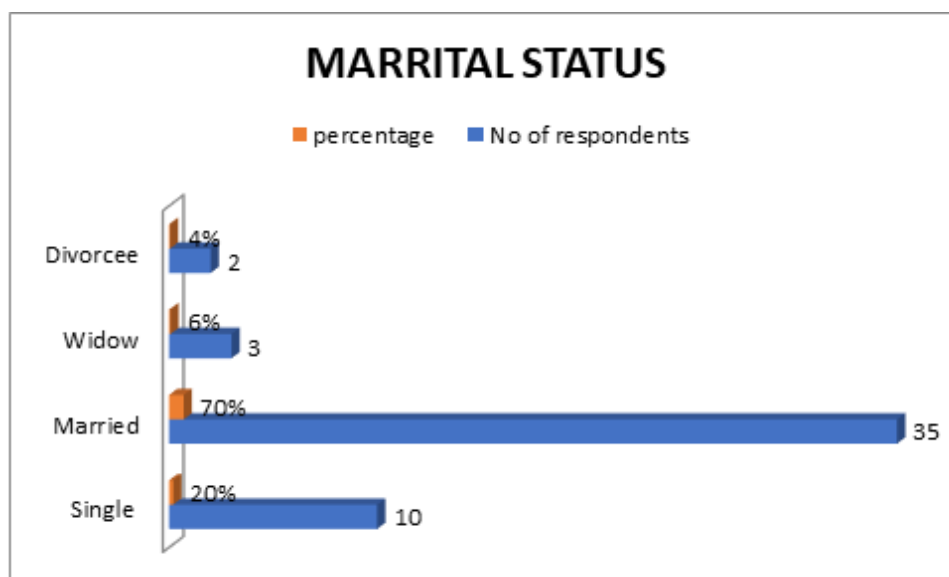


Fig 3: Diagrammatic representation of Marital Status of the Respondents

From the study it has been found that majority of the respondents I.e. 70% of them are married and 20% of the respondents are single, 6% of them were found to be widow and 4% of them were divorcee.

**TABLE- 4.4: table showing principal occupation of the respondents**

Principal Occupation	No of respondents	percentage
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Weaving	35	70%
Service	10	20%
Other source	5	10%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

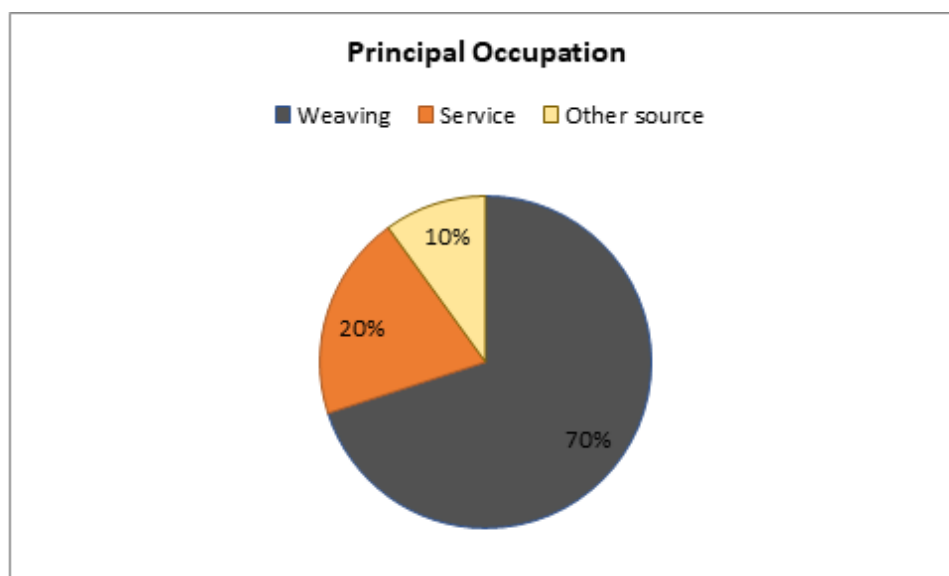


Fig 4: Diagrammatic representation of Principal Occupation of the Respondents.

From the findings of the study, it can be said that 70% of the respondents of the study area have weaving as their principal occupation, 20% of the respondents were involved in the other services and another 10% of them have other sources of occupation.

**TABLE- 4.5: table showing total family member of the respondents**

Family Member	No of respondents	Percentage
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0 - 2	3	6%
2 - 4	37	74%
4 – 6	8	16%
6 - 8	2	4%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

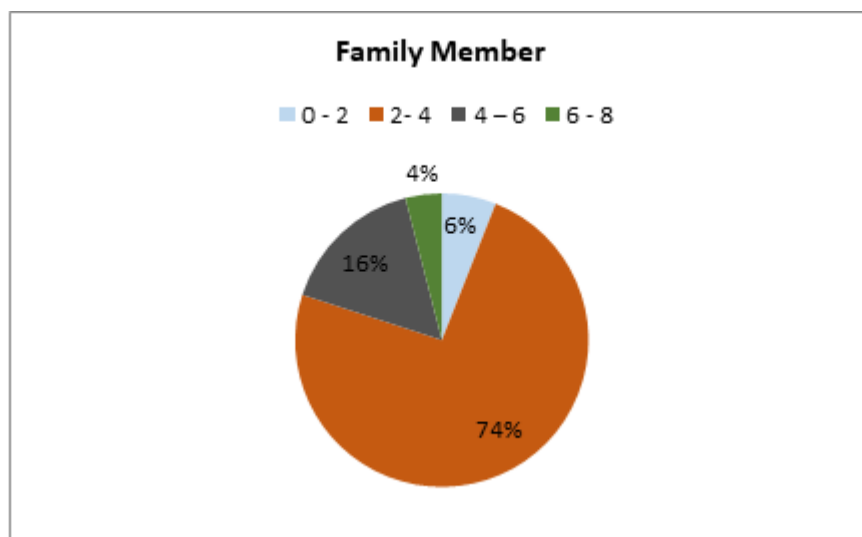


Fig 5: Diagrammatic representation of Total Family Member of the respondents.

Regarding the total number of family members, the study has found that 74% of the respondents have 2-4 members in their family, followed by 16% respondents having 4-6 members in their family, 6% of them have less than 2 family members and basically these people were single.

## PARTICULARS OF THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH THE WOMEN WEAVERS ARE EMPLOYED

**TABLE- 4.6:** table showing are the raw materials available in local market

Availability of Raw Materials	No of respondents	Percentage
Yes	10	20%
No	40	80%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

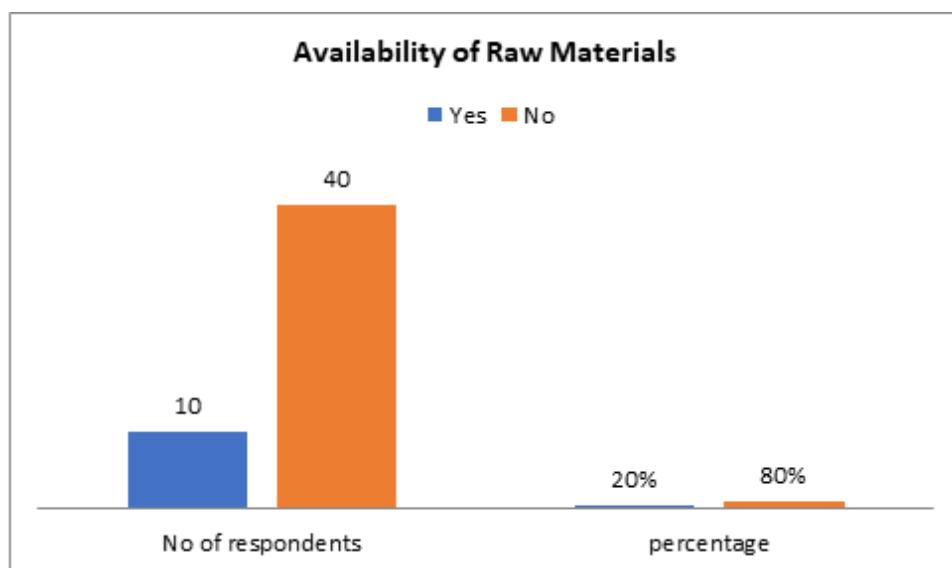


Fig 6: Diagrammatic representation of Availability of Raw Materials

In the above table shows that the raw material is available in the local market or not. 10 no's of respondents say that the raw materials are available in the market, but 40 no's of respondents say that the raw materials are not available in the local market. Here it can be interpreted that the majority of the respondents say that the raw materials are not available in the local market.

**TABLE- 4.7: table showing source of finance**

Source Of Finance	No of respondents	Percentage
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Self-Finance	6	12%
Borrow from relatives	11	22%
Loan from Bank	26	52%
Other Source	7	14%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

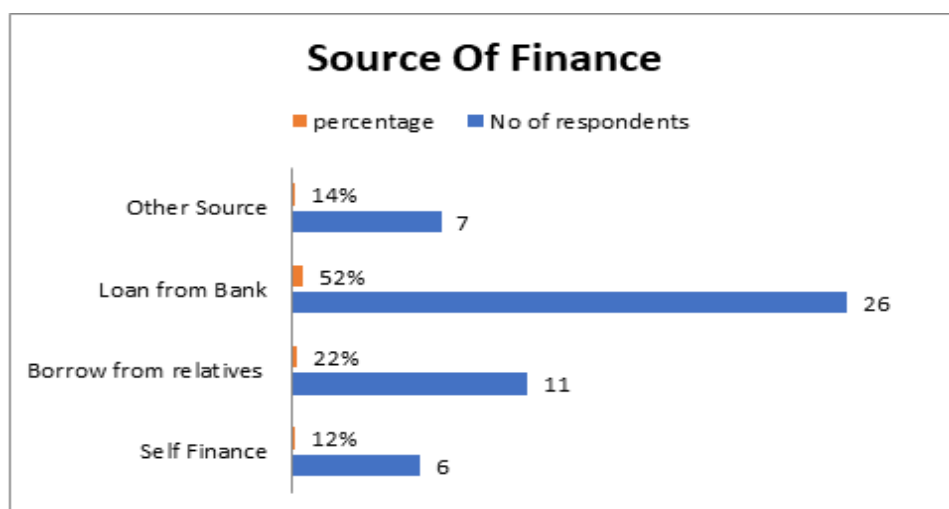


Fig 7: Diagrammatic representation of Source of Finance.

The respondents of the study area used to receive their finances from the relatives, from banks, own capital and other sources. The findings of the study reveal that majority i.e. 52% of the respondents have received their finances from banks, followed by 22% of the respondents receiving finance from relatives and friends, 12% respondents finance source is their own capital and 14% of the respondents have other sources of finance such as private institutions, different groups etc.

**TABLE- 4.8: table showing no of years involved in this sector**

Employee group	No of respondents	percentage
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Less than 2 years	19	38%
2-5	13	26%
5-10	11	22%
10-15	7	14%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

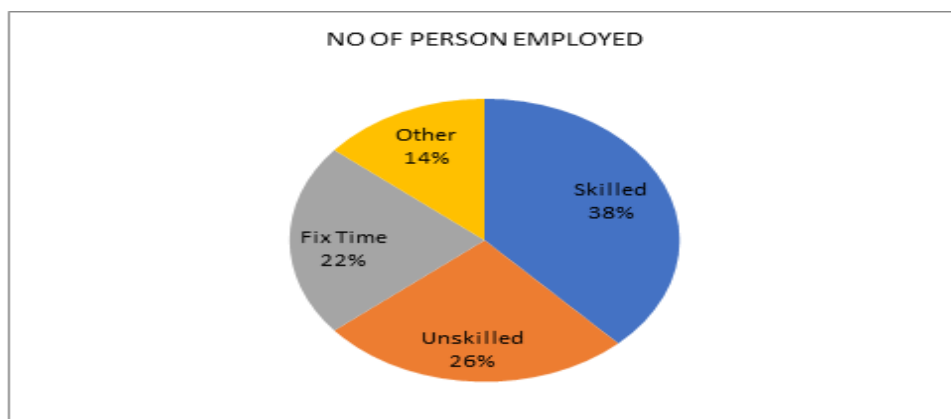


Fig 8: Diagrammatic representation no of person employed in the unit.

The study has revealed that out of the total studied 50 respondents 38% of them were involved in this sector for less than 2 years, 26% of them were involved in this sector for 2-5 years, 22% of them were engaged in this sector for 5-10 years and 14% of the women weavers were involved in this sector for more than 10 years. Thus, it can be seen that are less number of experienced people (in terms of years) were involved in this sector. And most of the people have left t5he weaving activity due to scarcity of raw materials, less demand for the product, not getting the proper price were some of the reasons for leaving this activity.

**TABLE- 4.9: table showing working day of the workers**

Working Day	No of respondents	percentage
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5 Days in a week	5	10%
6 Days in a week	9	18%
7 Days in a week	36	72%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

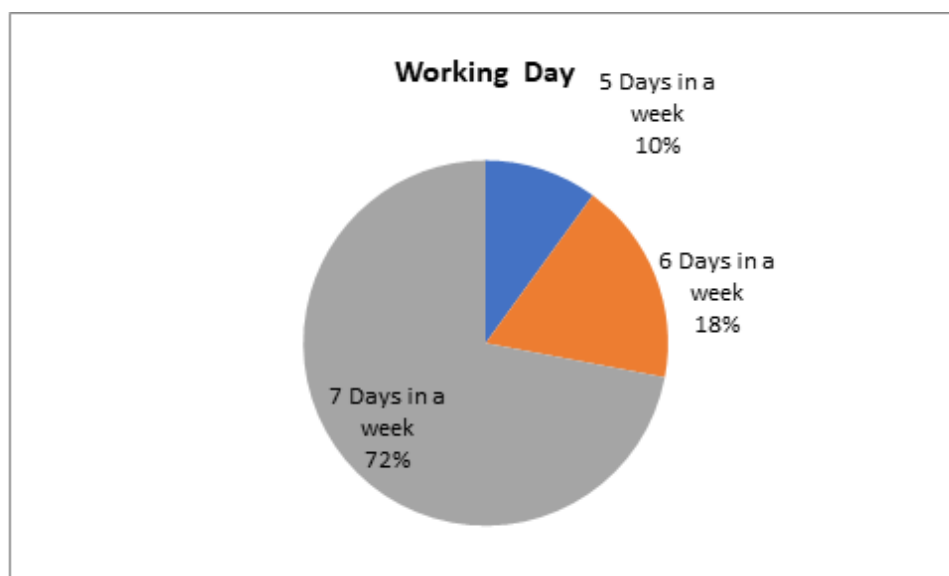


Fig 9: Diagrammatic representation no of Working Day.

The study has found majority I.e. 72% of the workers work 7 days in a week, followed by 18% workers working 6 days a week and 10% of the workers working 5days a week.

**TABLE- 4.10: table showing monthly income of the workers**

Monthly Income	No of respondents	percentage
5000 – 10000	4	8%
10000 – 15000	8	16%
15000 – 20000	16	32%



20000 – 25000	12	24%
25000 – 30000	10	20%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		



Fig 10: Diagrammatic representation no of Monthly Income.

The study has found that majority of the respondents i.e. 32% of the workers earn 15,000-20,000 in a month, followed by 24% workers earn 20,000-25,000 in a month, 20% of the workers earn 25,000- 30,000 in a month, 16% of the workers earn 10,000-15,000 in a month and 8% of the workers earn 5,000-10,000 in a month.

**TABLE- 4.11: table showing annual expenditure of the workers**

Annual Income	No of respondents	percentage
100000 – 200000	4	8%
200000 – 300000	7	14%
300000 – 400000	16	32%
400000 – 500000	11	22%

500000 – 600000	12	24%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

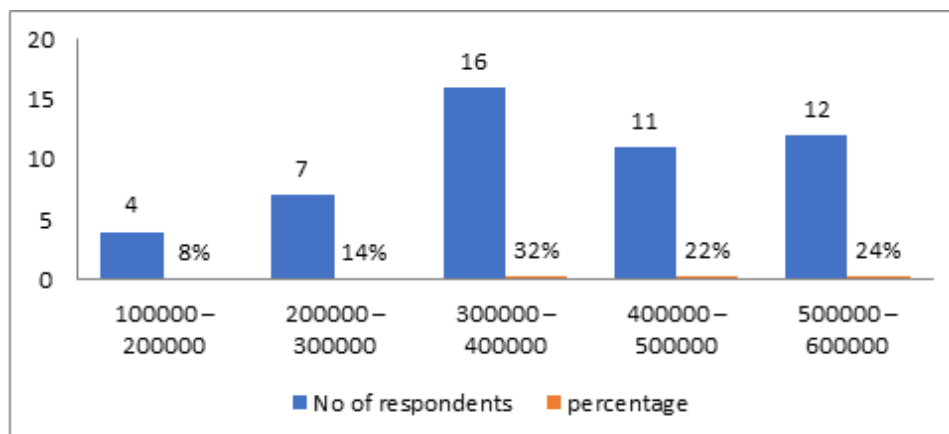


Fig 11: Diagrammatic representation no of Annual Income.

The study has found that majority of the respondents i.e. 32% of the workers expenses 3,00,000 – 4,00,000, followed by 24% of the workers expenses 5,00,000 – 6,00,000, 22% of the workers expenses 4,00,000 – 5,00,000, 14% of the workers expenses 2,00,000 – 3,00,000 and 8% of the workers expenses 1,00,000 – 2,00,000.

**TABLE- 4.12:** table showing year of establishment of the unit in which workers are employed

Year Of Establishment	No of respondents	percentage
1972 - 1980	7	14%
1980 – 1990	10	20%
1990- 2000	11	22%
2000 - 2010	13	26%

2010 – 2020	7	14%
2020- at present	2	4%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

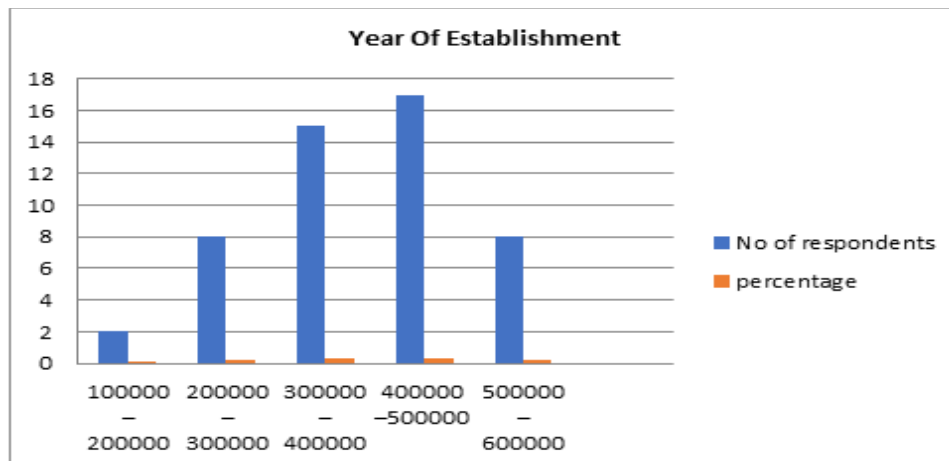


Fig 12: Diagrammatic representation no of Year of Establishment

The study has found majority of the respondents i.e. 26% of the workers have employed in a unit which was established in the year 2000 – 2010, followed by 22% of the workers have employed in the year 1990- 2000, 20% of the workers have employed in the year 1980 – 1990. In the year 1972 –1980 and 2010 – 2020, 14% of the workers were employed in that unit.

**TABLE- 4.13: table showing capital investment**

Capital Investment	No of respondents	percentage
100000 – 200000	2	4%
200000 – 300000	8	16%
300000 – 400000	15	30%
400000 – 500000	17	34%
500000 – 600000	8	16%

Total	50	100%
Source: Primary Data, 2023		

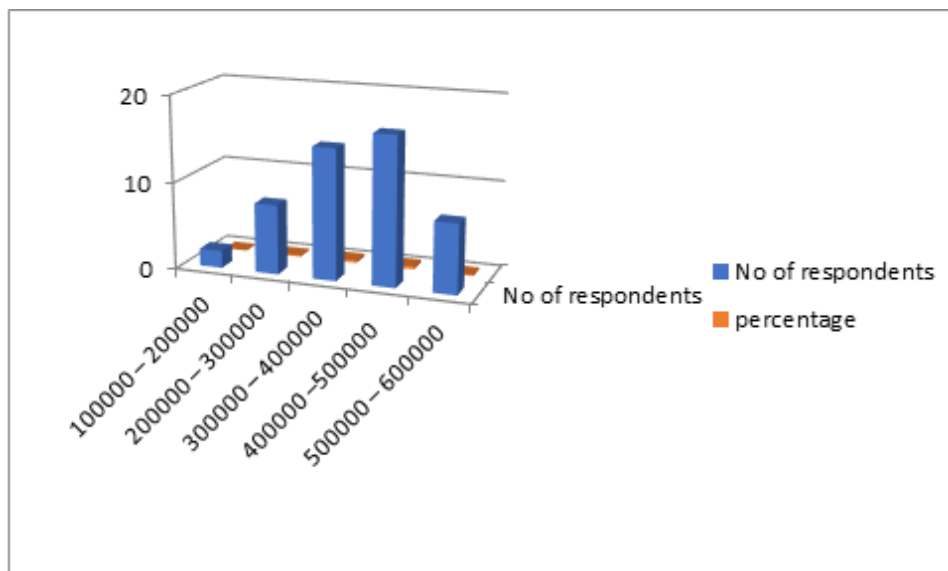


Fig 13: Diagrammatic representation no of Capital Investment.

The findings of the study reveal that majority i.e. 34% of the workers invest their capital from 4,00,000 – 5,00,000, followed by 30% of the workers invest Rs 3,00,000– 4,00,000, Rs 2,00,000- 3,00,000 and Rs 5,00,000 – 6,00,000 invest by 16% of the workers. And 4% of the workers invest 1,00,000 – 2,00,000.

**TABLE- 4.14: table showing major problem faced by woman entrepreneurs**

Problem Faced by Woman Entrepreneurs	No of respondents	percentage
Lack of Capital	4	8%
Loan from Bank	14	28%
Lack of skilled employees	10	20%

Lack of marketing for product	6	12%
Lack Demand for product	3	6%
Lack of Technology	13	26%
Total	50	100%
<i>Source: Primary Data, 2023</i>		

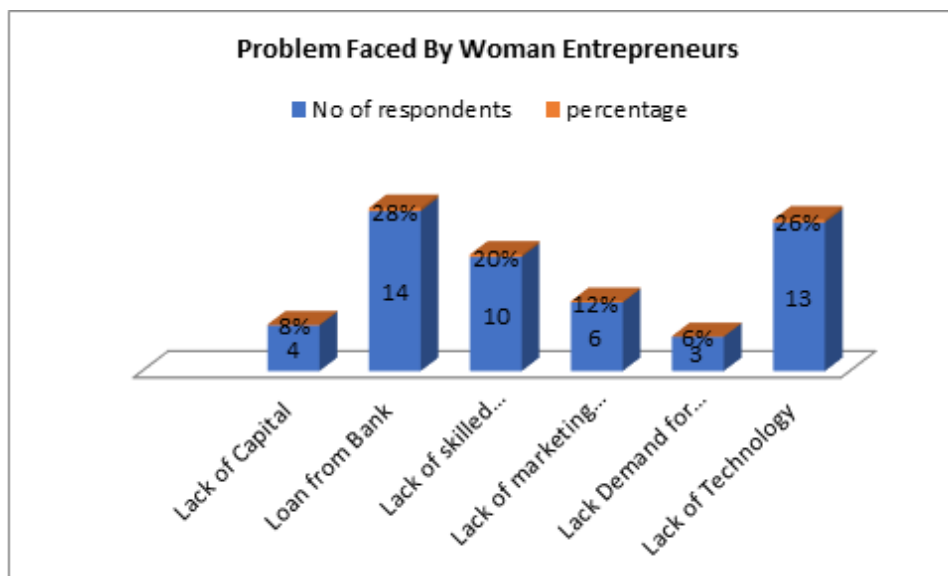


Fig 14: Diagrammatic representation no of Problem Faced by Woman Entrepreneurs.

The study has found majority i.e. 28% of the workers have faced problem while receiving loan from bank, followed by 26% of the workers faced problem due to lack of technology, 20% of the workers have faced lack of skilled employees, 12% of the workers facing problem due to lack of marketing demand for the product or lack of marketing scope, 8% of the workers facing lack of capital and 6% of the workers facing lack of demand for product in the study area, and this lack of demand for the product is basically due to the alternative option availability.

**TABLE- 4.15**

**MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT SILK IN SUALKUCHI**

TYPES OF SILK	Production	percentage
Eri silk	10	20%
Pat silk	35	70%
Muga silk	5	10%
Total	50	100%
Source: Primary Data, 2023		

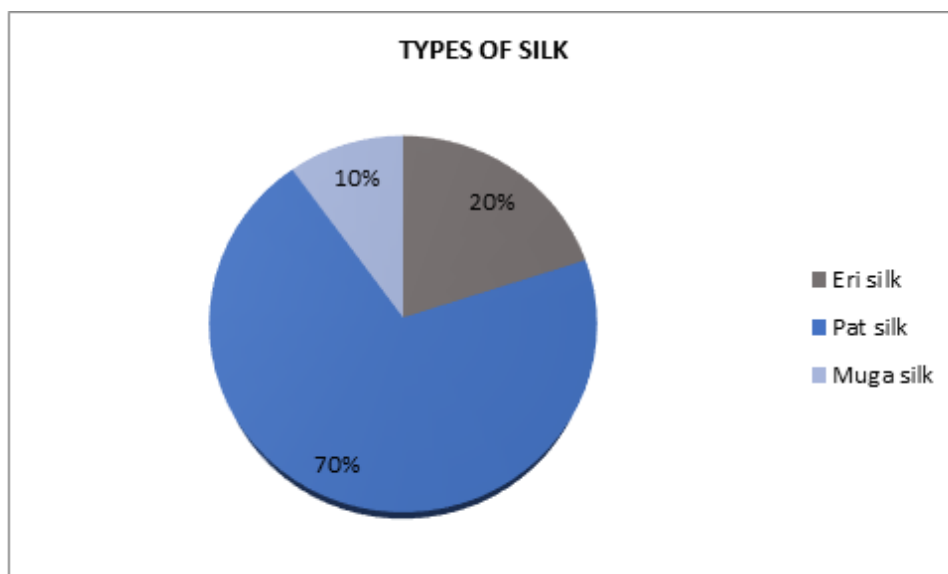


Fig 14: Diagrammatic representation no of types of silk

From the study it has been found that majority I.e. 70% of the women weavers produce pat silk, followed by 20% of the weavers produce Eri silk and 10% of the weavers produce Muga silk.

### **Whether covid have affected the demand**

The demand for silk has been affected very badly by the pandemic. Finished silk products are stocked at home as many orders were cancelled and no new orders placed by the buyers. The instant rise of silk yarn prices during lockdown created a problem in shortage of fund by the manufacturer to purchase raw silk yarns at high prices. And no new bulk orders of silk products as many occasions and ceremonies were postponed and strict restrictions on social gatherings. The weavers were out of work, they were weaving up till the manufacturers had silk yarn in stock. The handlooms were closed due to unavailability and high price of raw silk yarns. The weavers had to search for other jobs for their daily meals. All silk shops or outlets were closed and

restricted to open on certain days and timings so offline business faced interruptions. The online orders faced delay in delivery due to certain places locked down.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **FINDINGS, SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 FINDINGS**

The major findings of the study area are:

1. The study reveals that most of the respondents are from the age group between 26-35.
2. From the study it has been found that most of the respondent's education qualification is HS and below it.
3. From the study it has been found that majority of the respondents i.e. 70% of them are married and 20% of the respondents are single, 6% of them were found to be widow and 4% of them were divorcee.



4. From the findings of the study, it can be said that 70% of the respondents of the study area have weaving as their principal occupation, 20% of the respondents were involved in the other services and another 10% of them have other sources of occupation.
5. Regarding the total number of family members, the study has found that 74% of the respondents have 2-4 members in their family, followed by 16% respondents having 4-6 members in their family, 6% of them have less than 2 family members and basically these people were single.
6. The raw materials required for Sualkuchi Silk Industry products are Eri silk, Pat silk, and Muga silk. The study has found that there is scarcity of raw materials in the local market.
7. The respondents of the study area used to receive their finances from the relatives, from banks, own capital and other sources. The findings of the study reveal that majority i.e. 52% of the respondents have received their finances from banks, followed by 22% of the respondents receiving finance from relatives and friends, 12% respondents finance source is their own capital and 14% of the respondents have other sources of finance such as private institutions, different groups etc.
8. The study has revealed that out of the total studied 50 respondents 38% of them were involved in this sector for less than 2 years, 26% of them were involved in this sector for 2-5 years, 22% of them were engaged in this sector for 5-10 years and 14% of the women weavers were involved in this sector for more than 10 years. Thus, it can be seen that a less number of experienced people (in terms of years) were involved in this sector. And most of the people have left the weaving activity due to scarcity of raw materials, less demand for the product, not getting the proper price were some of the reasons for leaving this activity.

9. The study has found majority i.e. 72% of the workers work 7 days in a week, followed by 18% workers working 6 days a week and 10% of the workers working 5 days a week.
10. The study has found that majority of the respondents i.e. 32% of the workers earn 15,000-20,000 in a month, followed by 24% workers earn 20,000-25,000 in a month, 20% of the workers earn 25,000- 30,000 in a month, 16% of the workers earn 10,000-15,000 in a month and 8% of the workers earn 5,000-10,000 in a month.
11. The study has found that majority of the respondents i.e. 32% of the workers expenses 3,00,000 – 4,00,000, followed by 24% of the workers expenses 5,00,000 – 6,00,000, 22% of the workers expenses 4,00,000 – 5,00,000, 14% of the workers expenses 2,00,000 – 3,00,000 and 8% of the workers expenses 1,00,000 – 2,00,000.
12. The study has found majority of the respondents i.e. 26% of the workers have employed in a unit which was established in the year 2000 – 2010, followed by 22% of the workers have employed in the year 1990- 2000, 20% of the workers have employed in the year 1980 – 1990. In the year 1972 –1980 and 2010 – 2020, 14% of the workers were employed in that unit.
13. The findings of the study reveal that majority i.e. 34% of the workers invest their capital from 4,00,000 – 5,00,000, followed by 30% of the workers invest Rs 3,00,000– 4,00,000, Rs 2,00,000- 3,00,000 and Rs 5,00,000 – 6,00,000 invest by 16% of the workers. And 4% of the workers invest 1,00,000 – 2,00,000.
14. The study has found majority i.e. 28% of the workers have faced problem while receiving loan from bank, followed by 26% of the workers faced problem due to lack of technology, 20% of the workers have faced

lack of skilled employees, 12% of the workers facing problem due to lack of marketing demand for the product or lack of marketing scope, 8% of the workers facing lack of capital and 6% of the workers facing lack of demand for product in the study area, and this lack of demand for the product is basically due to the alternative option availability.

15. From the study it has been found that majority i.e. 70% of the women weavers produce pat silk, followed by 20% of the weavers produce Eri silk and 10% of the weavers produce Muga silk.

## **5.2 SUGGESTIONS**

The following suggestions have been given that has been received from the weavers of Sualkuchi.

- Raw material is the major concern in this sector because due to the lack of raw materials the price of the product is high and thus ultimately the consumers find it hard to purchase it. Thus, if the weavers find any easy way of getting raw materials so that the product can be produced or manufactured in a less expensive way, which will ultimately compete in the market.
- Though there exist some schemes to help the weavers carry out their work smoothly, the weavers are not receiving the benefits of it. Therefore, steps should be taken to provide the weavers with financial aid and in other areas so that they get the benefits of it and the people engaged in this sector can be uplifted.

- There is still a need for some technical upgradation. Most of the process is done manually thus it consumes time and hard labour. No doubt manual work is required but still some processes cannot be done manually.
- Training which was provided to the weavers by the various training institutions is not sufficient for them because of the very short duration of the course. So, the training should be provided in a sufficient way so that they can manufacture a new type of innovative product.
- Since the place is already famous for its product and traditional antique silk and moreover it already has an outside market approaches the area can be a good spot for attracting the tourist. Thus, it can be developed also into an eco-tourism site where people can get the real taste of the place. Thus, it can provide exposure to the people of this sector and at the same time can create a platform for markets where the tourists can at the same time purchase the product in bulk.

### **5.3 CONCLUSION**

It seems that the condition or the situation of the Sualkuchi silk industry is not in a good stage since there is lack of raw materials which is very scarce and is being imported from outside. The present scenario is that the cost of the raw materials is the major problem. Because of scarcity of raw materials weavers are not unable to produce the finished goods. The people use it manually to produce the finished goods, which take time to bring the final touch product. Because this is due to the lack of new technology, they are unable to produce finish goods in bulk. It is evident from the above discussion that Sualkuchi silk industries of Sualkuchi block, Kamrup district have been suffering from various

problems related to backward and forward linkages. The quality of the product is greatly determined by the quality of the body used in making it.

