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A Study on the Perception of Farmers on Mulberry Cultivation and Silkwarms Rearing in Channapattana Talukh

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Abstract: ***As we know, Sericulture plays a significant role in agro- based rural industries in the economy. It involves the nurturing of silkworms and the production of cocoons spun for the preparation of silk based final products. Mainly sericulture focuses on the production of food plant of silkworms i.e. mulberry. This plant is used to feed the silkworms. Asia continent mainly produces 95 per cent of silk in the total global output. Majority of silk production takes place in China, India, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and North Korea. It has paved the way for socio-economic development with low investment and higher returns in the short period in these countries and it has also become a major job providing sector in the rural parts.***

The present study has used the following methodology

1) ***Type of research : both descriptive and analytical***
2) ***Sample size : 90***
3) ***Study area : Channapatana Talukh***
4) ***Data : Both primary and secondary data. Both interview and questionnaire methods have been used.***
5) ***Sampling technique : Convenient sampling method***
6) ***analytical tools : Five point Likert method , frequency method, Tables and graphs***

The main objectives of the study are to understand the problems of sericulturists in India and to study the perception of respondents on sericultural activities in the study area.

Keywords: Sericulture, Channapatana, Problems of Sericulturists, Perception of Respondents

I. INTRODUCTION

Indian rural economy has noticeable incidence of poverty and disguised unemployment. In this background, sericulture has become the most important industry in providing gainful and handful opportunities to the needy people. Therefore, this sector is also known as industry of poor. As we know silk is considered as the queen of fabrics. Raw silk production has grown by 105 percent in the last three years and has paved the way for import substitution. Our country is also struggling to become self sufficient and self reliant in silk production by 2022. Government of India has also allocated nearly 2000 crore for the period of three years. India is also exporting unique silk yarn, fabrics, readymade garments etc. to various countries. It has produced an estimated 33,840 million tonns of raw silk in the year 2017-18. But still sericulturists in the economy are facing many problems and they have become the main obstacles for the growth of this sector.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chandrama Goswami (2013) with simple statistical tools has analysed the data and found that sericulture has become full time activity in the study area and respondents have got good income and it has increased the standard of living.

Devaraj (2011) has found that, Indian sericulture is the only source which produces unique four commercially known varieties of silk namely, mulberry, tasar, eri and munga. Sericulture has become ideal activity for rural economy. Mulberry plantation and silk worm rearing have avoided unemployment in the study area.

III. OBJECTIVES

The following are the main objectives of the study. They are as follows,

A. To understand the problems of sericulturists in the cultivation of mulberry in the study area.
B. To study the problems faced by sericulturists in rearing of silkworms in the study area

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IV. METHODOLOGY

The study is conducted in Chennapattana talukh of Ramanagara district and researcher has used both primary and secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from reputed books, journals, websites and newspapers.

The study has used the following methodology

1) Type of research : both descriptive and analytical
2) Sample size : 90
3) Study area : Channapatana Talukh
4) Data : Both primary and secondary data. Both interview and questionnaire methods have been used.
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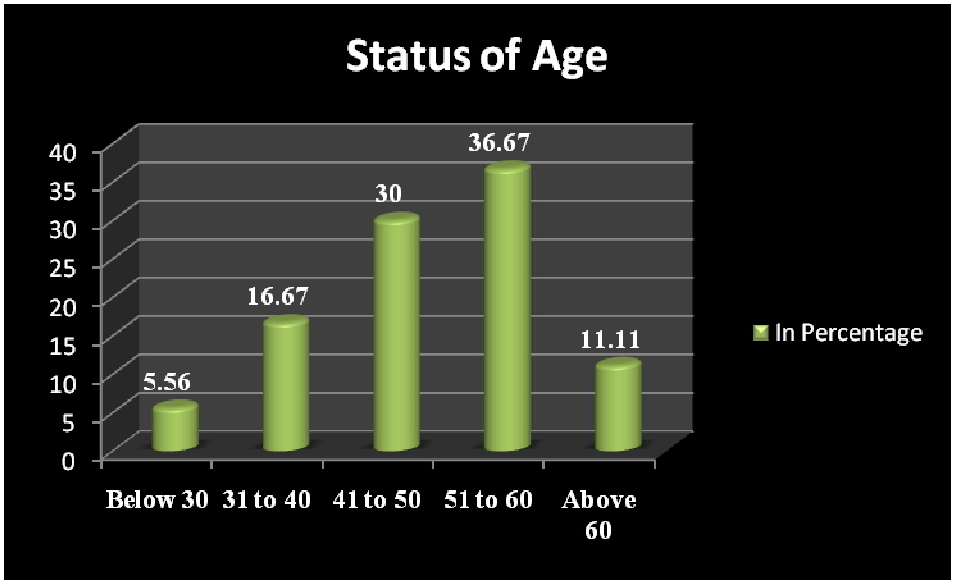
A. Demographic Profile of Respondents in the Study Area

Table: 4.1 Age Status

Status of Age	Frequency	In Percentage
Below 30	5	5.56
31 to 40	15	16.67
41 to 50	27	30
51 to 60	33	36.66
Above 60	10	11.11
Total	90	100

Source: Filed Survey

Diagram: 4.1 Age Status of Respondents



The table 4.1 shows that 5.56 percent of respondents are in the age below 30 years. 16.67 percent of respondents belong to the age group of 31 to 40 years. 30 percent of respondents are from the age group of 41 to 50 year. 36.67 percent of respondents are in the age group between 51 to 60 years and 11.11 percent of respondents are above 60 years.

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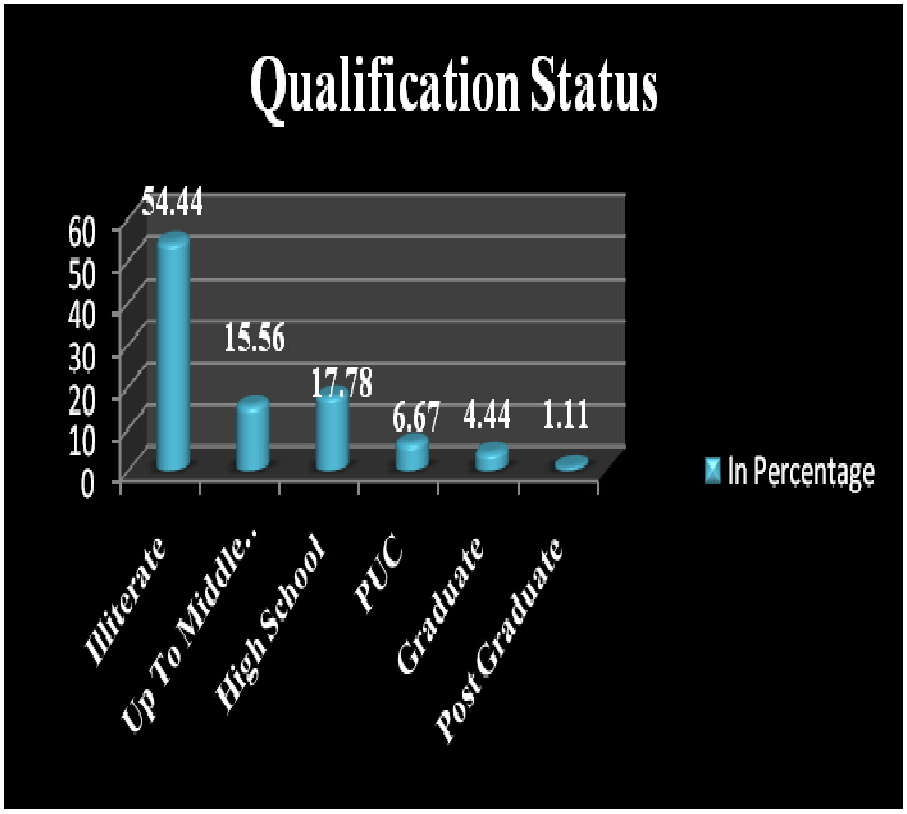
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Table :4.2 Qualification Status

Qualification Status	Frequency	In Percentage
Illiterate	49	54.44
Up To Middle School	14	15.56
High School	16	17.78
PUC	6	6.67
Graduate	4	4.44
Post Graduate	1	1.11
Total	90	100

Source: Filed Survey

Diagram: 4.2 Qualification Status



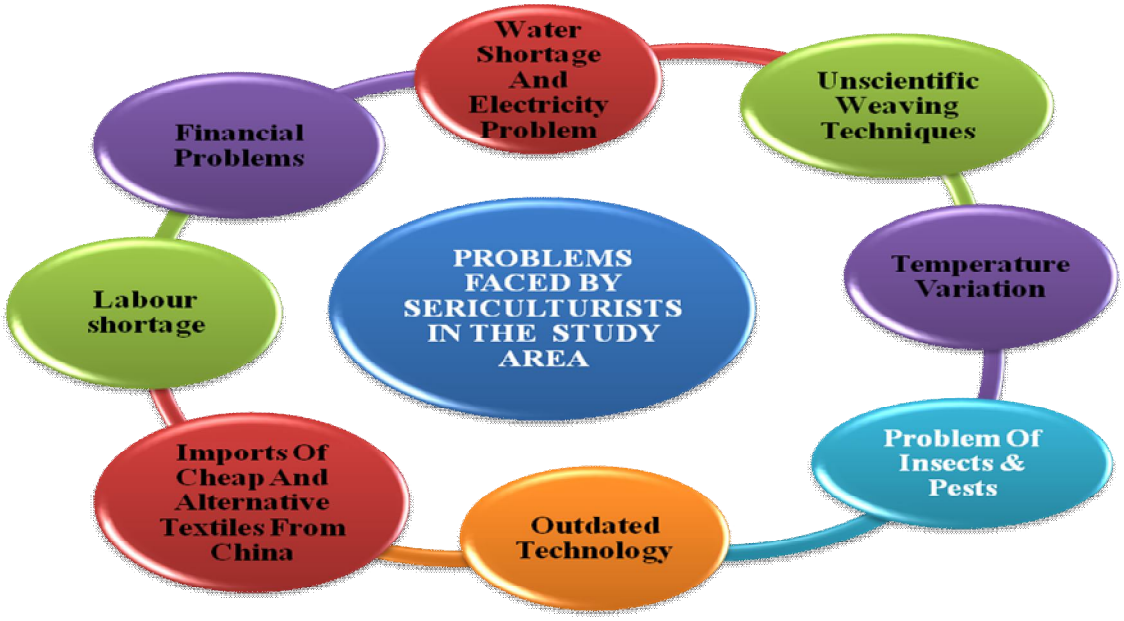
The table 4.2 shows that 54.44 percent of respondents are illiterates in the study area and only 1.11 percent has the qualification in post graduation degree. 4.44 percent of respondents have graduation. 6.67 percent of respondents have pre university level education. 17.78 percent of respondents have high school education. **15.56** percent of respondents have completed their studies up to middle school.

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V. PROBLEMS FACED BY SERICULTURISTS IN THE CULTIVATION OF MULBERRY AND REARING OF SILKWORMS IN THE STUDY AREA

It is certain that, sericulture is properly suited for the growth and improvement of the rural economy of any country and it is also a subsidiary part to agriculture. But, the researcher has found various factors which have become the obstacles for the growth of sericulture sector. It is explained in the following table.

Figure-1- Problems Faced by Respondents in the Study Area



Water shortage and electricity problem, imports of cheap and alternative textiles from china, usage of outdated technology, unscientific weaving techniques, use of poor quality seeds, financial problems, shortage of labour, problems of insects and pests, temperature variation are considered as the major problems in the study area.

A. Opinion on Problems Faced By Sericulturists in the Cultivation of Mulberry in Channapattana

Opinions of Respondents on Problems	Frequency	In Percentage
Water Shortage and Electricity Problem	39	43.33
Insect and Pests	20	22.22
Labour Shortage	7	7.78
Financial Problems	7	7.78
Health Problem	14	15.56
Outdated Technology	3	3.33
Total	90	100

Source: Filed Survey

The opinion by respondents on the problems faced in the cultivation of mulberry plants are expressed in the above table, the table shows that **43.33** percent of the respondents have opined that they are facing Water Shortage and Electricity Problem, **22.22** percent of them are of the opinion that, Insect and Pests problems are annoying them. **7.78** percent of them have expressed the labour problem in their area and **15.56** percent of them are not happy because of the high work stress, less rest and health problems associated with it and **3.33** have expressed that the cultivation activity is done with outdated technology.

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B. Opinion on Problems Faced By Sericulturists in Rearing Of Silkworms In Channapattana

Opinions of Respondents on Problems	Frequency	In Percentage
Uzi Fly	32	35.5
Outdated Technology	28	31.1
Temperature Variation	7	7.7
Labour Shortage	15	16.6
Sappe /Muscadine Disease	5	5.5
Rearing Room and Grading of Cocoons	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Source: Filed Survey

In the above table it is clear that, while rearing silk worms in the nest **35.5** percent of the respondents have faced the problem of Uzi Fly because, at present there is no silkworm race which is resistant to diseases and pests, **31.1** percent of them are of the opinion that, still they are following old method of reeling and weaving methods. **7.7** percent of respondents are unhappy with the temperature variation because silk worms are very delicate to the weather variations. **16.6** of them have expressed the labour problem in their area and **5.5** percent of them are afraid of Sappe /Muscadine Disease and **3.3** have expressed that they have failed to go for the best rearing room and grading of cocoons.

VI. FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONLUSION

Although, the sericulture has become the main source of livelihood for many people in the study area. It is associated with large number of problems and they need to be properly addressed for the upliftment of the workers in the study area.

A. Findings of the Study

Researcher has pointed out the major findings of the study. They are as follows,

1) Majority of workers i.e. 36.67 percent of respondents are in the age group between 51 to 60 years.
2) 54.44 percent of respondents are illiterates in the study area.
3) 43.33 percent of the respondents have opined that they are facing Water Shortage and Electricity Problem.
4) 15.56 percent of them are not happy because of the high work stress, less rest and health problems associated with it.
5) 35.5 percent of the respondents have faced the problem of Uzi Fly because, at present there is no silkworm race which is resistant to diseases and pests.
6) 31.1 percent of them are of the opinion that, still they are following old method of reeling and weaving methods.

B. Suggestions

The researcher has given the following suggestions. They are as follows,

1) Sericulturists should concentrate on using mulberry harvesting and pruning machine which are designed to save cost and time.
2) It is conducive to take urgent measure to implement sound safety measures to safeguard workers from health problems like respiratory problems, high stress and hyper tension, burning of eyes, backache and fatigue. Workers should be provided personal protective devices.
3) Respondents in this area are facing financial problems. Therefore, it is necessary to provide them easy loan facilities and subsidies.
4) The sericulture department in this area should organize more and more awareness programmes on advanced technology in reeling and weaving the silk thread to reduce the heaviness in the work.
5) Efficient training programmes should be conducted in this area to upgrade them about modern approach, pest control and marketing techniques in this field.

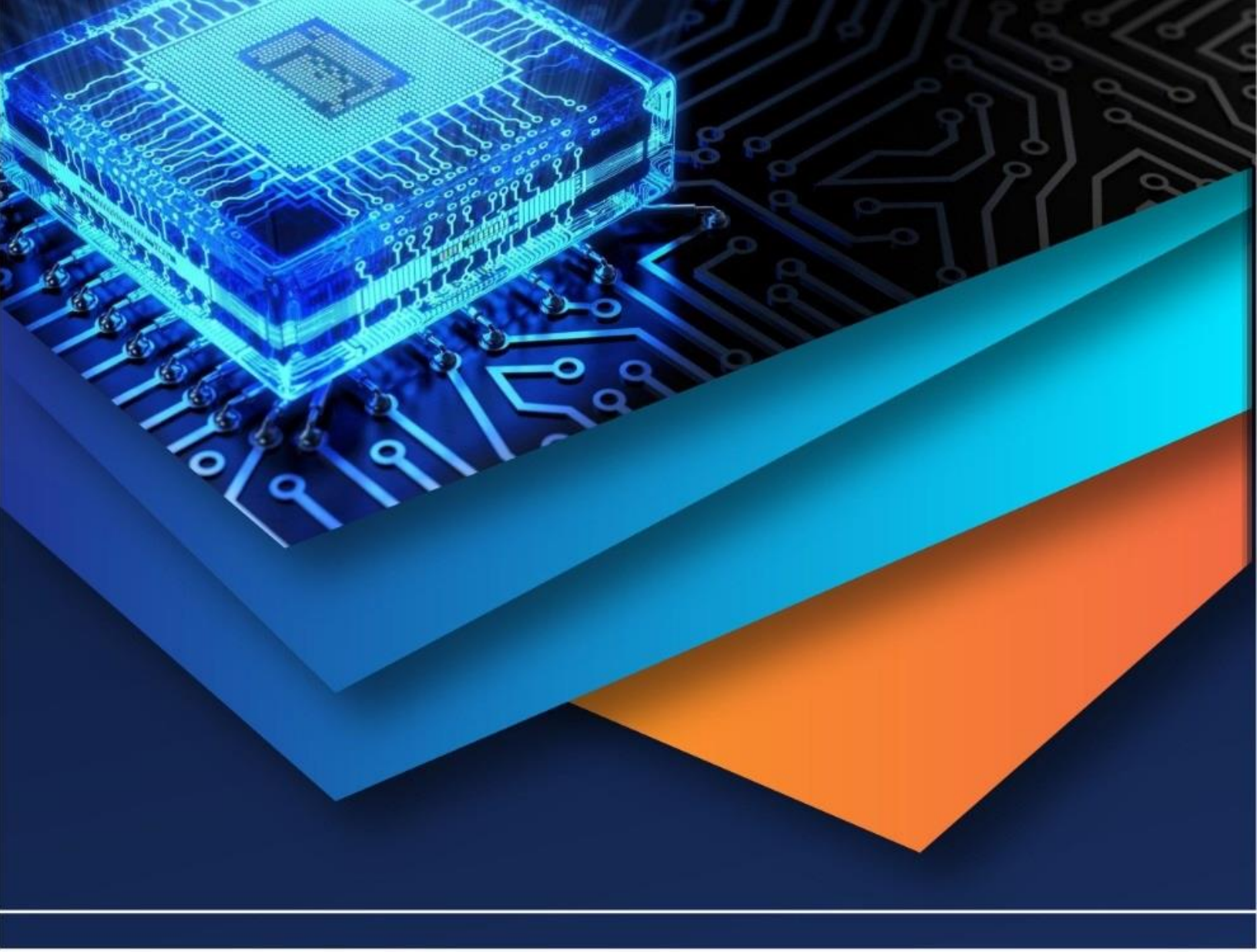
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The workers in this field are facing series of problems such as financial constraints ,technical obstacles, marketing problems, health hazards etc. the researcher has already analysed the list of problems in the study area. As we know, Sericulture plays a significant role in agro- based rural industries in the economy. It involves the nurturing of silkworms and the production of cocoons spun for the preparation of silk based final products. Mainly sericulture focuses on the production of food plant of silkworms i.e. mulberry. This plant is used to feed the silkworms. Asia continent mainly produces 95 per cent of silk in the total global output. Majority of silk production takes place in China, India, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and North Korea. It has paved the way for socio-economic development with low investment and higher returns in the short period and it has also become a major job providing sector in the rural parts.

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