



AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY SILK MANUFACTURING ARTISANS IN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH & BIHAR

Ayushi Singh¹, Harsh Awasthi²

(MBA Student)

Department of MBA Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology, Greater Noida

ABSTRACT:

As a fabric, silk has always been one of the most demanded and luxurious product amongst all since times. It is basically a natural yarn obtained by the silk worms, through a process of carefully curating, those worms and in last obtaining the silk yarn. Technically, speaking from the process of sericulture to finishing silk reaches to the market and decorate our wardrobes and gives us a feeling of putting on our desirable clothes. falling into the reality of silk making, it has been one of the most significant part of trade in ancient India and still India is known for its silk production and its quality. but the silk producers at the grass-root level are still facing the challenges and quite a few are living marginalised lives. The reasons are that the markets are yet to be integrated and proper pricing for the produce of those artisans is yet to be decided.

Keywords: Silk, Silk Artisans

Introduction:

Since ancient times, silk has been one of the most sought-after and opulent fabrics available. In essence, the silk worms produce the natural yarn by carefully selecting the warmest and then turning them into silk yarn. Technically speaking, silk is produced from the sericulture process until the point at which it is sold, adorns our closets, and makes us feel as though we are wearing our favourite garments. In actuality, silk manufacture was one of the most important aspects of trade in ancient India, and the country is still renowned for the high caliber of its silk output. However, the grassroots silk producers continue to face difficulties, and many are yet to be addressed.

Process of Silk Manufacturing is one of the most significant part among all the related activities from procuring order to sale. This silk manufacturing process takes place in following steps.

1. Sericulture of cocoon:

Harvesting of the cocoon that will produce the silk and collecting them is known as sericulture. These silk worms are fed with the mulberry leaves and within six weeks at your maximum potential. They reach about three engine size and now they are ready to be used in the first step in the process of silk production. To produce about a pound of silk about 2500 to 2600 silk worms are required. \

2. Thread extraction from cocoon:

Now the cocoons are boiled into the hot water so that their gum loosens and thread is carefully reeled out of every cocoon

3. Dyeing of yarn

In the dry process to obtain the desired colour, various types of colours and regents are used seeing the emerging market demand the natural colours are also going to be used, but they are available at a high price and ultimately rising the price of the silk material.

4. Spinning of yarn

After dyeing the yarns in desired colour, the next role is of spinning which is basically done through hands or in a manual way. following the advanced technologies, a few of the artisans and self manufacturers are also using machines to spin the yarn.

5. Weaving the fabric

Once the yarn has been obtained in the desired form, the next step is weaving, the fabric. this fabric weaving is again done both manually and mechanically.

6. Printing on the fabric

It is not desirable that every time printing is being done on the fabric, many times the fabric is woman in such a way that the patterns are created in the weaving stage itself.

7. Finishing of the fabric

Once the final fabric with the weaving and printing is finalised, the finishing is done by cutting extra threads and starch, et cetera are applied to give it a presentable look. Now the product is ready for the sale.

Literature Review:

India has a long history of producing silk, which has historical significance. The Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP) have been important producers of silk. The production of several types of silk, particularly mulberry, tasar, and munga silk, has been pioneered by these states. The state, evolution, and difficulties of silk production in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will all be covered in this survey of the literature.

Silk Production in Uttar Pradesh

Mulberry silk is the primary type of silk produced in Uttar Pradesh. Sericulture and the silk industry are widely practiced in the state's districts of Varanasi, Allahabad, Kannauj, and Mau. Here, farmers raise silkworms, harvest the silk they make, and turn it into silk. The government of Uttar Pradesh has started a number of programs to encourage the production of silk, including the "National Silk Mission" and the "State Silk Mission," which offer growers financial aid, technical support, and training.

Lack of technical expertise is the largest problem facing Uttar Pradesh's silk industry. The majority of farmers use conventional ways to manufacture silk, which results in low output. Additionally, weather uncertainty, low-quality seeds, and other factors can hinder the production of silk.

Silk Production in Bihar

Bihar is well-known for producing tasar silk, particularly in the region of Bhagalpur. The silkworm used to make tasar silk is raised in woodlands. In Bihar, the manufacture of silk has long been a significant economic activity. Many of the state's districts are home to craft-based businesses and tasar silk farms. In addition, Bihar produces a sizable amount of Munga silk, primarily in the districts of Munger and Khagaria.

The qualities of tasar silk—lightness, warmth, and lustre—are the main draws of Bihar's silk industry. But there are a lot of obstacles in this sector. The main issue is that producing tasar silk involves more work and calls for specialized knowledge and premium seeds. In addition to this, the Bihar weaving sector has

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the study are following:

- To identify the challenges faced by the silk producing artisans.
- To provide remedial solution to against the challenges faced by silk producing artisans

Research Methodology :

Method of Data Collection

- Primary Data through interview.
- Secondary Data from related reports and literature.

Sample Size

The sample size for the study was total 100 respondents from Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh (50 respondents) and Bhagalpur (25 respondents) and Munger (25 respondents) Districts in Bihar

Sample Procedure

Simple random sampling technique was used in this study.

Analysis:

Table 1: Artisans who have completed their 10th level education:

Location	Number of Artisans	Literacy rate (%)
Varanasi	50	15
Munger	25	7
Bhagalpur	25	4

Total	100	
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Table 2: Artisans having awareness towards modern technologies of silk production:

Location	Number of Artisans	Awareness (%)
Varanasi	50	22
Munger	25	18
Bhagalpur	25	13
Total	100	

Table 3: Availability of organized and well regulated work structure

Location	Number of Artisans	Availability (%)
Varanasi	50	27
Munger	25	21
Bhagalpur	25	23
Total	100	

Table 4: Artisans observing in difficulty in making their commercial decisions

Location	Number of Artisans	Difficulty in Decision Making (%)
Varanasi	50	67
Munger	25	77
Bhagalpur	25	75
Total	100	

Findings:

- The artisans are having a very limited knowledge about the modern technology in cloth manufacturing.
- Artisans require established or organised work structures where their issues can be addressed and resolved.
- The literacy level of majority of artisans is not adequate so that they are able to understand modern business and trade practices. This also leads to restricted decision making.

Conclusion:

As per this study it has been observed that the silk manufacturing artisans in the Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh and in the Munger and Bhagalpur districts of Bihar are facing the issues related to limited resource knowledge, low literacy rate and lack of organized structure is restricted the business to be grown at a pace on which it could grow and hindering to reach its full potential.

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