

## **CHAPTER-IV**

### **Employment, Education, Income and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Weavers in Sualkuchi Village**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the status of women who engaged with silk weaving sector in Sualkuchi village. Through the employment generation the weavers are able to earn money. Income generation makes women independent and self independency is the basic indicator for women empowerment. In this chapter, there is a try to give brief explanations about the nature and power of female weavers in Sualkuchi area. The present chapter is organized as follows:

Section 4.2 deals with Socio- Economic background of the study area

Section 4.3 deals with Classification of silk weavers in the study area

Section 4.4 deals with the Income of the weavers in the study area

Section 4.5 deals with the various Socio-economic Empowerment of Weavers in the study area

Section 4.6 deals with the Training and productivity of the surveyed weavers

Section 4.7 deals with Income discrimination in study area and

Section 4.8 deals with the conclusion.

#### **4.2 Socio-Economic Background of the Study Area**

The village Sualkuchi is famous as the title of “the country of golden silk”. This village is also named as the “Manchester of Assam”. Sualkuchi is the main centre of Kamrup District of Assam where large amount of silk are produced. The demographic features of this village are represented with the help of the following table

**Table 4.1**  
**Demographic description about the Study Area**

Village	Sualkuchi
District	Kamrup Rural
Geographical Area covered	90 sq. km
Rainfall	1125mm
Total population	52679
Population density	2780 per km <sup>2</sup>
Growth of population	-1.7%
Sex ratio male Child	1041
Sex ratio female Child	972
Literacy Rate	93%
Male literacy rate	97
Female literacy rate	89

Source: 2011 census report

The village Sualkuchi is village of Kamrup Rural district. The village covered an area of 90 km, whose average annual rate of rainfall is 1125mm. according to 2011 census, 52679 people lived in this village. Population density is 2780 per km<sup>2</sup>. Population density is very high in this area in comparison to India's population density where India's population density is 382 per square Km only. It is a very good signs that population growth rate counted as negative in this village, which is only -1.7%.

#### **4.2.1 Literacy Rate at Sualkuchi Village**

Sualkuchi is a very educated village where literacy rate is 93%. That means out of every 100 people 93 people are literate, they know how to read and write. The unsatisfactory thing is that there is still a little difference between male and female literacy rate. Male literacy rate is 97% and female literacy rate is 89%. There is a distinct difference between male and female literacy rate in the village. Apart from that it is also noticed that male get the opportunity to take higher education not only within the state but also to the outside of the state. But on the same time it has been noticed that most of the female are not able to take higher education from outside the state. Most of them are allowed to go maximum up to Guwahati. So most of the females are unwillingly ending their educational career after graduation. Because after graduation

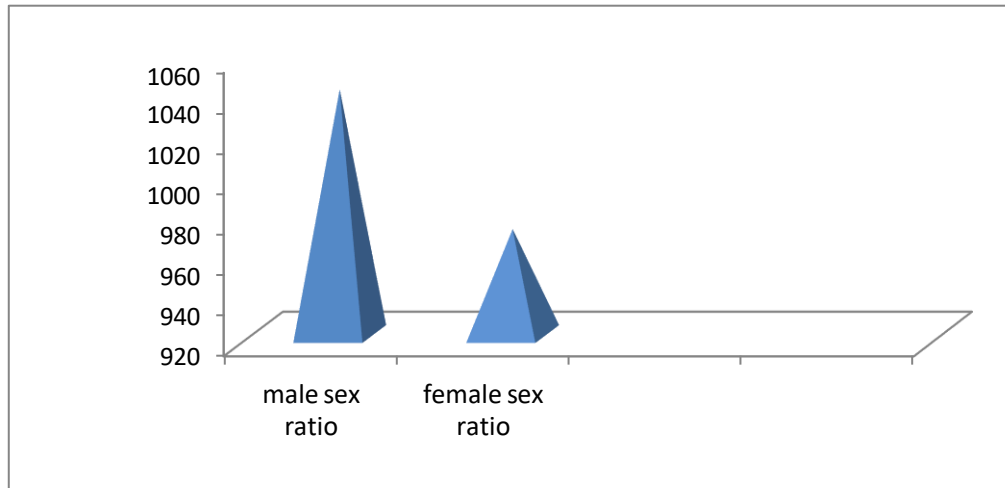
there is a very limited opportunity or seat capacity for higher studies on our state. After all, most of the parents give education to their girl to get a good groom or a standard family.

#### 4.2.2 Male- Female Ratio at Sualkuchi Village

The following figure compares the male and female sex ratio on Sualkuchi village

**Figure 4.2**

**Male and Female Sex Ratio on Sualkuchi Village**



Source: 2011 census report

From the above figure, if we compare the male and female sex ratio, we get a high sex ratio on males and a low sex ratio on females. According to 2011 census, in the village Sualkuchi, male sex ratio was 1041 and female sex ratio was 972. This means that to get birth of 1000 girl child, 1041 boy baby have to be born. Instead of that to get birth of 1000 boy baby, only 972 girl baby was born on the respective area. So, the sex discrimination is clearly noticeable on the village.

Sualkuchi is the village of mixed religion and multi caste village under Kamrup Rural district of Assam. 69% of the whole populations of Sualkuchi are general caste, 31% are from Schedule caste and 0% is schedule tribes.

**Table 4.2**

**Change in Sex Ratio 2001 to 2011: Sualkuchi Village**

	Total	General	SC	Child
Change	19	58	-32	6
2001	1022	1008	1020	966
2011	1041	1066	988	972

Source: 2011 census report

The following figure divides the whole population into various sections on the basis of percentage.

According to 2011 census, sex ratio is 1041, i.e. there are 1041 female population in against off per 1000 male population. Sex ratio in general caste people is 1066, and among the schedule caste it is 988. There are 972 girl children under 6 years of age in against off per 1000 boy child. In comparison to 2001 census, there is an increase of sex ratio by 19 female at per 1000 male in 2011 census. Child sex ratio has increased by 6 girls per 1000 boys during the same time. Population of children with age group 0-6 is 1002 which is 7.21% of total population of the village Sualkuchi.

#### **4.2.2.1 Change in Literacy Rate from 2001 to 2011**

**Table 4.3**

**Change in Literacy Rate in 2001 and 2011**

	Total	Male	Female
Change	6.2%	3.3%	9.0%
2001	86.8%	93.4%	80.4%
2011	93%	96.7%	89.4%

Source: 2011 census report

From table 4.3, it is seen that literacy rate has increase by 6.2% in 2011, comparison to 2001 census. In 2001 census it was 86.8% which has recorded as 93% in the census year of 2011. In 2011 census, male literacy rate has recorded 96.7% and female literacy rate is 89.4%. This indicates people of the village become more educated. Apart from this, it is also noted that the female literacy rate has increased almost three times higher than the growth rate of male literacy rate. Male literacy rate has increased at 3.3% where female literacy rate has increased 9% on the gap of 10 years.

### 4.2.3 Rate of Working Population in Sualkuchi Village

**Table 4.4**

#### **Percentage of Working Population in Sualkuchi**

	Worker	Main worker	Marginal worker
Total	52%	38.1%	13.9%
Male	62%	52%	10%
Female	42.5%	24.7%	17.7%

Source: 2011 census report

The above table represents that there is a total of 52% people are employed in various economic activities. Where male and female employment ratio are 62 % and 42.5% respectively. Out of this 52% working population, 38.1% people are engaged as the main worker and 13.9% are in the form of marginal worker. Where 52% male are worked as main worker there only 24.7% female are served as the main worker. This picture is completely different in case of marginal worker. 10% male are employed as marginal worker, and more than 17% female are served as marginal worker. So from this data it is observed that till this date, the village work force is dominated by the male workers.

### **4.3 Employment Generation through Sualkuchi Village in Silk Industry**

#### **4.3.1 Percentage of Male and Female Weavers in Sualkuchi Village**

There are more than 73.78% of the total household of Sualkuchi are directly related with commercial silk production. The census of hand-loom in Sualkuchi conducted in 2002 reveals that Sualkuchi has 13752 active commercial hand-looms. Sualkuchi is the ancient craft village having silk rearing and weaving communities. 90% of households of Sualkuchi have looms. It is observed that, 79% families have traditional looms, 17% of them have modern looms for commercial silk weaving (Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam). They basically produce Pat or Muga Sarees, Mekhela-Chadar, Selowar-Kameej, Kurta, Scurf, Gamosa and Chunni etc. Total numbers of weavers in this village are 12,056 of which 57% are female weaver. So the total numbers of female weavers are 6,872. Actually, Sericulture is the occupation by women and for women because more than 60% are the female workforce

on sericulture sector and 80% of silk are consumed by women only (Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam).

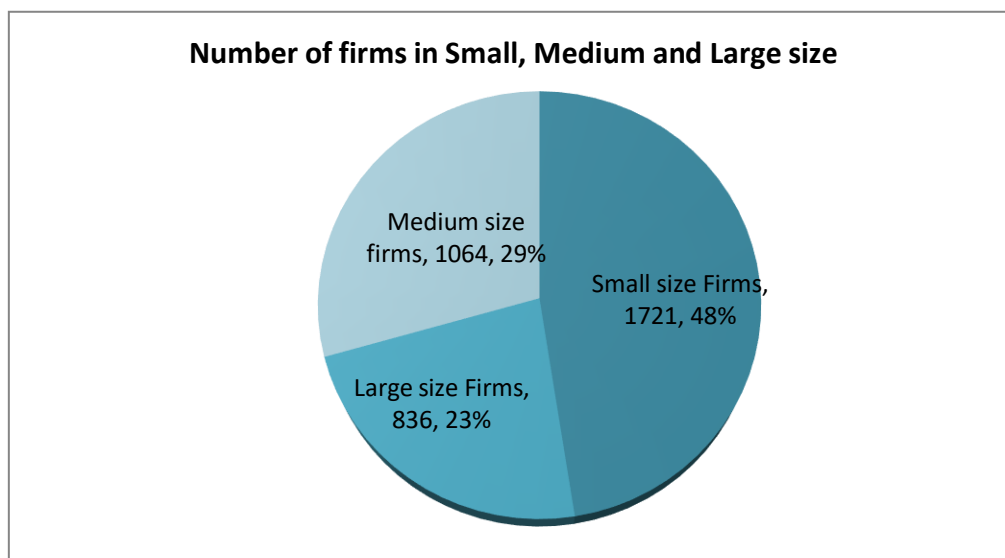
In Sualkuchi village, there are high amounts of weaver which are migrated from different places in search of work. Kokrajhar, Baska, Gosaigaon, Mangaldoi, Sipajhar etc. are the main centres from which the weavers are migrated. Basically they come alone in this village to earn money. Sometimes it is seen that both husband and wife are come to earn money keeping their children at home under the observation of rest of their family members. They want to earn a high amount of money at a quicker time by doing hard labour. They continue their work both in day and night time. An expert worker can complete a heavy designed Mekhela-Sador set in one and half days. Some of these weavers stay in their owner's home by giving a certain monthly payment. But some of weaver takes rented house. In this village, presently 40% weavers are migrated weavers.

It is seen that the female are not only engaged in weaving or reeling sector, rather they engaged in entrepreneurial sector and able to earn profit also. But the numbers of female entrepreneur are very few in comparison to male entrepreneur. But in weaving, it is the female dominating sector.

### 4.3.2 Number and Ratio of Small size, Medium size and Large size firms in Sualkuchi Village

The total size of weavers (male and female) engaged in small, medium and large size of firms can be presented through the following pie diagram.

**Figure 4.3**  
**Total Number of Small, Medium and Large size firms in Sualkuchi Village**



Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam

Figure 4.3 represents the number of Small, Medium and Large size firms in Sualkuchi village. It is observed that 1721(48%) firms are registered as a small size firms. 1064(29%) firms are registered as Medium size firms and 836 (23%) firms are registered as a Large size firms. From the data, it is seen that the number of small size firms are highest than the other two sizes of firms. This is because, in the village Sualkuchi, almost every household have their own handlooms (1 or 2, maximum 3) and apart from the engagement of their family members, few of them hire weavers from the village or from the native places. Some of the family has only one handloom, which they use not only for personal uses but also for commercial purposes. The female members of the family like grandmother, mother, aunty or daughter are weaving on these looms and they do not use any hired weavers. Further, it is seen that the large firms are used on fully commercial purpose. Since, they structured as a commercial purpose, they use modern technology and machinery, which give them more production at a quicker time period. These modern technology and machines reduces the number of

weavers. So, it is seen that the engagement of weavers are more in case of small size firms in comparison to medium size or large size firms.

### 4.3.3 Number of Male - Female Weavers in Various Sizes of Firms

The following table shows the number of male - female weavers on different size of firms:

**Table 4.5**  
**Male and Female Weavers Engaged in Various Pat-Muga Firms**

SL No	Firm Size	Female Weavers	Male Weavers	Total
1	Small size weaving firm	2,900	2,164	5,064 (42% of total weavers engaged in Sualkuchi)
2	Medium size weaving firm	2,080	1,537	3,617 (30% of total weavers engaged in Sualkuchi)
3	Large size weaving firm	1,920	1,455	3,375(28% of total weavers engaged in Sualkuchi)
Total		6,900 (57.23%)	5156(42.77%)	12056

Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, 2016

From table 4.5, it has been observed that more weavers are engaged in small size weaving firms and the lowest numbers of weavers are engaged in medium size firms. According to the data, total 5,064 weavers were engaged in small size firms, where 2,900(57.27% of total small size weavers) were female weavers and 2,164 (42.73%) were male weavers. In case of in case of Medium size firms (who have 4 and more than 7 firms) 2,080 (57.51% of total large size firms weavers) are female weavers and 1,537 (42.49%) male weavers are engaged and in total number 3,617 weavers are engaged. Again in Large size firms, a total of 3,375 weavers were engaged, that means these weavers were engaged on the firms which had minimum 7 and more numbers of handlooms. In this third category of firms 1,920 (56.89% of total Large size firm) were female weavers and 1,455 (43.11%) were male weavers. From the above data and



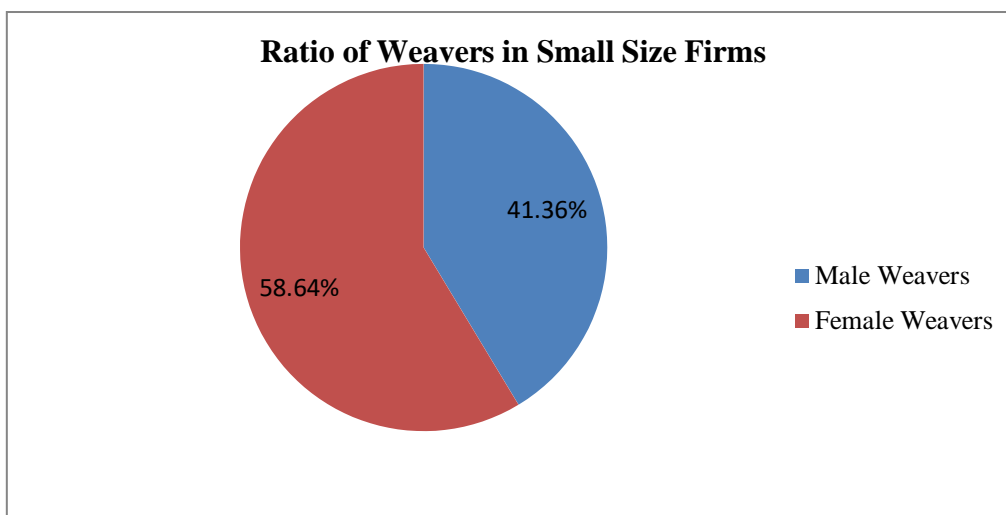
discussion, it is clear that more weavers are engaged in small size firms followed by Medium and Large size firms (based on the number of size of firms). From the table, it is also seen that out of total numbers of weavers 57.01% i.e. 6,873 were female weavers and 42.99% i.e. 5183 were male weavers. Hence, it is observed that the weaving sector in Sualkuchi village is a female dominating sector.

#### 4.3.3.1 Male – Female Weavers’ ratio in Small size firms in Sualkuchi Village

The difference between male and female weavers can be represented through the help of the following diagram

**Figure 4.4**

**Ratio of Male & Female Weavers in Small Size Firms**



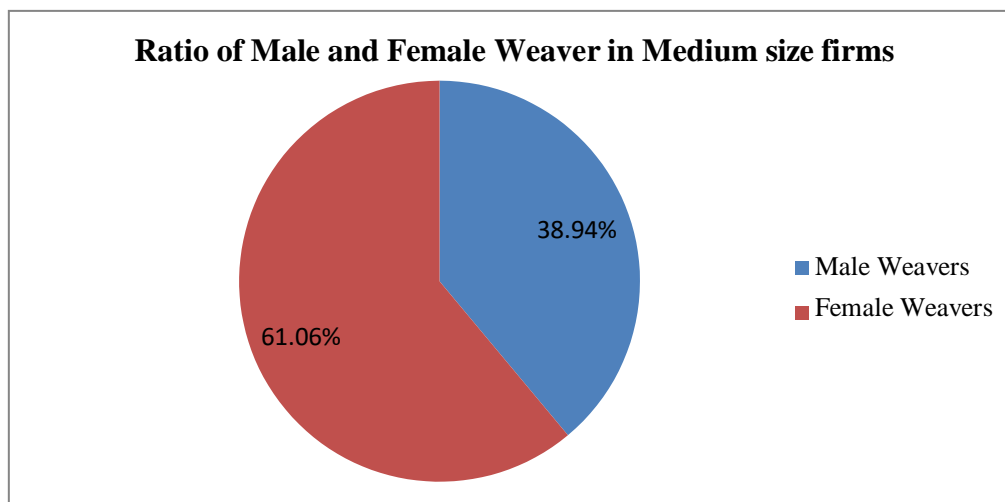
Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, 2016

Figure 4.4 presents the difference between male and female weavers' in small size firms in the study area. From the figure it is observed that there are 41.36% are male weavers and 58.64% are female weavers. The ratios of female weavers are more than male weavers in Sualkuchi village in case of small size firms. It is because, almost all the families have their own loom and their females are personally engaged on these looms whereas the male are basically engaged on other commercial activities such as marketing and sales apart from weaving.

#### 4.3.3.2 Male – Female Weavers’ ratio in Medium size firms in Sualkuchi Village

Figure 4.5

##### Ratio of Male & Female Weavers in Medium Size Firms



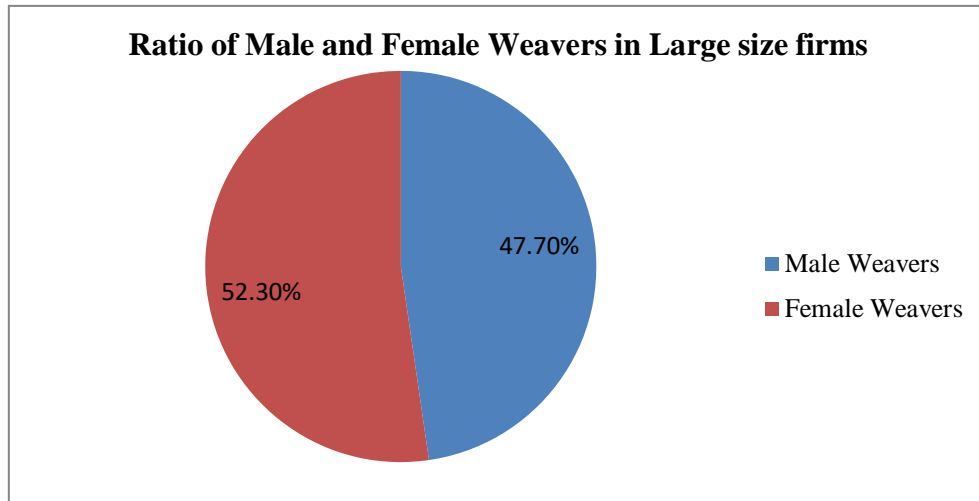
Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, 2016

Figure 4.5 presents the difference between male and female weavers’ in case of medium size firms in the study area. From the figure it is observed that there are 38.94% are male weavers and 61.06% are female weavers. The ratios of female weavers are more than male weavers in Sualkuchi village in case of medium size firms. It is because, almost all the families have their own loom and their female family members are personally engaged on these looms and they try to hire female weavers where the male are basically engaged on other commercial activities like sales and marketing. They also interested to do job in private companies.

#### 4.3.3.3 Male – Female Weavers’ ratio among Large size firms in Sualkuchi Village

Figure 4.6

##### Ratio of Male & Female Weavers in Large Size Firms



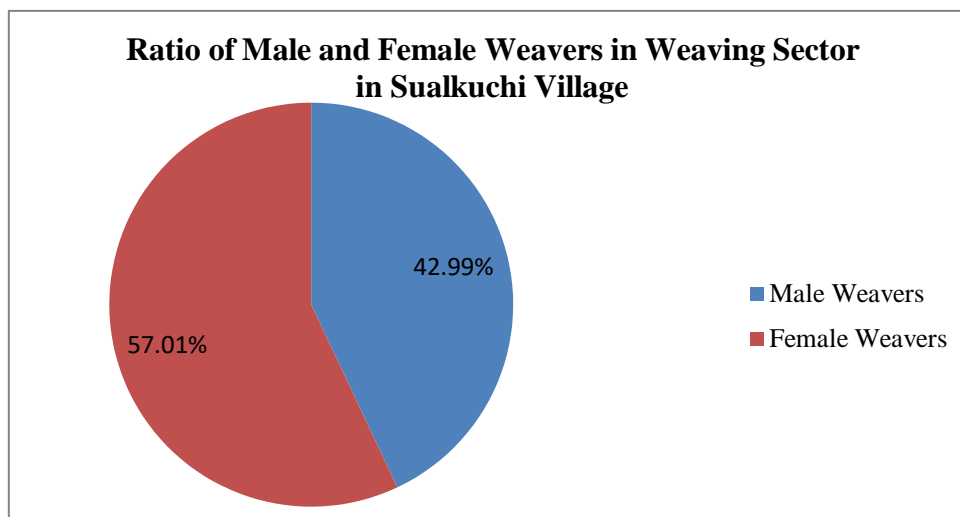
Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, 2016

Figure 4.6 represents the difference between male and female weavers’ in case of Large size firms. From the figure it is observed that there are 52.3% are female weavers and 47.7% are male weavers in study area. In case of Large firm size, it is also seen that the ratio behind male and female weavers, the ratio of female weavers are more than male weavers. The basic reason behind this is almost all the families have their own loom and their females are personally engaged on these looms and they are interested hire female weavers in both local or outside weavers whereas there is also a scarcity of male weavers, because male are try to engage on other commercial activities like sales and marketing. They interested to do job in private companies also.

#### 4.3.3.4 Total Male – Female Weavers ratio Silk firms in Sualkuchi Village

Figure 4.7

#### Total Ratio of Male & Female Weavers in Weaving Sector in Sualkuchi Village



Source: Directorate of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, 2016

The above figure shows the ratio of male-female weavers in Sualkuchi weaving sectors as a whole. From the figure 4.7, it is observed that, the ratios of female weavers are more than the male weavers. Out of total number of weavers in Sualkuchi village, 57.01% are male weavers and only 42.99% are male weavers. From the above data, it is clearly seen that the ratio of female weavers are more than the ratio of male weavers in all the three categories of firm sizes. So, it can be concluded that, the weaving sector in Sualkuchi village is a female dominating sector and more number of female got employment in this sector irrespective of their education, age, religion and locality. So, from this the conclusion is that the weaving sector is a female dominating sector.

#### 4.3.5 The contribution of outside (migrated) weavers in Study Area

The demand for silk cloths increases day by day. Apart from domestic increase in demand, the demand for silk cloth also increases from foreign countries. To maintain this increasing demand, entrepreneur needs more and more weavers and silk related labour. But presently in Sualkuchi village there are not adequate amount of weavers and labour s available. So, to maintain the need of more labour, the entrepreneurs are now bound to hire weavers from outsides than the village. So, they start to hire outside

labour and weavers from nearby places. These weavers are both male and female. The amounts of female weavers are higher than male weavers.

The contributions of outside weavers are a very important part of silk industry on the study area. More than half of the weavers are outside weavers from various nearby places. These outside weavers are in both genders i.e. they are both male and female weavers. Presently, it is said that Sualkuchi's production is reduces due to the drop of outside weavers. So, these outside or migrated weavers play a very significant role for this industry.

The present condition of outside weavers in the study area discussed below

#### 4.3.4.1 Ratio selected for Outside and Local Weavers in the Small Size Firms

**Table 4.6**

##### **Percentage of Outside and Local Weavers in the Small Size Firms**

Firm Size	No. of Outside Weavers	% of Outside Weaver	No. of Local Female Weaver	% of Local Weavers	Total
Small Size Weaving Firm	61	42.07%	84	57.93%	145

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the above table, it is seen that in the number of total hired outside weavers in Small size weaving firms (1 to 3 handlooms) are 145 where 84 are local weavers and 61 are outside female weavers. 42.07% are the outside weavers and 57.93% are the local weavers. It is seen that out of the total weavers engaged in small size firms, the number of local weavers are more than the number of outside weavers. The basic reason behind this are

- Almost every household in this area has 1 to 3 handlooms.
- They use handlooms as commercial purposes
- Since their handloom numbers are limited, the weaving is done by their family members.
- If they need weavers, most of them hire local weavers.

- They prefer local weavers because, if they use outside weavers, they have to provide them food and lodging facilities, which is quite difficult for every owner.

#### 4.3.4.2 Ratio selected for Outside and Local Weavers in Medium Size Firms

**Table 4.7**

##### Percentage of Outside and Local Weavers in the Medium Size Firms

Firm Size	No. of Outside Weavers	% of Outside Weaver	No. of Local Female Weaver	% of Local Weavers	Total
Medium Size Weaving Firm	53	50.96%	51	49.04%	104

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The table 4.7 represents the number and percentage of hired outside and local weavers in case of the firms who have their handlooms of 4 to 7 numbers, which is categorized as medium size firms by the local people. In this category of firms, there are 104 weavers, out of which 51 are local weavers and 53 are outside weavers. Here 49.04% are outside weavers and 38.38% are local female weavers.

#### 4.3.4.3 Ratio selected for Outside and Local Weavers in Large Size Firms

**Table 4.8**

##### Percentage of Outside and Local Weavers in the Large Size Firms

Firm Size	No. of Outside Weavers	% of Outside Weaver	No. of Local Female Weaver	% of Local Weavers	Total
Large Size Weaving Firm	88	91.67%	08	08.33%	96

Source: Field Survey, 2016

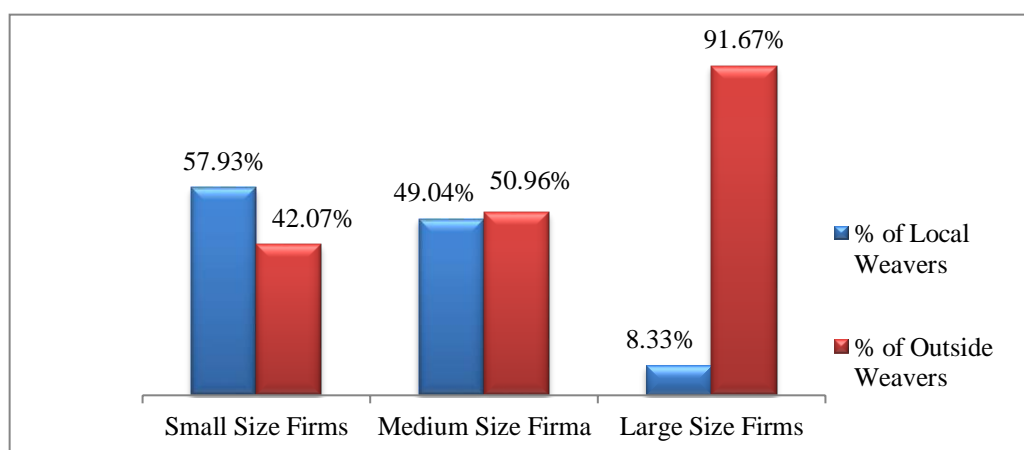
The above table shows the number and percentage of outside weavers in case of the firms who have their handloom numbers 7 and more. These types of firms are

categorized by the local people as large size of firms. In this category, there are taken 96 weavers as sample weavers, where 08 (8.33%) are local weavers and 88 (91.67%) are outside female weavers. In case of large size firms, ratios of outside weavers are more than the ratio of local weavers.

#### 4.3.4.4 Reasons for More Outside weavers in Large size firms than Small and Medium size Firms

Figure 4.8

Comparison among and Local and Outside Weavers in Small, Medium and Large size Firms



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.8 explains about the condition of local and outside weavers in all three categories of firms, i.e. small, medium and large. It is seen that the highest ratio of outside weavers are engaged on large size firms, whose handloom numbers are more than 7. In case of small size firms, lowest amount of outside weavers are engaged. In Sualkuchi village almost every house hold has their own handlooms. In most of the families, family member weave the Pat-Muga cloths. They do not hire any weavers from outside. If they require weavers, they prefer local weavers. Only 42.07% weavers are the outside weavers from the native places. But, in case of large firms, they prefer to outside the weavers from outside the village. Most of these weavers stay at owners' house or near the work places. They able to work comparatively longer hours and as a result production will increase.

## 4.4 Income of Weavers in Silk Industry in Sualkuchi Village

### 4.4.1 Payment of the weavers

The wages of the weavers are different in various categories of silk garments. Basically there are 3 division of garments based on their work. The works are done by

1. Guna and Suta
2. Only Guna and
3. Only Suta.

The various wages are given by the following tables

#### 4.4.1.1 Payment of weavers (Plain design)

**Table: 4.9**

**Payment of weavers (Plain “Uka” design)**

Name	Wage per pc
Plain (uka) Sador	Rs.300
Plain (uka) Mekhela	Rs.250
Plain (uka) Riha	Rs. 300

Source: field survey, 2016

The payment of per piece plain Sador is Rs.300, Mekhela is Rs.250 and Riha is Rs. 300. That means in a full set of Assamese Mekhela Sador (which contains Sador, Mekhela and Riha) the owner have to pay Rs. 850 to the weavers. Normally it is seen that it takes 2 to 3 days.

#### 4.4.1.2 Payment of weavers (Guna-Suta mix design)

**Table 4.10**

**Payment of weavers (Guna-Suta mix design)**

Name	Wage per piece (based on design)	Average payment per piece
Sador	Rs.600-800	Rs.700
Mekhela	Rs.400-600	Rs.500
Riha	Rs. 350-450	Rs.400

Source: field survey, 2016

The payment of per piece Guna and Suta (design) mix Sador is an average of Rs.700, Mekhela is an average of Rs.500 and Riha is an average of Rs. 400. That means



in a full set of Assamese Mekhela - Sador (which contains Sador, Mekhela and Riha) the owner have to pay Rs.1600 to the weavers. Though the time to complete a set is based on the design, skill and weaving speed of the weavers but normally it is seen that it takes 3 to 5 days.

#### 4.4.1.3 Payment of weavers (Only Guna design)

**Table: 4.11**

##### Payment of weavers (Only Guna design)

Name	Payment per piece (based on design)	Average Payment per piece
Sador	Rs. 1000 to Rs.1200	Rs.1,100
Mekhela	Rs.700 to Rs. 800	Rs. 750
Riha	Rs.500 to Rs.700	Rs.600

Source: field survey, 2016

The payment of per piece Guna (design) Sador is between Rs.1000 to Rs.1200, Mekhela is between Rs.700 to Rs 800 and in case of Riha, it is between Rs. 500 to Rs.700. That means in a full set of Assamese Mekhela Sador (which contains Sador, Mekhela and Riha) the owner have to pay Rs.2200 to Rs 2700 to the weavers. Though the time to complete a set is based on the design, skill and weaving speed of the weavers but normally it is seen that it takes 4 to 10 days.

#### 4.4.1.4 Payment of weavers (only Suta design)

**Table: 4.12**

##### Payment of weavers (only Suta design)

Name	Payment per piece (Based on Designs)	Average Payment per piece
Sador	Rs.600-800	Rs. 700
Mekhela	Rs.400 to Rs.450	Rs. 425
Riha	Rs.350-400	Rs.375

Source: field survey, 2016

The payment of per piece Suta (design) mix Sador is an average of Rs.700, Mekhela is an average of Rs.425 and Riha is Rs. 375. That means in a full set of

Assamese Mekhela Sador (which contains Sador, Mekhela and Riha) the owner have to pay almost Rs.1500 to the weavers. Though the time of finish a set is based on the design, skill and weaving speed of the weavers but normally it is seen that it takes 4 to 7 days.

#### **4.4.1.5 Reason of varies payment**

The basic reason behind the various rates of the Sador-Mekhela and Riha in case of its designing on Suta, Guna and Suta-Guna mix cloth is the time consumption to weave the cloths. A Suta set can be produced in less time in comparison to a Guna set. When the weavers weave the Guna Sador the to and fro of sattal of Guna is risky and it will take more time. So, the weavers demand more payment on Suta set in comparison to Suta design pat or Muga set.

#### **4.4.2 Average Monthly Income of the Sample Weavers**

Women are known as born weaver in Assam. Almost each and every woman in Assam knows how to weave cloth, rearing of silkworm and spinning of silk. A weaver is easily able to earn from Rs 2,500 to Rs 10,000 per month. Their wage is based upon their performance. By weaving a plain Pat or Muga Mekhela, they earn minimum Rs 200. This amount increases according to the design of the weaving cloth. In a Pat Mekhela-Sador set they are able to earn an average of Rs 1,200.

##### **4.4.2.1 Man Days of the Weavers**

The average working hour of 345 weavers are 6.20 hour per day. They work 26 days in a month.

So, the weavers Monthly Man days calculated as-

26 days of the month X 6.20 hours= 161.20 hours

So, Man days work=  $(161.20 \div 8) = 20.15$  man days in a month

**Table 4.13**

**Average Man-Hours, Average Monthly Man-days and Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Weavers**

No. of Weavers	Average Monthly Man Hours	Average Monthly Man days	Average Monthly Income
345	161.20 hours	20.15 days	Rs. 5,870.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.13 indicates about the Average Monthly Man Hours, Average Monthly Man days and Average Monthly Income. The average monthly man hours of 345 weavers are 161.20 hours and the average monthly man days are 20.15 days per month. The average monthly incomes of total surveyed weavers are Rs. 5,870.00.

We can divide the surveyed weavers into two categories i.e. Outside Weavers and Local Weavers.

**4.4.2.2 Average man days for the Outside Weavers**

There are 202 Outside weavers whose average monthly working days are 27 days in a month.

So, the outside weavers' average working hour is 7.39 Hours per day.

So, monthly man days of Outside weavers are

$$27 \text{ days} \times 7.39 \text{ Hours} = 199.53 \text{ Monthly Man Hours}$$

$$\text{So, Monthly Man Days of Outside Weavers} = (199.53 \div 8) = 24.94 \text{ man days}$$

**4.4.2.3 Average man days of the Local Weavers**

There are 143 Local weavers, whose average monthly working days are 26 days in a month,

So, the Local weavers' average working 4.51 Hours per day and normal idle time hours.

So, Monthly Man Days of the Local Weavers are

$$26 \text{ days} \times 4.51 \text{ Hours} = 117.26 \text{ Monthly Man Hours}$$

$$\text{So, Monthly Man Days of Local Weavers} = (117.26 \div 8) = 14.66 \text{ man days}$$

**Table 4.14**

**Average Man-Hours, Average Monthly Man-days and Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Local and Outside Weavers**

	Local Weavers	Outside Weavers
Average Monthly Man Hours	117.26 hours	199.53 hours
Average Monthly Man Days	14.66 days	24.94 days
Average Monthly Income	Rs.3,963.00	Rs.7,777.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.14 explains about the Average monthly man hours, average monthly man days and average monthly income of the local and outside weavers. It is observed from the table that the average monthly man hours of local weavers are 117.26 hours and in case of the outside weavers, it is 199.53 hours. The average monthly man days for local weavers are 14.66 man days and for outside weavers it is 24.94 man days. It is observed that the average monthly man hours and average monthly man days both are more in case of outside weavers than the local weavers. It is because the outside weavers work longer time than the local weavers. The local weavers working place and their house are nearby places. So, they took more breaks in between their working hours. They go to take their child from school, feed their child and family members. After that they again back to work place. This consumes lots of hours to the local weavers. So, their working hours reduced. But, the outside weavers work for the whole day. They just take a break for half or one hour. So, their working hours increased in comparison to local weavers.

**4.4.2.4 Average Monthly income of the Surveyed Female Weavers**

The whole surveyed weavers are classified into three categories, such as Small size firms, Medium size firms and large size firms. There are 145 surveyed weavers working on small size firms, 104 surveyed weavers working on medium size firms and 96 surveyed weavers working on large size firms out of total 345 surveyed weavers.

**Table: 4.15**

**Average Monthly income of the Surveyed Female Weavers**

Sl. No.	Size of the Firms	Total Numbers of weavers	Average monthly money income (in Rs)
1	1 to 3 Small Size weaving firm	145	Rs. 5,000.00
2	4 to 6 Medium size weaving	104	Rs. 5,500.00
3	7 and more Large size weaving firm	96	Rs. 7,500.00

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the above table it is observed that highest amount of weaver are engaged in small size weaving sectors where the number of handlooms are between 1 to 3. Till this sample collection, it is also noticed that highest income earner are the weavers who work in large firms and the lowest income earners are the small weaving firms. If is because the small weaving sectors basically use the local weavers and their duration of work is limited. Apart from that family members are also engaged in such firms to weave cloths. But in large firms, the weavers are mostly hired and they stay at the production unit and they work almost 10 to 14 hours. So they able to earn more income as they produce more output, as it is already mentioned that the weavers income are based on their performance not on the basis of the size of the firm nor the weavers have a fix salary.

The weavers are engaged in this sector are from 1 year to 30 years if they are local weavers. But if they are outside or migrated weavers them they stay in this place is maximum 10 years. Because, after this time they would like to move their home and started a new business. They also start to weave at their own place and leave the study area.

**4.4.3 Comparison among Average Monthly savings between of the Surveyed Local & Outside Female Weavers**

**Table 4.16  
Comparison between Average Monthly savings between of the Surveyed Local & Outside Female Weavers**

Sl. No.	Size of Handlooms	Average Monthly Savings For Local Weavers	Average Monthly Savings For Outside Weavers
1	1 to 3 Small Size weaving firm	Rs.1,500	Rs.2,500
2	4 to 6 Medium size weaving firm	Rs. 2,000	Rs.2,500
3	7 and more Large size weaving firm	Rs. 2,500	Rs. 3,000

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.16 observes the surveyed weavers average monthly savings amount. The above table shows the average monthly savings by the local and outside female weavers on all the three categories of firms. It is clearly seen that the average monthly savings are higher in case of outside weavers as compared to the local weavers on all the three categories of firms. It is because, the outside weavers works for longer time periods than the local weavers. So, their per day productivity are more than the local weavers. As a result, they able to earn more money income. From these high amount of income, they able to save more. Again, most of the outside weavers stay on owners houses. So they do not have to bear house rent, electricity bill etc. they can save the amount. So, from the above discussion, conclusion can be drawn as the outside weavers earn more amount of money, they can save more after sending some amount of money to their families.

Again, the savings of the weavers are highest in case of large size firms than the medium and small size firms. Weavers' savings are lowest in case of small size firms. It is because

- Large size firms are fully commercial
- They mostly hired weavers from outside the village
- The small firms run basically local weavers.
- The outside weavers' productivity is more than the local weavers.

#### 4.4.4 Duration involved with weaving and average income of the female weavers

**Table: 4.17**

##### **Experience and productivity of the Surveyed female weavers**

Duration of Involvement with the profession	Total No. of weavers			Average Monthly Income
	Outside Weavers	Local Weavers	Total	
1 -5 years	62	29	91	Rs. 6,000
5- 10 years	81	50	131	Rs. 8,000
10-15 years	44	41	85	Rs. 9,000
15 and more years	15	23	38	Rs. 6,500

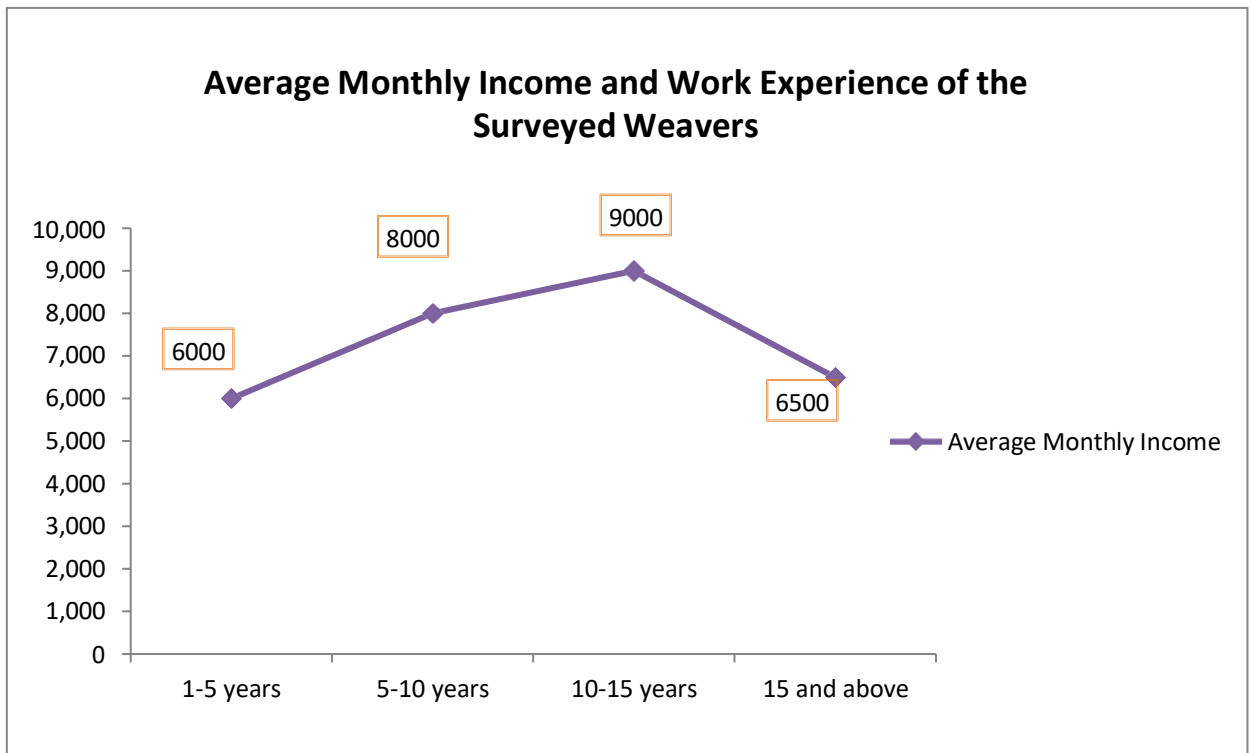
Source: field survey, 2016

The weavers engaged on weaving are classified into 4 different class intervals according to their work experience. The first class interval involved the weaving experience during 1 – 5 years, the second class involved in 5-10 years, the third class interval involved 10-15 years and the 4<sup>th</sup> category involved the class interval among 15 years and more. It is seen that most of the weavers are in the experience of 1 to 5 years, where 91 female weavers are there. They earn an average income of Rs.6,000. The second class interval involves 131 female weavers, which earn an average income of Rs. 8,000. The third class interval involved 85 weavers and their monthly average

income is of Rs. 9,000 the last or 4<sup>th</sup> class interval involved 38 female weavers, where an average income of Rs. 6,500.

The work duration of the female weavers and their average monthly income can be represented through the following line diagram

**Figure 4.9**  
**Average Monthly income of the Weavers based on their working years**



Source: Field survey, 2016

It is notice that the average income of the female weavers are less in 1-5 years work duration group, it is started to gradually increases for the next two experience groups and then it starts to reduce as their work experience increases. This is because:

- As the weavers become more experienced, they can perform their job more easily and quickly.
- As the weavers income based on their performance and speed, so with experience their productivity increases and they able to earn more income through weaving
- Weaving is a very sensitive work; weavers get lots of stress on their eyes by the time of weaving.



- As their work duration increases, their age also increases and they start to lose their eye power, which is a reason of their reduction of income as work experience increases.
- With age, they suffered in various diseases like- back pain, lag pain etc, which are not permitted the weavers to sit more time on the handloom.
- Apart from that, when their children are growing up, they do not allow their mothers to go to others house and weave.

#### **4.4 Socio- Economic Empowerment of Weavers in Silk Industry in Sualkuchi Village**

##### **4.5.1 The Standard of Living of the Surveyed Weavers**

##### **4.5.1.1 Educational Status of the surveyed Weavers**

**Table 4.18**

**Educational Status of the Weavers in the Study Area**

Educational Status	Number of Weavers	Percentage of Total Weavers
Illiterate	83	24.06%
Primary	125	36.23%
Up to Class VIII	74	21.45%
HSLC Passed	46	13.33%
HS Passed	17	4.93%
Graduate	0	0
Total	345	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

From table 4.18 it is seen that out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 83 weavers are illiterate that means they do not know how to read and write. They just put their thumb impression in any officials and necessary documents. These weavers are never gone to school. 125 weavers are just finished their primary education or just passed out class IV. After that they left their school. 74 weavers are class VIII passed out but they discontinue their education and left school. 46 weavers were completed HSLC level and 17 weavers are high secondary passed out. On the time of survey, it is found that not a

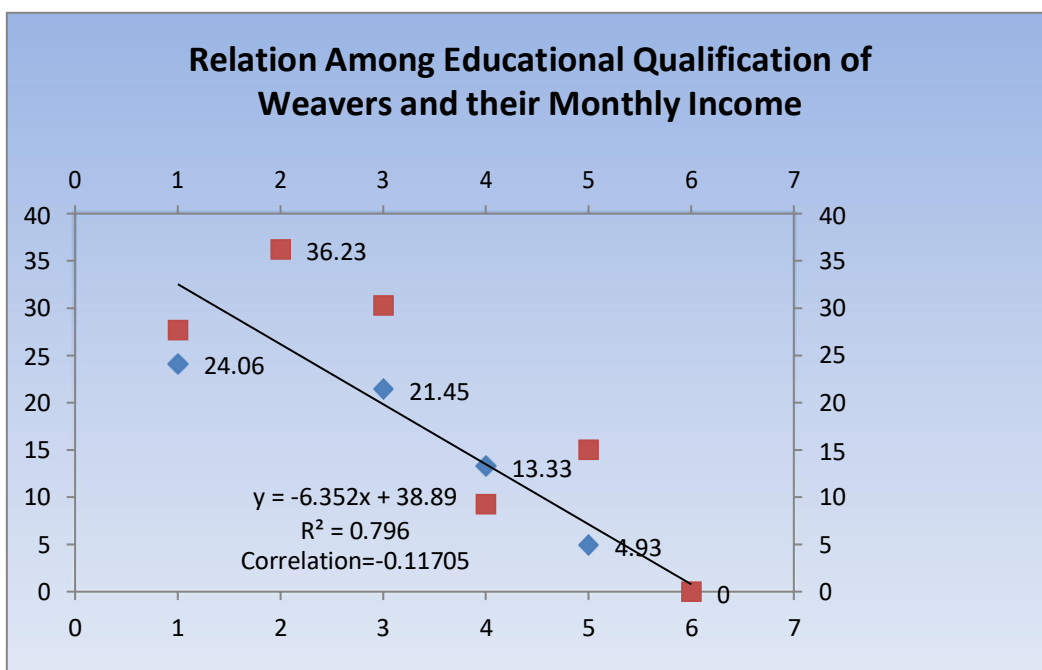
single weaver is graduate. So, it is found that the education level is very poor to the weavers.

The percentage of weavers in each category out of total number of weavers are represented through the help of the following bar diagram.

**4.5.1.1.a Hypothesis 1: There is no relationship between weavers' income and education**

**Figure 4.10**

**Relation among Educational Qualification of the Weavers and their Monthly Income**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

X= Educational qualification of the Sample weavers, Independent Variable

Y= Average Monthly Income of the Sample Weavers, Dependent Variable

$$Y = -6.352x + 38.89$$

$$R^2 = 0.796$$

$$\text{Correlation} = -0.11705$$

In the figure 4.10, the X-axis represents level of education and the Y-axis represents percentage of weavers' average monthly income on the basis of their educational qualification. Out of total average monthly income of the weavers, 27.7% holds by the weavers who are illiterate. 36.23% average monthly income holds by the weavers whose educational qualification is primary education passed. 30.30% average monthly income holds by the weavers' educational qualification is up to class VIII passed. 9.25% and 15.02% total average monthly income consists of the weavers whose educational qualification are HSLC and HS passed.

Here, the researcher try to check whether there is any relationship between the weavers' monthly income and their educational qualification. Thus, simple linear regression analysis is used, to check the relation between them. The result come out that there is a negative relation between educational qualification and weavers' monthly income. In our analysis  $R^2$  is 0.796 which states that 79% of variation in dependent variable is explain by independent variable. From field studies the researcher observed that the educated women are not interested in weaving and this is one of the reasons of negative relationship between their weavers' monthly income and their educational qualification. It is also found that the educated weavers are not satisfied with weaving since their incomes are less and they always try to search a better job opportunity. Apart from that since the educated weavers know to read and write, they used to go banks, market and uses mobile internet. These are the time consuming activity and their work hours reduced.

#### 4.5.1.2 Marital Status of the Surveyed Weavers

**Table: 4.19**

**Marital Status of the Surveyed Weavers**

Marital Status	Number of Weavers
Married	153 (44.35%)
Un married	132 (38.26%)
Widow	23 (6.67%)
Separated	37 (10.72%)
Total	345

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.19 observes about the marital status of the sample weavers. From the table it is observed that most of the weavers are married weavers. There are 44.35% weavers are married weavers. 38.26% weavers are unmarried weavers, 6.67% and 10.72% are weavers are widow and separated respectively.

#### 4.5.1.3 Housing conditions of the weavers in the Study Area

The standard of living is also reflected the housing pattern of sample weavers. In our study area it is observed that among the households of the weavers only 1.45% weavers constructed with RCC house, 27.54% has Assam type house where 46.38% weavers and 15.94% weavers have Bamboo house and Indira Awas Yojana houses. 8.70% of the total weavers have houses with wall with Roof Sheet. This reflects the attraction of weavers towards the modern facilities.

**Table 4.20**  
**Housing Pattern of Sample Weavers**

House Pattern	Number of Weavers
RCC	5 (1.45%)
Assam Type	95 (27.54%)
Bamboo House	160 (46.38%)
Indira Awas Yojana	55 (15.94%)
Wall with Roof Sheet	30 (8.70%)
Total	345

Source: Field Survey, 2016

#### 4.5.1.4 Living conditions of the sample weavers

In the present society electricity, hygienic toilet, pure drinking water and LPG cooking facility are the basic needs for any family. Out of the surveyed weavers, it is observed that 14.20% of the weavers do not have electricity facility at their houses. 25.80% of the weavers uses unhygienic toilets, 67.25% weavers mention that they do not consume pure drinking water and 36.23% weavers still cook without LPG facility rather they use fire wood and stoves. This data (table 4.21) indicates that still many of the weavers not amenities with modern technologies.

**Table 4.21**  
**Living condition of the weavers**

	No Electricity facility	Un hygienic Toilet	No pure drinking water	Without LPG cooking facility
Number of Weavers	49(14.20%)	89(25.80%)	232(67.25%)	125(36.23%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

**4.5.1.5 Use of consumer's durable commodity by the sample weavers**

**Table 4.22**  
**Use of Consumers Durable**

Particulars	Number and percentage of Weavers
Car	3 (0.86%)
2- Wheelers	30 (8.70%)
Computer	2 (0.58%)
Refrigerator	27 (7.83%)
Mobile phone	243 (70.44%)
Television Set	200 (57.97%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

In our study area for the purpose of highlighting the standard of living of the surveyed weavers' data regarding the use of consumers durable commodity such as Car, 2- wheelers, computers, refrigerator, mobile phone and television sets, it had been found that 0.86% weavers have cars, 8.70% have two wheelers. Only 0.58% has computers, 7.83% uses refrigerators, 70.44%uses mobile phones and 57.97% weavers have television sets at their houses.

## 4.5.2 Weaver's bank related decision making power

### 4.5.2.1 Number of Sample Weavers having and not having Bank Account

**Table 4.23**

**Numbers of Weavers with and without Bank accounts**

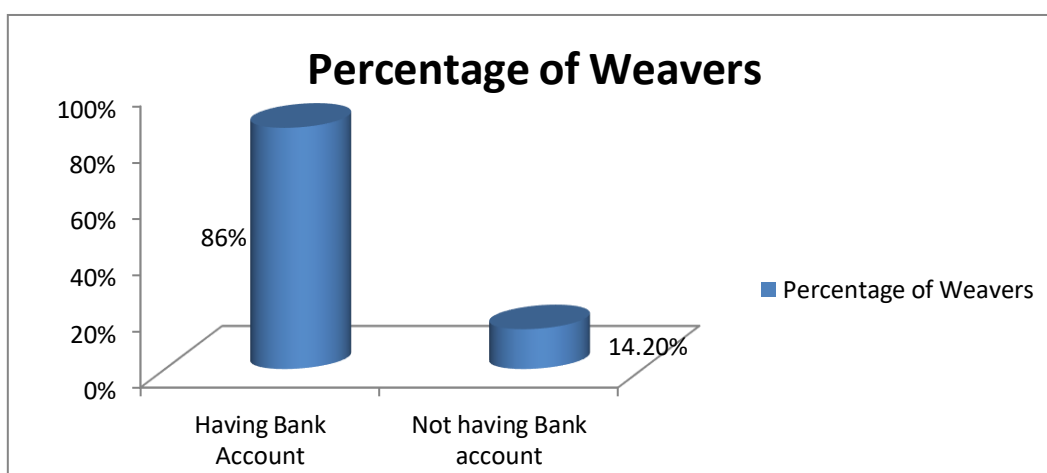
Monthly Income	Weavers Having Bank account	Weavers without bank account	Total
Total	296 (85.80%)	49 (14.20%)	345

Source: Field survey, 2016

From the table 4.23 indicates the numbers of surveyed weavers bank account. Out of the total surveyed weavers, 296 (85.80%) weavers having bank account and 49 (14.20%) weavers do not have any bank account. They keep the money with them only. This scenario can be clearly presented with the help of the following bar diagram

**Figure 4.11**

**Numbers of Weavers with and Without Bank Accounts**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.11 explains about the scenario of weavers having and not having bank accounts. It is clearly observed that out of the total surveyed weavers, most of them have bank accounts. Only 14.20% of the weavers do not have bank accounts.

On the other hand, 77% of Indian women having a bank account till the year 2017. It

was only 43% and 26% in the year 2014 and 2011 respectively (<https://www.statista.com>). So, it is clearly seen that our surveyed female weavers are more empowered than the Indian women in case of having bank account.

#### 4.5.2.1.a Number of Single and Joint bank account of the weavers

**Table 4.24**

**Number of Single and Joint bank account of the weavers**

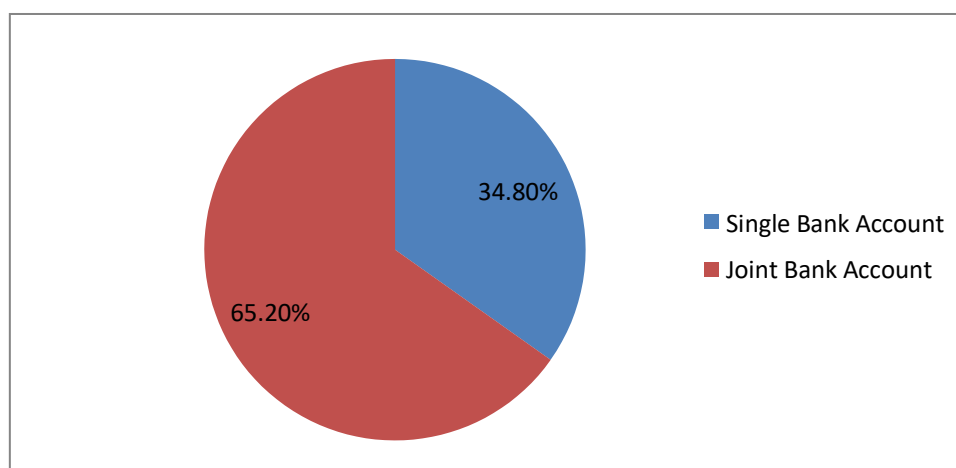
Type of Bank Account	Number of Weavers	% of total Weavers
Single Account	103	34.80%
Joint Account	193	65.20%
Total	296	100%

Source: Field survey, 2016

From the table 4.24 observes about the weavers number of single bank account and joint bank account. It is observed that 103 weavers out of total 296 bank account having weavers, have single bank account, i.e. 34.80% of the weavers have single bank account and the rest of the weavers (193,65.20% )of the female surveyed weavers have joint bank account with their husband.

**Figure 4.12**

**Percentage of Weavers with Single and Joint Bank Account**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

From figure 4.12 explains about the percentage of weavers having single bank account and joint bank account of the weavers. It is seen that most of the surveyed weavers have joint bank account than single bank account. 24.5% female having single bank account in India in against of 75.5% female having joint bank account (<https://www.statista.com>). This all India figure are also poor than our surveyed female weavers. So, it can be said that the surveyed females are more empowered than the average Indian females regarding single bank account.

#### 4.5.2.2 Mode of Bank Account Operation

**Table 4.25**

**Mode of Bank Account Operation of the Surveyed Weavers**

Monthly Income	Numbers of Weavers	Percentage of Weavers
Bank Account operating by herself	78	26.35%
Bank account operating by others	218	78.47%
Total	296	100%

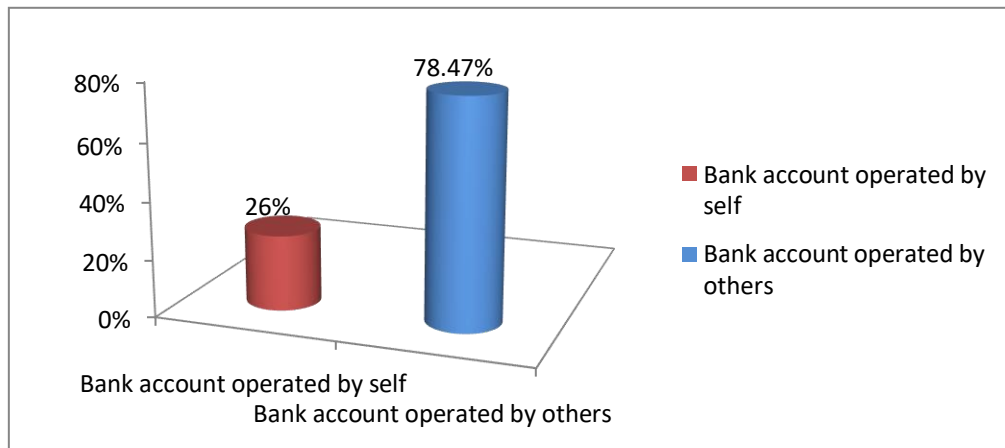
Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.25 indicates the mode of bank account operation of the surveyed weavers. Out of total 345 surveyed female weavers 296 have their bank account. Out of these weavers, 78 (26.35%) weaver operated their bank account by themselves only. They go to the bank to deposit and collect money. On the other hand, 218 (78.47%) weavers' bank accounts are operated by others, such as their husband, father, brothers etc.



**Figure 4.13**

**Percentage of Weavers Bank Account Operating Mode**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.13 indicates the percentage of weaver's bank account operating mode. It is observed that most of the surveyed weavers are not so much interested or empowered to handle their own bank account.

**4.5.2.3 Weavers with and without ATM Cards**

**Table 4.26**

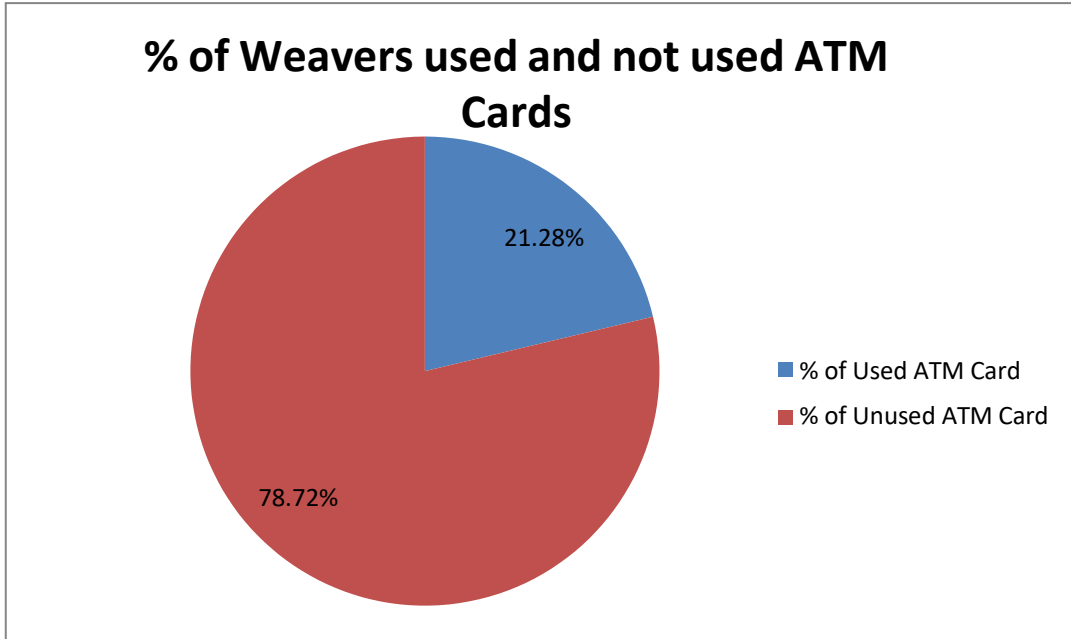
**Numbers of Weavers with and without ATM Cards**

Monthly Income	Numbers and percentage of Weavers
Used ATM cards	63 (21.28%)
Not used ATM cards	233(78.72%)
Total	296 (100%)

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.26 observes the amount and percentage of weavers who use and not use ATM cards. Out of total 296 bank account having surveyed weavers, 63 (21.28%) weavers' uses ATM cards and 233 (78.72%) weavers do not use ATM cards.

**Figure 4.14**  
**Percentage of Weavers Used and Unused ATM Cards**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.14 indicates the situation of ATM card used and unused surveyed female weavers. It is observed from the above pie diagram that, most of the weavers do not use ATM cards. In a survey made by World Bank, it was found that 22% of Indian female use ATM cards. In case of ATM card used by the weavers in Sualkuchi village, it can be said that the weavers are less empowered than the Indian female since only 21.28% of weavers used ATM card in study area.

#### **4.5.3 An Empirical Analysis About the Decision Making Power Among the Surveyed Female Weavers**

Decision making power of women is the ability to persuade decisions that concern of one's life- both private and public life. It is the process of making choices by identifying a decision, assembling information and assessing alternative resolutions. Decision making power can help a woman to make more conscious, independent and defining alternatives. In modern age, the decision making is an integral part of livelihood management.

#### 4.5.3.1 Weavers decision strength regarding property purchase

Here, weavers' decision making power is divided into two categories i.e. Strong decision making power and weak decision making power. These two categories are divided on the basis of weavers' answers. The answers are based on respondents' family decisions to purchase properties and their role on it. During the time of interview, some questions were asked to the weavers about their decisions to purchase family properties such as their husband/ brothers/ sisters or any other family member ask them about it or not? If ask, then how much importance they give to their opinions? If the weavers answer indicates positive sign then they are included under the category of strong decision making power and vice-versa.

**Table 4.27**

**Weavers decision strength regarding property purchase**

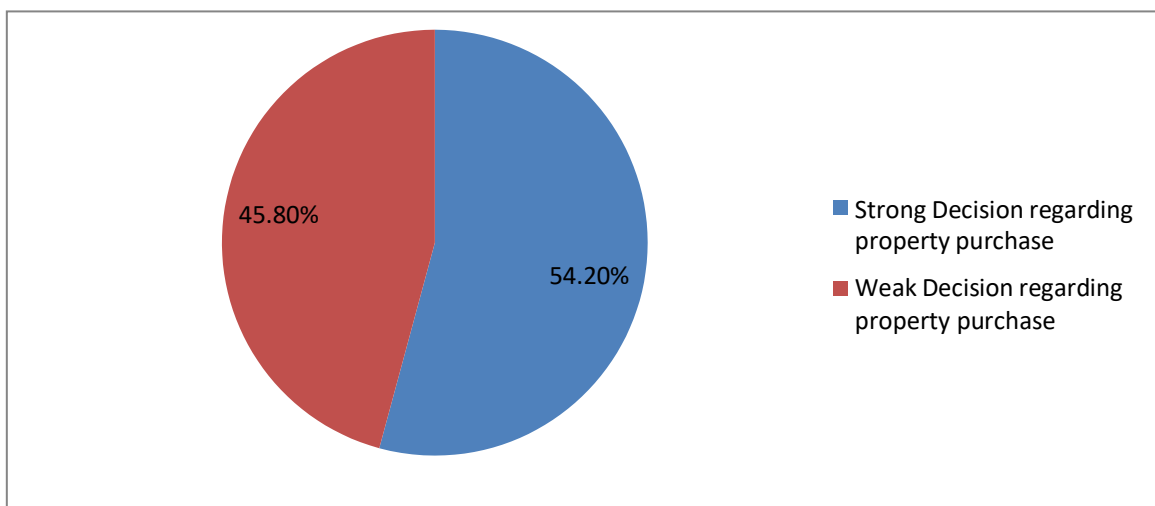
	Strong Decision Making Power	Weak Decision Making Power	Total Weavers
Numbers of Weavers Decision strength regarding property purchase	187 (54.20%)	158 (45.80%)	345

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.27 indicates about the strength of property purchase of the female weavers. Out of 345 surveyed weavers, 54.20% (187) weavers mention that they have strong property purchase power in their family and 158 (45.80%) weavers mentioned about their weak property purchase decision power.

**Figure 4.15**

**Weavers decision strength regarding property purchase**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.15 indicates about the weavers' decision strength regarding property purchase. It is seen that most of the weavers have strong opinion in the time of purchase property. The reason behind this is the money strength. The weavers, who have their own income, they are independent to buy property or commodity. So, they have more freedom to purchase property than the financially dependent women.

Presently in India, there are 127million females and out of which 25.6% female having strong voice regarding property purchase (<https://www.indiatelevision.com>, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2020). To compare this figure with the surveyed weavers, it has been seen that the Sualkuchi weavers are more empowered than the Indian women regarding property purchase decision makings.

### 4.5.3.2 Mobile Phone used by the weavers

Table 4.28

Numbers of Weavers use Mobile Phone

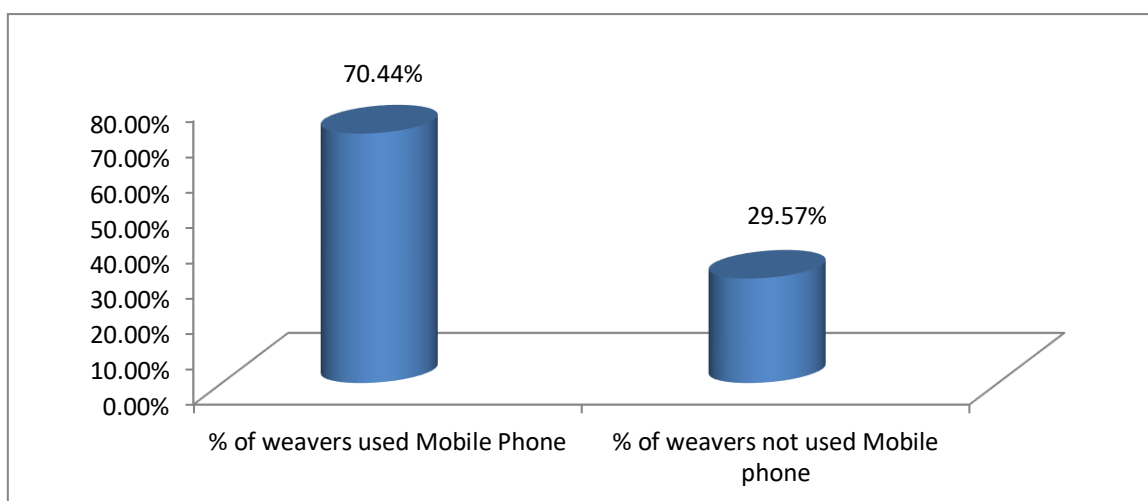
	Used Mobile Phone	Not used Mobile Phone	Total
Number of sample weavers	243 (70.44%)	102 (29.57%)	345

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 4.28 explains about the number and percentage of use and not use of mobile phones of the surveyed weavers. Out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 243 (70.44%) weavers' uses mobile phones and 102 (29.57%) weavers do not use mobile phones.

Figure 4.16

Percentage of Weavers used and not used Mobile Phones



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.16 indicates the situation of mobile phone used and not used among the surveyed weavers. It is observed that most of the surveyed weavers are the hired outside weavers and they need a mobile phone to make contact with their family. Apart from that they have the capacity to purchase a mobile phone with their own income and able to recharge it.

On the other hand, in India only 59% women uses mobile phone, while it is 71% uses by the males (<https://www.business-standard.com>, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb,2021). From the above data, it is observed that 70.44% of the weavers uses

mobile phone instead of 59% in all India figure. So, it can be concluded that the silk weavers in Sualkuchi village are more empowered in mobile technology than the female of India.

#### 4.5.3.2.a Use Mobile internet by the weavers

**Table 4.29**

**Numbers of Weavers Used and Not Used Internet**

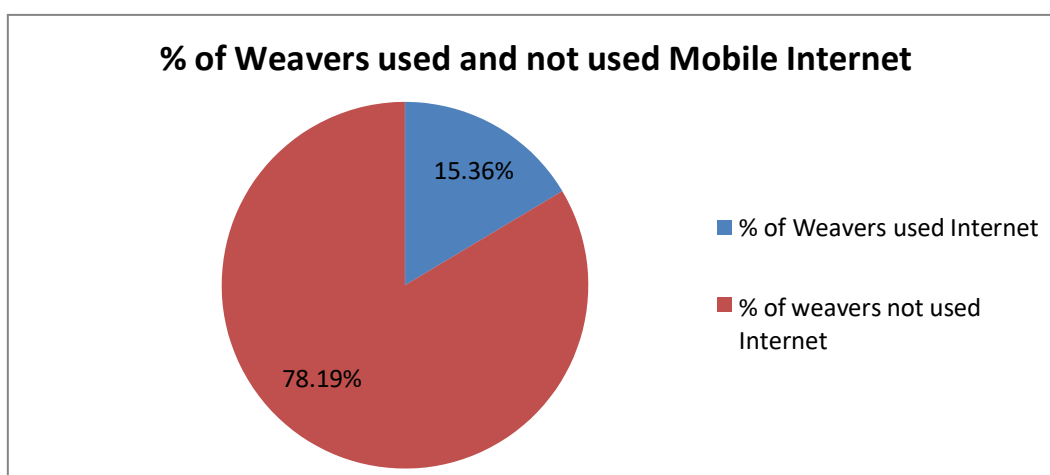
	Used Internet	Not used Internet	Total
Number of Surveyed Weavers	53 (15.36%)	190 (78.19%)	243

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.29 explains about the number and percentage of use of mobile internet of the surveyed weavers. Out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 243 weavers' uses mobile facility. Out of these mobile phone used surveyed weavers, 53 (15.36%) weavers' uses mobile internets and 190 (78.19%) weavers do not use mobile internets.

**Figure 4.17**

**Percentage of Weavers used and not used Mobile Internet**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.17 indicates the scenario of mobile internet used and not used weavers. From the above Pie- diagram, it is seen that, only a few of the mobile phone used weavers' uses mobile internet facility. Most of them (78.19%) do not use mobile

internet facility. According to the survey of mobile gender gap report by GSMA, 19% of female uses mobile internet in India by 2017. The amount mobile internet use weavers are below than the all India figure and we can say that the silk weavers in Sualkuchi village are less aware than the Indian average women. It is expected that if income earned and educational qualification among the female weavers increases, their tendency to use mobile internet will also increase because they are more interested to relate with the modern technology.

#### **4.5.3.3 Domestic Behavioral Involvement Decision Making Power of the Surveyed Weavers**

Here, weavers’ decision making power is regarding their domestic behavior are divided into two categories i.e. Strong decision making power and weak decision making power. These two categories are divided on the basis of weavers’ answers during the time of data collection. The answers are based on respondents’ own decisions on the family. During the time of personal interview, some questions were asked to the weavers about their decision right on the family with whom they live. The questions were included some simple day to day life styles such as- purchase of their necessary commodity, family marketing, daily menu, child birth, choose of child’s school, offering gifts to their children etc. In these factors, it was noticed that the weavers have her own voice or she has to agree with or ask other family members such as father/ husband/ brothers or any other family member? If the respondents have to ask, then how much importance they give to their opinions? If the weavers answer indicates positive sign then they are included under the category of strong decision making power and vice-versa.

##### **4.5.3.3.1 Weavers Decision power regarding her necessary commodity purchase**

**Table 4.30**

**Weavers Decision power regarding her necessary commodity purchase**

	Strong Decision Making Power	Weak Decision Making Power	Total
Number of Weavers	294 (85.22%)	51 (14.78%)	345

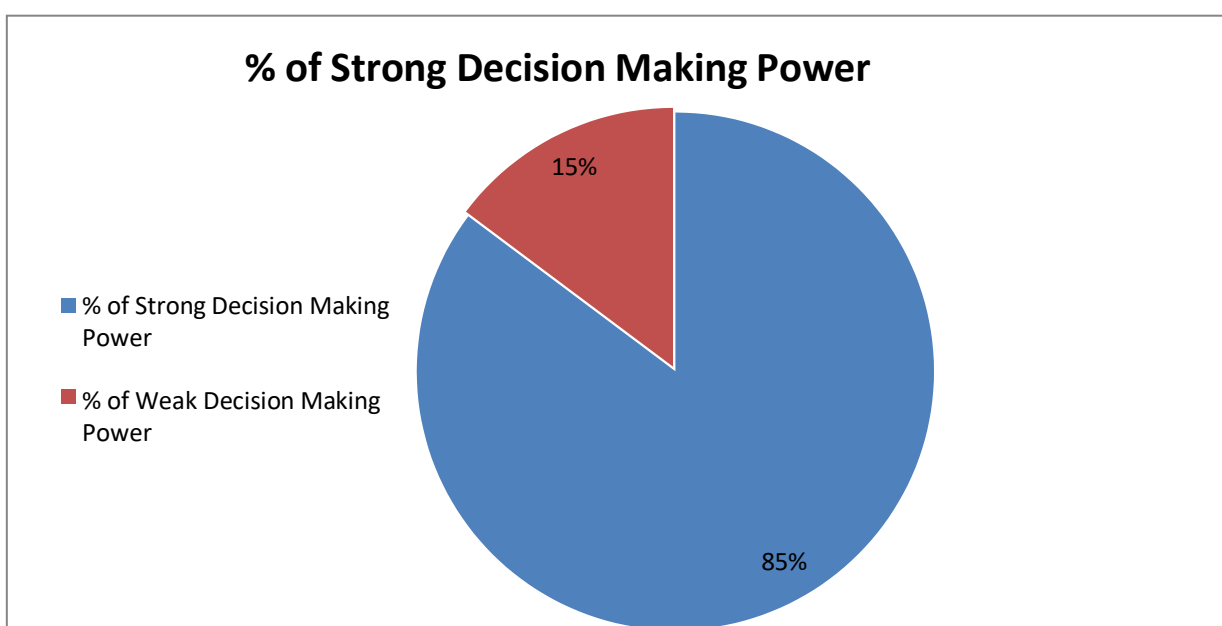
Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.30 explains about the weavers’ decision making power to purchase her own necessary commodities, such as cosmetics, cloths, shoes, bags, mobile phone etc.85.22% of the surveyed weavers mentioned that they have the power to purchase their own commodity according to her and without taking any prior permission from

other family members. On the opposite of these, still there are 14.78% weavers whose decision power is poor to purchase her own necessary commodity and they have to ask family members (like husband) before purchase it.

**Figure 4.18**

**Weavers Strong and Weak Decision Making Power regarding her own commodity**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

**4.5.3.3.2 Weavers day to day marketing decision**

**Table 4.31**

**Weavers' day to day marketing decision**

	Strong	Negligible	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	163 (47.25%)	182 (52.75%)	345

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.31 observes the day to day home marketing decisions, like vegetables choice decision from market, fish or meat marketing decisions etc. of the surveyed weavers. On the basis of the weavers responses during primary survey. 163 (47.25%) weavers mention that they have strong decision power regarding day to day home marketing and 182 (52.75%) weavers mentioned that they have less decision power



regarding day to day marketing and they have to cook whatever their husband or brother or father bought.

#### 4.5.3.3.3 Weavers cooking related decisions

**Table 4.32**

#### **Weavers cooking related decisions**

	According to her	According to husband	According to children	Others	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	107 (49.77%)	122 (35.36%)	69 (20.00%)	47 (13.62%)	345

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.32 observes the day to day home cooking decisions of the surveyed weavers. It is seen that 107 (49.77%) weavers mention that they can cook according to them. 122 (35.36%) weavers mentioned that they cook according to their husbands. 69 (20.00%) weavers mention that they have to cook according to their child and 13.62% (47) informed that they have to cook according to others like parents or in laws.

#### 4.5.3.4 Child birth related decision making power of the weavers

In case of child birth oriented decision, an average of 58.26% (201) weaver replied as their role are strong in case of giving child birth regarding decision making power and 41.74% (144) of female weavers replied about their decision power are very poor.

**Table 4.33**

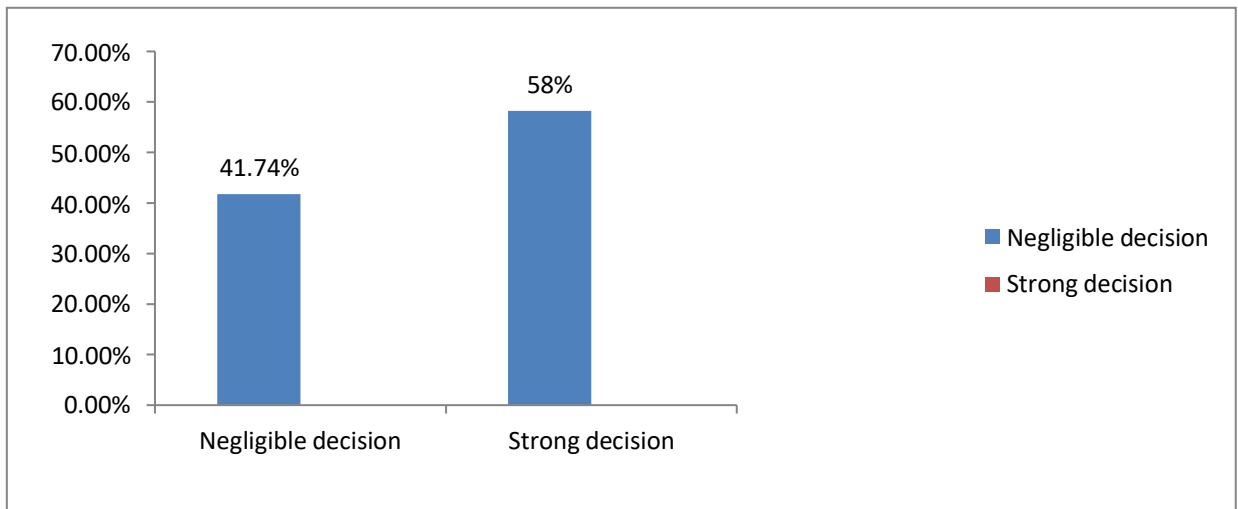
#### **Child birth related decision making power of the weavers**

	Strong	Weak	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	124 (58.26%)	89 (41.74%)	213

Source: Field survey, 2016

**Figure 4.19**

**Weavers Child Birth Related Decision Making Power**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.19 indicates about the weavers child birth related decision making power of the surveyed weavers. It is clearly seen from the above figure that most of the weavers have stronger decision power regarding giving child birth. The basic reason lying behind this is their work. The weavers try to continue their work and not interested to have 3 or 4 children. They try to increase their standard of living. They try to send their children in a good school, where admission and monthly fees are higher, provide good food and clothing. So, the weavers focused only to earn more money. So, they like to decide their number of child birth related decisions according to them and interested to give birth of 1 or maximum 2 children.

#### 4.5.3.5 Children Oriented Decision Making power of the Surveyed Weavers

##### 4.5.3.5.1 Decision regarding Choice of child's school

**Table 4.34**

**Decision regarding Choice of child's school**

Monthly Income	Strong	Weak	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	155 (72.75%)	58 (27.25%)	213

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.34 has been observed about decisions of choice of child's school of the surveyed weavers. It is seen that 72.75% weavers have strong decision power regarding the choice of their child's school. The basic reason behind this, they can effort for child's education. Apart from that, since they have money income, their husbands and other family members are also support her decisions.

##### 4.5.3.5.2 Decisions Regarding Offering New Cloths to Weavers Children during Festival Season

**Table 4.35**

**Decisions Regarding Offering gifts like cloth, toy etc during Festival Season**

	Strong	Negligible	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	173 (81.16%)	40 (18.85%)	213

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.35 has been observed about decisions regarding offering gifts to their children during festivals of the surveyed weavers. From the above table, it is clearly seen most of the surveyed female weavers (81.16%) are independent to offer gifts like cloth, toy etc during festival sessions. The strong power of surveyed weavers regarding this is their financial power. They have their own income and to effort for child's dress and other necessary commodities. Apart from that, since they have money income, their husbands and other family members are also support their decisions.

#### 4.5.3.5.2 Decisions Regarding Children Food to the Weavers

Table 4.36

Decisions Regarding Children Food to the Weavers

	Mother's decision	Others	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	199 (93.33%)	14 (06.67%)	213

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.36 has been observed about decisions of choice of child's food of the surveyed weavers. 93.33% of the weavers observed their child's food by themselves. Only 06.67% weavers have low decision power regarding their child's food. From the above discussion, it is clearly seen that the weavers' decision power regarding their child's food are stronger. This is because the weavers have income and they have money to effort for child's food. When they came back from their work place, they went to the market and purchase child's food or other necessary commodities. Apart from that, since they have money income, their husbands and other family members are also support her decisions.

#### 4.5.3.6 Awareness Regarding the Society among the Surveyed Weavers

Social awareness is defined as being sensitive of the troubles that different societies and communities face on a day to day basis and to be alert of the difficulties and suffering of society. Social awareness is very necessary to the development of a society, because it gives the ability to understand and responds to the needs of others in the society. It improves someone's social skill and gain the respect of others as someone applies their ideas on the development of the society.

#### 4.5.3.6.1 Weavers read daily news paper

**Table 4.37**

**Numbers of Weavers Read Daily Newspaper**

	Yes	No
Number and Percentage of Weavers	71 (20.58%)	274 (79.42%)

Source: Field survey, 2016

Table 4.37 explains about the habit of newspaper reading of the weavers by percentage and numbers. It is seen from the above table that out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 71 (20.58%) weavers read daily news paper and 274 (79.42%) weavers do not read regular or daily news paper. From the above data and discussion, it is clearly seen that the weavers are little bit of aware about the situations of the society and they try to keep news about the society. But, if we compare with the national figure, it is found that, 24% of Indian female read regular newspaper (statista.com).

#### 4.5.3.6.2 Weaver's voting related decision Making Power

Voting Decision making power of surveyed weavers in study area is very strong. 64.35% weavers respond that they vote during election according to them and no need to listen from others. Where 35.65% weavers informed that they cast their vote on the basis of family discussion. The decision to choose the right candidate, the weavers obeys to listen to their family, elders or husband.

**Table: 4.38**

**Weaver's voting related decision Making Power**

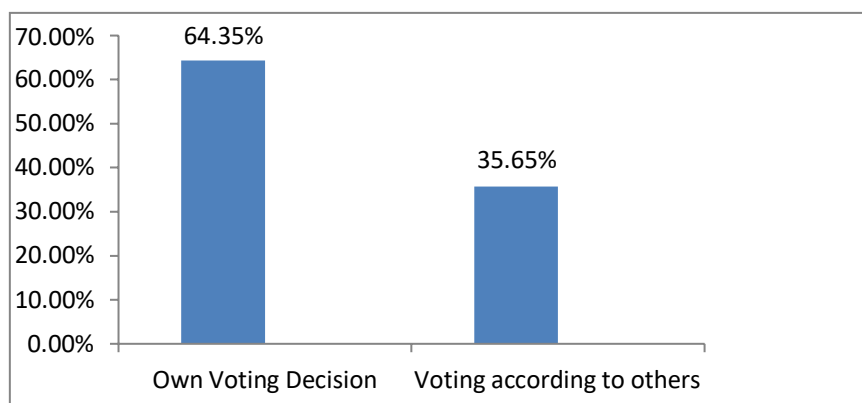
	According to Her	According to others	Total
Number and Percentage of Weavers	222 (64.35%)	123 (35.65%)	345

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The above scenario can be presented with the help of the following bar diagram

**Figure 4.20**

**Weavers Voting Decision Power**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure 4.20 explains about the condition of voting related decisions of the weavers. It is seen that the more of the female weavers having the right to cast their vote according to them. The reason behind this, income earned weavers are more independent and they not bound to take others decisions as their decision. When they come to workplace, they meet various people, observe the scenario, they build their own view, own right and they happy to use such powers.

**4.5.3.6.3 Weaver’s participation on public meetings**

**Table 4.39**

**Weaver’s Participation on Public Meeting (Weavers Meet, Political Meeting, Religious Meeting etc.)**

	Highly participated female weavers		Rarely participated female weavers	
	Total Numbers	Percentage	Total Numbers	Percentage
Before start the business	243	70.43%	102	29.57%
After joining the business	278	80.58%	67	19.42%
Total	521	75.51%	169	24.49%

Source: Field Survey, 2016

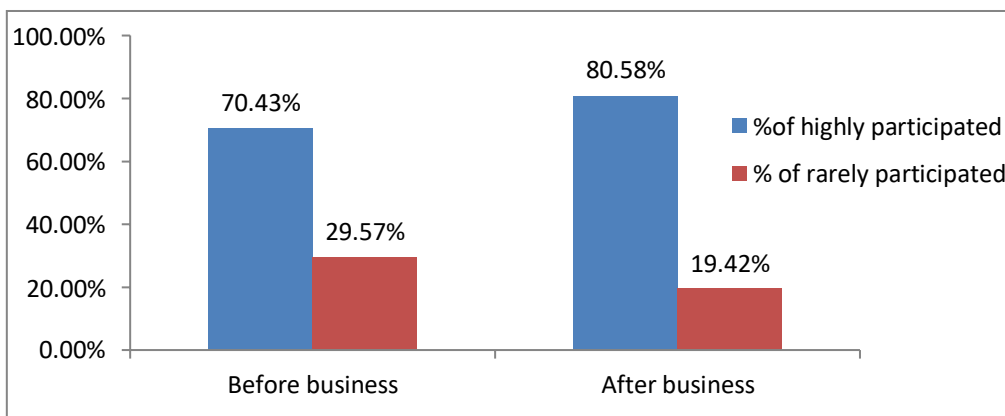
The above table indicates the female weavers’ participation on public meetings such as weavers meet, political meeting, religious meeting etc. before and after joining

the weaving or silk sector business. The females are divided into two different categories, 1<sup>st</sup> group includes the females which are highly participated on public meetings and the second group includes those females which are rarely participated on public meetings. The average of the whole are mentioned here.

It is noticed that before starting the weaving business 70.43% of the female weavers are highly participated on public meetings and 29.57% of the female weavers are rarely participated on public meetings. The study shows that after joining in weaving, the amount of participated female weavers are increases and it reaches the number 80.58% while the number of rarely participated female weavers are reduced to 19.42% from the earlier percentage 29.75%, which is a very good indication of women participation on social activities.

The following bar diagram represents the difference between of participated women on public meetings on before and after joining commercially the weaving sector.

**Figure 4.21**  
**Percentage of Weaver’s participation on public meetings**



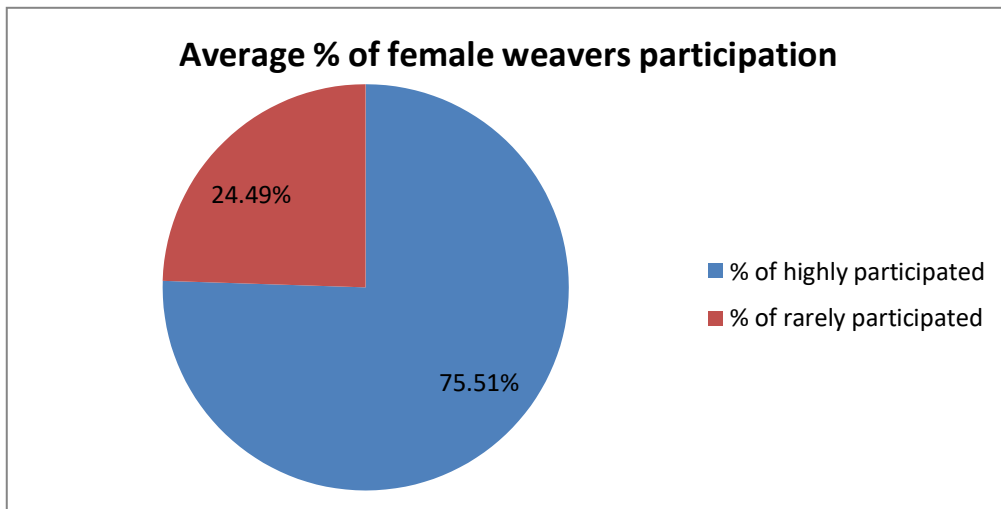
Source: Field Survey, 2016

The following pie diagram represents percentage of total average weavers’ participation in public meeting.



**Figure 4.22**

**Weaver's participation on public meetings**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

From the above figures i.e. 4.21 and 4.22, it is seen that the amount of female weavers who have participated on public meetings are increases after their joining on business or after they become independent. So, the conclusion can be drawn as, after become self dependent, the female weavers' social awareness increases and they more actively take part on social functions and their influence on social activity raises.

The reasons lying behind this are,

- They have more information regarding the society.
- They try to carry every single information about their surroundings.
- They have more friends to go to the meetings.
- They can manage their time to come to the meetings.

#### **4.5.3.7 Freedom of Women to Go Outside Home**

Freedom of women to go outside from home is an indicator to enjoy their rights. How freely the female go out of home on their own for different purposes is the freedom and autonomy enjoyed by women. 13.04% weavers' response that they have to obey command from their family, 26.09% mentioned that they have to take permission. 23.19% weavers have to inform only and 37.68% weavers mentioned that their outside going permission depends on nature of visit.

To elaborate the issue in a further by asking the extent of freedom of movement for different purposes that is to go to see cinema, go to hospitals or visit doctors, go to social functions, go to meet friends and relatives, go to market and outside from village to outer village.

**Table: 4.40**

**Distribution of weavers to go to outside Home**

Degree of freedom	Number of weavers
Have to obey command	45 (13.04%)
Have to take permission	90 (26.09%)
Have to inform only	80 (23.19%)
Depends on nature of visit	130 (37.68%)
Total	345 (100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016

#### 4.5.3.7.a Purpose of Go Outside from Home

**Table: 4.41**

**Distribution of Percentage of Weavers according to freedom to go outside home by purpose of visit**

Purpose of Visit	Have to obey	Have to take permission	Have to inform only	Can go out as they wish	total
To see cinema	21%	44%	30%	5%	100%
Go to hospital/doctor	5%	52%	40%	3%	100%
Go to social function	9%	50%	35%	6%	100%
Go to meet friends	12%	38%	35%	15%	100%
Go to meet relatives	13%	37%	41%	9%	100%
Go to market	5	50	38	7	100
Go outside village for work	9	50	33	8	100

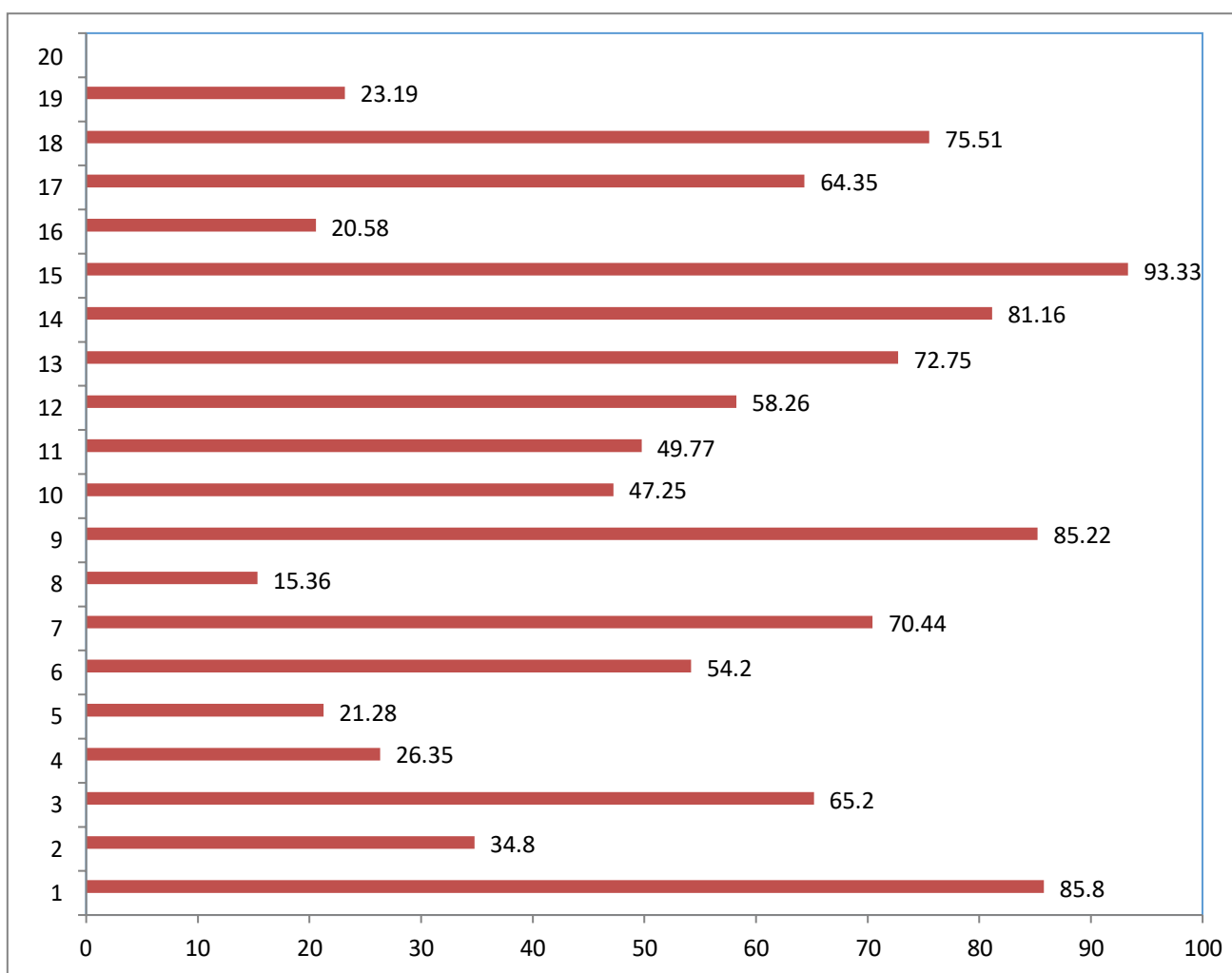
Source: Field Survey, 2016

#### 4.5.4 Graphical Representation of Summary of Surveyed Weavers Empowerment on Various Fields

##### 4.5.4.a Hypothesis 3: Silk industry promotes women empowerment

Women empowerment indicates the ability of a female or women to implement full control over any one's action. The above study can be summarized with the help of the following bar diagram:

**Figure 4.23**  
**Percentage of Weavers Positive Response**



Source: Field Survey, 2016

**\*\*\*Note**

1	% of Bank Account	11	% of Strong Cooking Right
2	% of Single Bank Account	12	% of Strong Fertility Right
3	% of Joint Bank Account	13	% of Right of Choosing Childs' School
4	% of Bank Account Operated by Self	14	Power of Offering Child's New Cloth
5	% of Used ATM Cards	15	Mothers Decision to Children's' Food
6	% of Strong Decision Power to Purchase Property		

		16	% of Daily News Paper Reader
7	% of Mobile Phone Used	17	% of Strong Voting Power
8	% of Internet Used	18	% of Participated in Public Meeting
9	Strong Marketing Decision	19	Freedom to go outside from home
10	% of Day to Day Marketing Decision		

From figure 4.23, it is observed that the female participation rate is increased in all around the sectors after joining silk industry. They have their own income, so they can take decisions regarding their family expenditure, bank savings, operating bank account, they can purchase their necessary personal commodities, they are able to take decision regarding their child education, offering gift to their child. Apart from that they have their voice regarding political decisions and purchasing family properties. Not only that, they can financially support their husband or father.

Financial power is the most important indicator to be empowered. The silk industry provides this strength to these weavers. These weavers are not well educated that they go for official work are corporate sector. For them weaving is the one of the best way to become employed. This sector provides them financial support as well as empowerment.

## 4.6 Training and Productivity of the Surveyed Weavers

### 4.6.1 Trained and Untrained Weavers among the Surveyed weavers

**Table: 4.42**

**Number of Trained and Untrained weavers**

Training Status	Number of Weavers	Percentage
Trained Weavers	66	(19.13%)
Un-Trained Weavers	279	(80.87%)
Total Number of Weavers	345	

Source: Field Survey, 2016

### 4.6.2 Productivity of the Trained and Un-Trained Weavers

The productivity of labour is the ratio of the output of goods and services to per man hour devoted to the production of output. It measures the efficiency of a labour in his production process. Productivity of labour is calculated by the formula,

$$\frac{\text{Total Output Production in a man-days}}{\text{Input Used in the production process}}$$

The common inputs are labour hour or man hour, capital and natural resources. It can also be calculated by the amount of unit produced relative to employee labour hour or man-hour. In this research, productivity are calculated by the per labour hour production of the weavers or per man-hour production of the weavers on the basis of the weavers responses.

The excel sheet are arranged such a way that the trained weavers are identified= 1 and non-trained weavers are identified = 0. The weavers gave their monthly man days length of weaving in terms of meters (in case of Plain weaving, or without any design). The meters are converted into centimetres. Total monthly man days weaving amount are converted in per man hour production length. From that, the average per man-hour productivity is calculated for both trained and non-trained weavers separately with the help of excel sheet. And the result are obtained as follows-

**Table 4.43**

**Training and Productivity of the Surveyed Weavers**

Training Status	Number of Weavers	Average Productivity Per Man Hour of the surveyed Weavers (in terms of Centimeters)
Trained Weavers	66	37.18 cm
Un-Trained Weavers	279	35.62 cm
Total Number of Weavers and their average Productivity	345	36.4 cm

Source: Field Survey, 2016

**4.6.2.a Hypothesis 2: There is no significant impact of training on productivity of the weavers**

**Table: 4.44**

**Productivity in terms of Production in terms of per man hour Linear**

	Coefficient	Std error	t-value	Sig.
Constant	35.620	.260	136.956	.000
Professional Training	2.343	.599	3.911	.000

F- value = 15.296  
Sig = .000  
 $R^2 = 0.043$   
Adjusted  $R^2 = 0.40$

Source: SPSS Output (Field study, 2016)

Dependent variable: Monthly Productivity of weavers

In order to check the relation among productivity and training of the weavers we have run a regression model with the help of SPSS. Dependent variable is continuous variable. If the weavers are trained, then they are indicated= 1 and if the weavers are untrained then they are indicated = 0. In our analysis, SPSS software is used. From the above it has been proved that there is a significant relation between training and

productivity of the weavers. This indicates that if training provided to the weavers than productivity of the weavers increases and they can weave more than the non-trained/untrained weavers.

## **4.7 Income Discrimination in Silk Industry**

### **4.7.1 Income Discrimination between Male and Female Weavers**

At the time of data collection, the weavers informed that there is not any wage rate discrimination among the male and female weavers. Their wages are based on their productivity. The weaver whose productivity is more in a day or in a week or in a month, his or her payment will be more than the others. So, there is not any type of wage discrimination among the male and female weavers in silk weaving in Sualkuchi village.

But, the weavers informed that the male weavers average monthly income are more than the female weaver's average monthly income. They identified the reason behind this are-

- The male weavers can give more time to their work than the female weavers.
- The female weavers can weave after completing their all household works.
- At lunch time, at the returning time of their child's from school they have to present their house.
- Some female weavers have to go to carry their child from school also.
- If guest come to the weavers house, they are not able to come their job.
- They have to finish their work earlier than the male weavers.
- The female weavers can go to weave their neighborhoods places where male weavers can able to go far places for their job.
- So, the female weavers can come to their house repeatedly to their house in between their working hours, which are comparatively lesser in case of male weavers.



#### **4.7.2 Income Discrimination between Local and Outside Female Weavers**

There is not any wage rate difference between the local and outside female weavers. Their wages are based on their weaving skill. But, normally it is seen that the outside weavers' monthly income are more than the local weavers, since they work more time than the local weavers.

#### **4.8 Conclusion**

The chapter discusses about the socio-economic conditions of the surveyed weavers in Sualkuchi village. Sualkuchi is the village under Kamrup Rural district of Assam and it covers 90 km area. The literacy rate of the village is 93%, where male literacy rate is 97% and female literacy rate is 89%.

There are more than 73.78% of the total household of Sualkuchi are directly related with commercial silk production. It is found that the weaving sector is a female dominating sector. The silk firms are divided into three categories by the local people, i.e. Small size (1-3 handlooms), Medium size (4-7 handlooms) and Large size (7 and more handlooms). There are 48% are small size firms, 29% are medium size firms and 23% are large size firms.

Out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 83 weavers are illiterate. 125 weavers are just finished their primary education. 74 weavers are class VIII passed. 46 weavers were completed HSLC level and 17 weavers are high secondary passed. On the time of survey, it is found that not a single weaver is graduate.

In case of marital status of the weavers, there are 44.35% weavers are married weavers. 38.26% weavers are unmarried, 6.67% and 10.72% are weavers are widow and separated respectively.

In the study, it is observed that among the households of the weavers only 1.45% weavers constructed with RCC house, 27.54% has Assam type house where 46.38% weavers and 15.94% weavers have Bamboo house and Indira Awas Yojana houses. 8.70% of the total weavers have houses with wall with Roof Sheet.

Out of the surveyed weavers, it is observed that 14.20% of the weavers do not have electricity facility at their houses. 25.80% of the weavers uses unhygienic toilets, 67.25% weavers mention that they do not consume pure drinking water and 36.23% weavers still cook without LPG facility.

For the purpose of highlighting the standard of living of the surveyed weavers' data regarding the use of consumers durable commodity such as Car, 2- wheelers, computers, refrigerator, mobile phone and television sets, it had been found that 0.86% weavers have cars, 8.70% have two wheelers. Only 0.58% have computers, 7.83% uses refrigerators, 92.46% uses mobile phones and 57.97% weavers have television sets at their houses.

The average monthly man hours of 345 weavers are 161.20 hours and the average monthly man days are 20.15 days per month. The average monthly incomes of total surveyed weavers are Rs. 5,870.00.

The average monthly man hours of local weavers are 117.26 hours and for the hired weavers it is 199.53 hours. The average monthly man days for local weavers are 14.66 man days and for hired weavers it is 24.94 man days. It is observed that the average monthly man hours and average monthly man days both are more in case of hired weavers than the local weavers.

The weavers whose experiences are of 1 to 5 years, there are 91 female weavers. They earn an average income of Rs.6,000. The 5 to 10 years experience involves 131 female weavers, which earn an average income of Rs. 8,000. 10 to 15 years work experience involved 85 weavers and their monthly average income is of Rs. 9,000 and the more than 10 years work experienced workers involved 38 female weavers, with an average income of Rs. 6,500.

Out of the total surveyed weavers, 296 (85.80%) weavers having bank account and 49 (14.20%) weavers do not have any bank account. 103 weavers have single bank account, i.e. 34.80% of the weavers have single bank account and the rest of the weavers (193,65.20% )of the female surveyed weavers have joint bank account with their husband. Out of these weavers, 78 (26.35%) weaver operated their bank account by themselves only. They go to the bank to deposit and collect money. On the other hand, 218 (78.47%) weavers' bank accounts are operated by others, such as their husband, father, brothers etc. 63 (21.28%) weavers' uses ATM cards and 233 (78.72%) weavers do not use ATM cards.

Out of 345 surveyed weavers, 54.20% (187) weavers mention that they have strong property purchase power in their family and 158 (45.80%) weavers mentioned about their weak property purchase decision power.

243 (70.44%) weavers' uses mobile phones and 102 (29.57%) weavers do not use mobile phones. Out of these mobile phone used surveyed weavers, 53 (15.36%) weavers' uses mobile internets and 190 (78.19%) weavers do not use mobile internets.

85.22% of the surveyed weavers mentioned that they have the power to purchase their personal necessary commodities (such as cosmetics, cloths, shoes, bags, mobile phone etc) according to her without taking any prior permission from other family members. On the opposite of these, still there are 14.78% weavers whose decision power is weak to purchase her own necessary commodity and they have to ask their family members (like husband) before purchasing it.

163 (47.25%) weavers mention that they have strong decision power regarding day to day home marketing and 182 (52.75%) weavers mentioned that they have less decision making power regarding day to day marketing and they have to cook with their husband or brother or father's decision.

It is seen that 107 (49.77%) weavers mention that they can cook according to them. 122 (35.36%) weavers mentioned that they cook according to their husbands. 69 (20.00%) weavers mention that they have to cook according to their child and 13.62% (47) informed that they have to cook according to others like parents or in laws.

In case of fertility oriented decision, an average of 58.26% (201) weaver replied as their role are strong in case of fertility regarding decision making power and 41.74% (144) of female weavers replied about their strong decision power are negligible.

72.75% weavers have strong decision power regarding the choice of their child's school. The basic reason behind this, they can effort for child's education. 81.16% female weavers are independent to offer gifts like cloth, toy etc during festival sessions. 93.33% of the weavers observed their child's food by themselves. Only 06.67% weavers have low decision power regarding their child's food.

It is found that out of total 345 surveyed weavers, 71 (20.58%) weavers read daily news paper.

Voting Decision making power of surveyed weavers in study area is very strong. 64.35% weavers respond that they vote during election according to them and no need to listen from others. Where 35.65% weavers informed that they cast their vote on the basis of family discussion.

It is found that before starting the weaving business 70.43% of the female weavers are highly participated on public meetings. The study shows that after joining in weaving, the amount of participated female weavers are increases and it reaches the number 80.58%. Freedom of women to go outside from home is an indicator to enjoy their rights. How freely the female go out of home on their own for different purposes is the freedom and autonomy enjoyed by women. 13.04% weavers' response that they have to obey command from their family, 26.09% mentioned that they have to take permission. 23.19% weavers have to inform only and 37.68% weavers mentioned that their outside going permission depends on nature of visit.

The weavers informed that there is not any wage rated discrimination among the male and female weavers. Their wages are based on their productivity. It is also found from the study that the trained weavers are more productive than the non- trained weavers. The study is based on 66 (19.13%) trained weavers and 279 (80.87%) non-trained weavers.

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