

## Participation of women in Sericulture Activities of Ahmednagar District (M. S) India

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**Abstract:** The economic conditions of women in rural India were critical because they don't have proper work in their hand. Present survey was done in Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra. On the basis of sericulture activities is one of the best employment generating industry for rural area women of Ahmednagar. Sericulture is the best occupation for women's in changing situations of their family income. It is possible to have the women empowerment through sericulture industry. In Ahmednagar district total 148 farmers are involved in sericulture industry, they have cultivated mulberry on 151 acres of land and out of 148 farmers there are 27 women farmers are participated in sericulture activities, they get employment and income also. As the majority of population depends on the agriculture activities but due to climate change their economy is also getting affected. Total area of Ahmednagar is about 17034 sq. kms. They show different types of agro climatic condition and cultural activities in agriculture. The annual rain fall of Ahmednagar is 578.8 mm. The variations in rain fall or climatic condition also caused harmful effect on agricultural activities. But recent year the sericulture is gaining popularity among farmers in Ahmednagar district. This paper mainly focused on participations of women farmers in mulberry sericulture.

**Keywords:** Farmer, Participation, Mulberry sericulture, rearing of Silk worm, Women.

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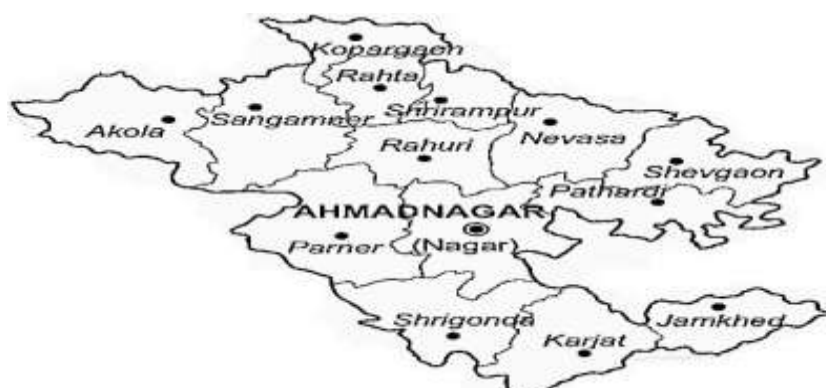
### I. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural history of Ahmednagar district is not so satisfactory due to different types of agro climatic condition and cultural activities in agriculture. The variations in rain fall or climatic condition also caused harmful effect on agricultural activities. But in last 20 to 30 years back, Ahmednagar has made good position in the agricultural incomes because farmers uses advanced techniques in agricultural practices. Nowadays Ahmednagar has got first rank in sugarcane production and sugar industries. Ahmednagar farmers have started to use advanced techniques in agricultural practices and they hence also started to take support of side business in agriculture field such as Poultry Farming, Goat Farming, Apiculture, and Sericulture etc. In Ahmednagar sericulture is proved as a good source of income because sericulture is agro-based industry. In mulberry sericulture, the silk are produced from *Bombyx mori* L. (Mulberry Silkworm) larvae. Sericulture is being a household activity the involvement of family labour & contributions of women in carrying out the sericulture is widely accepted<sup>(10)</sup>. Sericulture requires large number of human power for well maintaining, culturing and rearing of silk worm. Women constitute more, than fifty percent of the world's population, one third of labour force, and perform nearly two thirds of all working hours<sup>(2)</sup>. All work requires good skill and patience, which is well present in women. Rural women in Ahmednagar play a significant role in sericulture, they are actively participated in all range of auricular activities including pre-harvesting and post-harvesting. Women are responsible for the productions of more than 55% food grain and comprise 67% of total agricultural labour force<sup>(1)</sup>. For the development of India, female is the backbone of our country<sup>(3)</sup>. Women also play an important role in Poultry Farming, Goat Farming, Apiculture, and Sericulture etc. Sericulture is the conscious mass-scale rearing of silk producing organisms to obtain silk<sup>(5)</sup>. Sericulture being one of the most important cottage industries that can provide a great work for women hand. Sericulture is labour intensive agro-industry to provide economically support for the Indian framer. It has agriculture base and it helps of providing employment not only to agriculture farmers but also the landless people and labours. Sericulture includes many small works such as cutting of leaves from plants, providing food materials to silkworm larva, handling of larva etc. Such work is done very carefully because larva is very sensitive and small in size. This kind of works is easily done by women. To understand the hard work, concentration, courage, devotion, and dedications enthusiasm of female farmer of Ahmednagar district. Sericulture is most important for rural area, it creates the gainful employment to the farmers and it is also providing a great opportunity to the poor and small area farmer to increase their economic condition<sup>(7)</sup>. Sericulture is also providing employment for women in rural area of Ahmednagar district

and there economic social problems. Sericulture is labour intensive activity and it also help to improve the manufacturing sector, women's for self-development<sup>(4)</sup>. The present study tries to focus the income of women and activities of women in sericulture in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. In India, women have played and continue to play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. They are involved in main crop production, agro-social forestry, fisheries etc<sup>(8)</sup>. It is because the climatic condition of Ahmednagar is suitable for silkworm rearing. So they have got good result of sericulture in Ahmednagar. As a result, many farmers have started mulberry sericulture and it has got popularity among farmers of Ahmednagar district. In Ahmednagar district farmers are taking interest in sericulture industry. The detail of the same is discussed with regards to women participation.

## II. METHODOLOGY:

The present study was conducted from Ahmednagar district during January- 2015 to December -2016. The study area is shown in **Figure 1**. The survey is conducted in different talukas and visited the villages having Farmer involved in sericulture activities. Such farmers were interviewed personally by visiting them. Data was collected by personal questionnaire interview of participant and in order to observe the trend of employment in sericulture activities that from 2011-2016 the information was collected from the district sericulture office Ahmednagar. The data was classified by the martial study of visiting the actual sites and understanding their work by asking different questions of their story of success. Simple statistical classification is done to count the percentage of female in sericulture practices.



**Figure 1:** Map of Ahmednagar District.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The Ahmednagar is a largest and well developed district of Maharashtra. The main source of income is farming and agriculture based applied activities. But in recent years they have improved their financial condition by adopting sericulture. This area is also providing gainful work to the people and they are doing the sericulture very successfully as side business. It has given great success to the farmers for their economic stability. Recent data shows that, in Ahmednagar district total 148 farmers are involved in sericulture industry, they have cultivated mulberry on 151 acres of land and out of 148 farmers there are 27 women farmers are participated in sericulture activities. The present investigations shows that the total the population is 148 famer are involved in sericulture activity, in that 121 farmer are Male (81.75%) and 27 (18.24%) are Female there family get good income and employment. It is seen that there is increasing trend of women participation in sericulture because it is easy and help them to gain good income. Women farmers are participating in the different activities and are enlisted in **Table no. 1**.The trend of farmer involvement in the sericulture from year 2011-12 to 2015-16 is shown in **Table no. 2**.

**Table no. 1:** Women participations in mulberry sericulture farm in Ahmednagar district.

Sr. No.	Sericulture Activities.	Women farmer activates.
1.	Land preparation	No
2.	Plantations of mulberry plant in farm.	No
3.	Cutting of mulberry levees	Yes
4.	Cleaning of rearing house	Yes
5.	Silkworm rearing	Yes
6.	Maintenance of mulberry garden	Yes
7.	Sorting of cocoon	Yes
8.	Care against pest and diseases	Yes
9.	Harvesting of cocoon	Yes

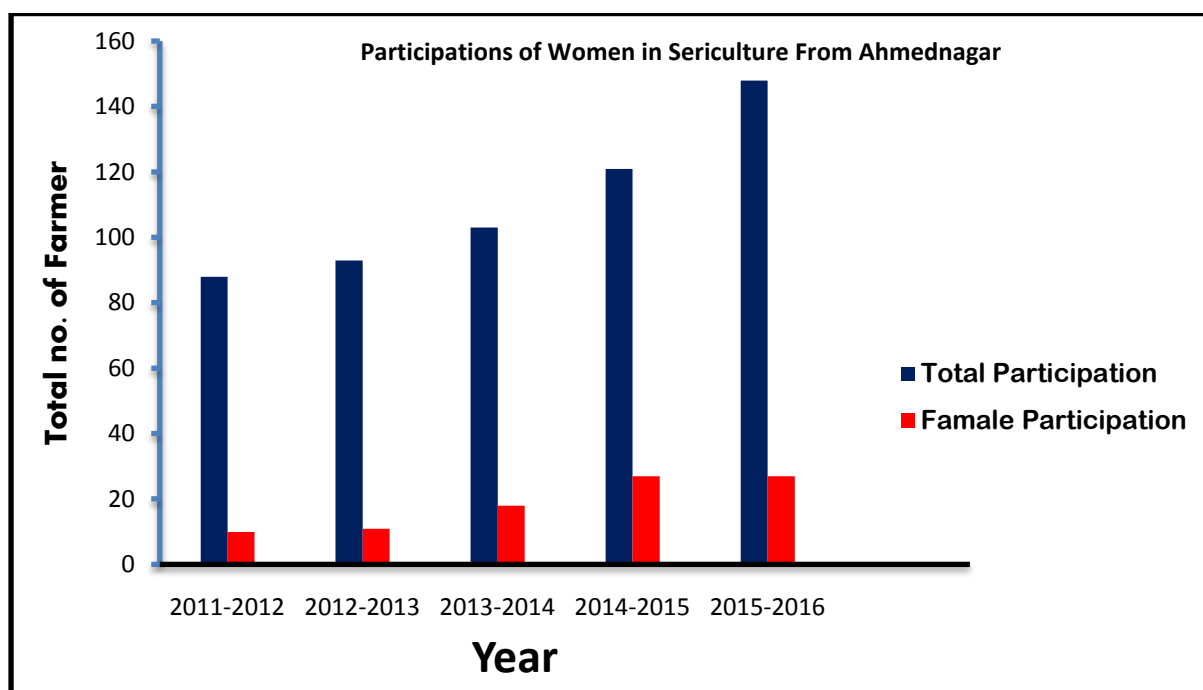
**Source:** District Sericulture office, Ahmednagar.

**Table no. 2: Employment through sericulture in Ahmednagar district from 2011-2016**

Sr. No.	Years	Total Employment	Female Employment
1	2011-2012	88	10
2	2012-2013	93	11
3	2013-2014	103	18
4	2014-2015	121	27
5	2015-2016	148	27

**Source:** District Sericulture office, Ahmednagar.

**Figure II: Graph showing participation of farmer in sericulture from Ahmednagar District during 2011-2016.**



In the rural area women do the different work such as cleaning of house, cooking, nourishing their children, caring of children etc. The women normally stay at home for different house hold activities; in addition to that, they are able to manage the required time for rearing of silkworm to supplement some extent income<sup>(5)</sup>. They give remaining time to the agriculture, sericulture it helps them to increase the family income. Statistical data analysis shows that the large numbers of female farmers are involved in sericulture practices. Moreover, most its operation does not required hard labour except digging and ploughing<sup>(6)</sup>. They perform different types of works such as harvesting of cocoon and mounting of silkworm, cutting of leaves from plant, feeding of larva, preservation of leaf etc. Women have the best skill to do such activities. In fact, Sericulture has changed the lifestyle of rural women as they are perfect in understanding their domestic duties, farming work and sericulture work to improve their financial condition. It is notable that sericulture work of women has also changed the life style of her family membrane. Sericulture business is the turning point for rural women of Ahmednagar district. In some parts of Maharashtra the farmers are facing difficult situations and they are in trouble due to climate change, failures in agriculture and committing suicides. But in Ahmednagar district, women have accepted the challenge of nature. They are not shedding tears but showing new path for all by adopting sericulture and changed the pathetic situations by earning lucrative amount through sericulture.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Sericulture is most important for rural area, it creates the gain employment to the farmer and it is also providing a great opportunity to the poor and small area farmer to increase their economic condition. Sericulture is also providing employment for women in rural area of Ahmednagar district. Sericulture is labour intensive activity and it also help to women's for self-development. Sericulture is the best occupation for women's in changing situation of environment. It is possible to have the women empowerment through sericulture industry in Ahmednagar district.

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