



## Socio-economic Profile of Lace Workers of Narsapur, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh: An Empirical Study

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**Abstract:** The lace industry at Narsapur is a stable business which produces lace goods for the world market. The lace making is carried out in putting-out system and workshop manufacturing. Under the putting-out system, women in the household prepare the lace items for the agent who in turn hands over the lace items to the exporters. This putting-out lace making is the monopoly of women households. In this system there is no relationship between the exporter and worker and the entire relationship is carried out between the agent and the worker. Another system of lace making is workshop manufacturing, where the exporters arrange the preparation of lace items with the men and women workers. There is a general division of work between men and women. In this system, the lace system including "Chethipani" (hand work), "athukupani" (joint or attachment work), "kaja kuttu" (bordering and lining) is done by female workers whereas checking, repairs, finishing, washing, ironing, packing and forwarding are performed by male workers. The present study is confined to the lace manufacturing in the workshop. The rationale behind selecting the workers in workshop system is to focus on employer-employee relations which is absent in the putting-out system. The study pertains to the workshop of the lace making employed in different firms at Narsapur, West Godavari district, where the entire lace making-business is carried out.

**KEY WORDS:** Athukupani, Chethipani, Kaja Kuttu, Lace industry.

### INTRODUCTION

The history of the lace industry in and around Narsapur in West Godavari district is closely linked to the history of colonial penetration into this area. Narsapur is situated on the bank of the river Vasishtha, Godavari, 6 miles from the Bay of Bengal has been an ancient port and trading centre on the Coromandel Coast.

Even before the Dutch East India Company had opened a factory in Palakol and chose Narsapur as their port in the

17<sup>th</sup> century, Narsapur had been an important trading point, mainly for the export of excellent textiles produced by the spinners and weavers in the hinterland. Narsapur seems to have reached the zenith of its prosperity in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, under the English East India Company.

The Dutch and the English merchants opened Europe as the market for hand woven and hand painted cotton goods from the Coromandel Coast. These Indian textiles were so cheap and popular in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>



centuries that these imports constituted a threat to the English weavers and manufacturers.

In 1827 the East India Company closed its factory in Narsapur and the Europeans withdrew. The Dutch had already left Narsapur earlier. The origin of the lace industry is connected with the history of the missionaries in the Godavari delta. In 1837, George Beer and William Bowden came to Narsapur where they founded Godavari delta mission or the Bretheren Mission. They settled down in the abandoned Dutch the lace making. In India the technique of handmade lace or crocheting was not known.

The lace industry at Narsapur is a stable business which produces lace goods for the world market. The lace making is carried out in putting-out system and workshop manufacturing. Under the putting-out system, women in the household prepare the lace items for the agent who in turn hands over the lace items to the exporters. This putting-out lace making is the monopoly of women households. In this system there is no relationship between the exporter and worker and the entire relationship is carried out between the agent and the worker.

Another system of lace making is workshop manufacturing, where the exporters arrange the preparation of lace items with the men and women workers. There is a general division of work between men and women. In this system, the lace system including "Chethipani" (hand work), "athukupani" (joint or attachment work), "kaja kuttu" (bordering and lining) is done by female workers whereas checking, repairs, finishing, washing, ironing, packing and

forwarding are performed by male workers.

In 1900 the brothers Jonah and Joseph started exporting lace on regular commercial lines. They wanted to give work to the poor women, but at the same time they changed the production of lace from a non-profit activity aimed at solicitation donations and aid for the poor women into a value producing business. Mrs. Jonah and Joseph organized the production of lace along the classical and putting-out system. The lace industry at Narsapur seems to have been a fairly stable business since Mrs. Jonah and Joseph stated to export lace. Later in 1908 K.Soma Raju started exporting lace regularly on purely commercial lines, which gave a great boost to the growth of lace export in West Godavari District. Around that time, about 2,000 women in Narsapur were engaged in lace works. In the course of time the women of the more respectable castes were also drawn into this lace industry, above all the Kapu women. The Kapus are a caste of agriculturists. The women of that community stated that they had always been 'goshami women' i.e., that they had observed a kind of seclusion and that they had never worked in the agricultural fields. Later, these Kapu women also began to work for the lace exporters. Today, the majority of lace workers belongs to this community. Christian, Settibalija and Agnikulashatriya women are concentrated in lace making.

The present study is confined to the lace manufacturing in the workshop. The rationale behind selecting the workers in workshop system is to focus on employer-employee relations which is absent in the putting-out system. The study pertains to the workshop of the lace making employed in different firms at Narsapur,



West Godavari district, where the entire lace making-business is carried out.

#### OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the study is to present a profile of socio-economic conditions of lace workers of Narasapur town, West Godavari district, A.P In the light of this objective, the following sub-objectives are set:

1. To examine the lace making work in the perspective of the employee.
2. To find out the social background of the workers.
3. To assess the economic position of the lace workers in terms of their income, expenditure and indebtedness.
4. To evaluate the conditions of employment of the lace workers in terms of working environment, service conditions and the opinions of the respondents on the same.

#### METHODOLOGY:

##### PREPARATION OF SCHEDULE

In the light of the above objectives, two schedules were prepared. One is intended for collecting information from the employer about his/her company and his/her personal background. The second is aimed at collecting information from the lace worker regarding his socio-economic conditions.

##### SAMPLE

The lace workers were distributed in different localities in Narsapur town, among them as many as 95 are taken as sample covering the entire area of Narsapur town. By following the

stratified random sampling, this is 10 per cent of the total universe. The researcher has personally visited the areas in which the respondents are residing and came to the conclusion that they are 950 in total and the researcher has taken 10 per cent of that total population. Hence it has been worked to be 95 respondents for the purpose of the study.

#### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The data from the employers are collected by the administration of schedules. In the initial stages the investigator had faced problems for getting information from the employers as they were suspicious and doubtful about the purpose of the data required. After having initial interaction and establishing rapport, the investigator could collect some details from the employers. The process of data collection from the workers is done very smoothly without any resistance from them. They extended full cooperation in giving information.

The data collected from the employers and the workers is analyzed, processed, tabulated and presented in tables. The data is analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively by using percentages.

#### SOCIAL PROFILE:

##### AGE

Age is an important demographic characteristic which has influence on the attitudes, beliefs and opinions of the individual. In the study with-out investigating the age background, social profiles will not be complete. Hence the age-wise distribution of the respondents is presented in Table-1.

TABLE-1: AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

S. No	No. of Respondents	Total
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	Age Group	Male	Female	
1	Below 20	9 (30.0)	17 (26.2)	26 (27.4)
2	21-30	15 (50.0)	16 (24.6)	31 (32.6)
3	31-40	2 (6.7)	5 (7.7)	7 (7.4)
4	41-50	3 (10.0)	10 (15.4)	13 (13.7)
5	51-60	1 (3.3)	12 (18.5)	13 (13.7)
6	Above 60	0 (0.0)	5 (7.6)	5 (5.2)
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>95</b> <b>(100.0)</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31.5</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Compiled from field work data.

It is evident from the Table-1 that the respondent lace workers fall generally in the age groups of below 20 years to 80 years. The majority (60 per cent) of the respondents is young and belongs to the age group of below 30 years; 34.8 per cent of them belong to the age group of 30-60 years and the remaining respondents are old people whose age ranges between 60-80 years.

Another variable which is presented in Table-1 is sex-wise distribution of males and females. The sex-wise distribution shows that women are more than the men respondents in this occupation. This reflects the fact that the women form the largest segment among the lace workers. In comparison it is observed that female respondents are older than the male respondents as the average ages of men

respondents and women respondents are 26 years and 35 years respectively. The overall average age of the lace workers is 31 years. Based on the data, we can infer that the lace workers are generally young. However they continue to work to the maximum age of 80 years. This is mostly observed in case of female workers. The rationale behind this is that there is no requirement of minimum age and educational qualifications for lace making. And by practice anyone can master this skill. Hence the lace workers start lace making from their childhood till their senility or death.

### EDUCATION

Education is another important factor which indicates the status of the person in the society. The details of education of the respondents are presented in Table-2.



**TABLE-2: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

S.No	Educational Level	No. of Respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Illiterate	1 (3.3)	25 (38.5)	26 (27.4)
2	Primary	6 (20.0)	26 (40.0)	32 (33.7)
3	Secondary	17 (56.7)	14 (21.5)	31 (32.6)
4	College	6 (20.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (6.3)
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>95</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

It is seen from Table-2 that the levels of education among the lace workers range from illiteracy to collegiate education. On the whole, single largest group (33.7 per cent) of respondents has primary education followed by 32.6 per cent of respondents who have secondary education. It can also be seen from the table that more than one-fourth (27.4 per cent) of the respondents are illiterate. It is significant to note that 6.3 per cent of the respondents have collegiate education.

Comparatively speaking the illiterates are more among female workers while the majority of the female workers have primary education, the majority of the male workers have secondary education. This data reveals that male lace workers are more educated than the female workers.

### CASTE AND RELIGION

Caste is a dominant social factor which influences many things. In Indian society caste occupies a decisive role in many matters including politics. Hence in this study, an investigation is made to find out the social background of the respondents.

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents belongs to kapu (48.4 per cent) caste, followed by Agnikulashathriya (15.8 per cent) and the respondents belonging to Settibalija caste 7 (7.4 per cent), Rajaka caste 7 (7.4 per cent), S.C caste (6.3 per cent) Vysya caste (5.3 per cent), Brahmin caste (3.1 per cent), Kshthriya caste (3.1 per cent), Sali caste (2.1 per cent) and Nayi Brahmin caste (1.1 per cent) constitute the total sample of the respondents of the study. In that 30 males and 65 female respondents are there.



**TABLE – 3: CASTE WISE COMPOSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

S.No	Caste	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Kapu	12 (40.0)	34 (52.3)	46 (48.4)
2	Agnikulashatriya	2 (6.7)	13 (20.0)	15 (15.8)
3	Settibalija	2 (6.7)	5 (7.7)	7 (7.4)
4	Rajaka	5 (16.6)	2 (3.1)	7 (7.4)
5	S.C.	3 (10.0)	3 (4.6)	6 (6.3)
6	Vysya	3 (10.0)	2 (3.1)	5 (5.3)
7	Brahmin	3 (10.0)	-	3 (3.1)
8	Kshthriya	-	3 (4.6)	3 (3.1)
9	Sali	-	2 (3.1)	2 (2.1)
10	Nayi Brahmin	-	1 (1.5)	1 (1.1)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30 (100.0)</b>	<b>65 (100.0)</b>	<b>95 (100.0)</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### **MARITAL STATUS AND TYPE OF FAMILY**

Marriage is a social institution which influences the person in many ways. In the present study an attempt is made to find out the marital status of the respondents.

The above Table-4 shows the marital status of the respondents. 43.2 per cent of the respondents are married, 37.9 per cent are unmarried while 18.9 per cent are widowed. In comparison it was found that more than half (53.3 per cent) of the

respondents from male category are unmarried whereas the single largest group (41.5 per cent) of the women respondents are married.

The study reveals that more than half (53.7 per cent) of the respondents are staying in joint families, the rest (46.3 per cent) are maintaining nuclear families. In comparison it is found that a majority (60 per cent) of female workers are in nuclear families whereas a great majority (83.3 per cent) of male respondents is staying in joint families.



**TABLE-4: MARITAL STATUS AND TYPE OF FAMILY**

S.No		No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
<b>Married status</b>				
1	Unmarried	16 (53.3)	20 (30.8)	36 (37.9)
2	Married	14 (46.7)	27 (41.5)	41 (43.2)
3	Widow	-	8 (27.7)	18 (18.9)
<b>Type of Family</b>				
1	Nuclear	5 (16.7)	39 (60.0)	44 (46.3)
2	Joint	25 (83.3)	26 (400.0)	51 (53.7)

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### RESIDENTIAL STATUS

It is one of the important items to describe the social profile of workers. The ownership of the house, type of house and amenities available in the house are presented in the following paragraphs.

It can be seen from Table-5 that the respondent lace workers are staying in three types of houses-thatched, tiled and

terraced. A majority (62.1 per cent) of the total respondents live in thatched houses, whereas 26.3 per cent of the respondents have tiled houses and the rest of them residing in terraced houses. In between male and female workers it was observed that three-fourths of female workers live in thatched houses whereas nearly half of the male workers stay in tiled houses.

**TABLE-5: TYPE OF HOUSE**

S.No	Type of house	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Thatched	10 (33.5)	49 (75.4)	59 (62.1)
2	Tiled	14 (46.7)	11 (16.9)	25 (26.3)
3	Terraced	6 (20.0)	5 (7.7)	11 (11.6)
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>95</b> <b>(100.0)</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### AMENITIES

As regards amenities in the houses of the respondents, only 18.94 per cent of them

have water facility while the remaining (81.06 per cent) are without water facility. With regard to electricity, 47.36



per cent of the respondents have such facility where as 52.64 per cent of the respondents have no electricity. In respect of toilets very few houses of the respondents (7.36 per cent) have toilets facility, while an overwhelming majority

(92.64 per cent) of them are without this facility. This is true in case of cent per cent of women workers. It is distressing to note that the respondent's families in the study are living without basic civic amenities

**TABLE-6:AMENITIES AVAILABLE AT HOME**

S.No	Amenity	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Water	13 (13.68)	5 (5.26)	18 (18.94)
2	Electricity	24 (25.26)	21 (22.10)	45 (47.36)
3	Toilets	7 (7.36)	-	7 (7.36)

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### **ECONOMIC CONDITIONS•OF LACE WORKERS**

In what follows an attempt is made to analyze the economic position of lace workers in Narsapur. To make a comprehensive profile of lace workers, their economic position constitutes an important and integral part of the study. The information collected from the lace workers on the items like wages, wage payment methods, other sources of

income, expenditure and indebtedness is the basis for analyzing the economic position of lace workers.

### **WAGES**

The wages constitute a major source of income for the livelihood of the working class. Data on wages of the respondents is presented in Table-7.

**TABLE-7: WAGES OF LACE WORKERS**

S. No	Monthly wages (in rupees)	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	300-500	6 (20.0)	52 (80.0)	58 (61.0)
2	501-1000	16 (53.4)	4 (6.2)	20 (21.1)
3	Above 1000	8 (26.6)	9 (13.8)	17 (17.9)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>95</b> <b>(100.0)</b>
	<b>Average</b>	<b>Rs-866/-</b>	<b>Rs-446/-</b>	<b>Rs-656/-</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.



Table-7 reveals that the monthly wages of lace workers. The table shows that on the whole 61 per cent of respondents who constitute a single largest group are drawing wages per month between Rs.300/- to 500/-. This is followed by 21 per cent of respondents who are getting income between Rs.501/- to Rs.1000/- per month. Interestingly 17.9 per cent of the respondents who stand in the third place are drawing their monthly wages above Rs.1000/-.

It is observed that there is uniformity in the mode of payment among all workers. They are paid on time rate basis and once a month generally on the first week of the succeeding month.

Majority (81.1 per cent) of the respondents expressed that the wages paid to the workers do not commensurate with efforts they put in lace making, the remaining 18.9 per cent opined that the wages paid to them are commensurate with their efforts.

### INCOME

As regards income from other sources, it is observed in the study that a very few workers have other source of income from land and house rent. Above 80 per cent of the respondents have earning members in their families other than the respondent. The details of income from other sources are worked out and presented in Table-8.

**TABLE-8: INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES**

S. No	Item	No. of respondents		Total
		Average income rupees		
		Male	Female	
1	Land	277	-	277
2	House Rent	100	-	100
3	Earnings of other family members	1090	925	1007

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

It can be seen from Table-8 that the average monthly income of the male respondents in the form of earnings of other family members is found to be Rs.1090/-. Other sources of income like land and house rent are found only among males. In case of women, the average monthly earnings from other family members is Rs.925. Taking both male and female respondents together the average monthly earnings from other family members is Rs.1007/-.

The study reveals that the number of earners (other than the respondent) in the respondent families ranges from one to four (Table-9). In case of 45 respondents, the number of earners is only one. In case of 15 respondents, there are two earning members, and the remaining 15 respondents are supported by three earning members in their families. The average number of earners is calculated to be 1.55.



**TABLE-9: NUMBER OF OTHER EARNERS IN THE FAMILY**

S. No	Number of earners	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	One	10	35	45
2	Two	9	6	15
3	Three	5	10	15
4	Four	2	-	2
	<b>Average</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.55</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### EXPENDITURE

The details of expenditure are worked out from the figures given by the respondents which are presented in the Table-10.

It is evident from the Table-10 that the expenditure per month for the respondent family ranges from below Rs.400 to above Rs.2000. A single largest group (27.4 per cent) of the respondents

has spent Rs.1200-1600 per month. This is followed by above Rs.2000 category with 21.1 per cent of the respondents. 18.9 per cent of the respondents stated that their expenditure is between Rs.400-800. In case of 14.7 per cent of respondents the expenditure ranges from Rs.800-1200. Another 13.7 per cent respondents have spent an amount of Rs.1600-2000 per month.

**TABLE- 10: EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY**

S. No	Monthly expenditure (in rupees)	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Below 400	-	4 (6.2)	4 (6.2)
2	401-800	2 (6.7)	16 (24.6)	18 (18.9)
3	801-1200	7 (23.3)	7 (10.8)	14 (14.7)
4	1201-1600	7 (23.3)	19 (29.2)	26 (27.4)
5	1601-2000	4 (13.4)	9 (13.8)	13 (13.7)
6	Above 2000	10 (33.3)	10 (15.4)	20 (21.1)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30 (100.0)</b>	<b>65 (100.0)</b>	<b>95 (100.0)</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

### INDEBTENESS

The analysis in the subsequent paragraphs show that the lace workers families find it difficult to make both

ends meet. The expenditure far exceeds income landing many families in debt. An attempt is made to assess the extent of indebtedness among lace workers.



A majority (65.3 per cent) of the respondent lace workers face the problem of indebtedness, while the rest have no such problem. The details of indebtedness are presented in the following table.

Table-11 Indicates that the amount of loan taken by the respondents. It is clear from the table that the amount of loan ranges from below Rs.500/- and above 2500/-.

The respondents that have taken the loan below Rs.500/- are to the extent of 34.74 per cent and 23.16 per cent of respondents has also taken the loan above Rs.2500/-. Indebtedness of 18.95 per cent of the respondents ranges from Rs.1001/- to 1500/-, while 16.84 per cent of the respondents have loans from Rs.500 -1000.

**TABLE-11: AMOUNT OF LOAN**

S. No	Amount loan (in rupees)	No. of respondents		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Below 500	11 (36.67)	22 (33.85)	33 (34.74)
2	501-1000	3 (10.0)	13 (20.0)	16 (16.84)
3	1001-1500	8 (26.67)	10 (15.38)	18 (18.95)
4	1501-2000	-	-	-
5	2001-2500	1 (3.3)	5 (7.69)	6 (6.32)
6	Above 2500	7 (23.33)	15 (23.08)	22 (23.16)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>65</b> <b>(100.0)</b>	<b>95</b> <b>(100.0)</b>
	<b>Average loan</b>	<b>Rs-2147/-</b>	<b>Rs-1412/-</b>	<b>Rs-1779/-</b>

**Note:** Figures in brackets are percentages to total column wise.

**Source:** Same as table 1.

It is found in the study that employer, banks and private money lenders constitute the sources of loans to lace workers. Employer stands first in the source of loan as 79 per cent of the respondents have taken loans from this source. 14.5 per cent of the respondents have stated that they approach the money lender for loans. The remaining 6.5 percent have expressed that they have taken loans from banks. In comparison there is no much difference between the male and female workers in this regard.

The study reveals that household expenditure, marriage celebration and medical expenses are the reasons for taking loans. An overwhelming majority (88.7 per cent) of the respondents have borrowed loans to meet household commitments. 6.5 per cent have taken loans for marriage purposes and the remaining 4.8 per cent for medical expenses.

It is evident from Table-12 that the monthly income of respondents on an average, men and women put together is found to be Rs.1663/- where as the



monthly expenditure is estimated (both categories put together) to be Rs.1967/-. Based on this data we can infer that on an average a lace worker becomes indebted to the extent of Rs.304.

A comparative data of income and expenditure is presented in Table-12.

**TABLE-12: COMPARATIVE DATA OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PER MONTH**

S. No	Item	No. of respondents		Total (Average)
		Male	Female	
1	Monthly income (average wage+ average income)	Rs.1956/-	Rs.1371/-	Rs.1663/-
2	Monthly expenditure	Rs.1940/-	Rs.1994/-	Rs.1967/-

Source: Same as table 1.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This study is concerned with lace industry at Narsapur, which produces lace goods for the world market. The lace making is carried out in putting out system and workshop manufacturing. This study is confined to lace making under workshop system. The socio, economic profile of lace workers is analysed based on a sample survey.

The caste wise analysis shows an important trend that nearly half of the workers are from kapu community followed by Agnikula Kshatriyas. It is significant to mention here that the employers in this business also belong to the same community i.e. Kapu. Religion wise an overwhelming majority of the work force are Hindus. The study found that the majority of female work force is married, where as the number of their male counterparts in this regard is less. A majority of the respondents stay in joint families.

As regards residential status the conclusion one can draw from the data is that the lace workers stay in their own houses, which are thatched and without

basic civic amenities like water, electricity and toilets.

The economic data reveals that about 60 per cent of the respondents get monthly earnings of only between Rs.300-500. The average monthly wage of all lace workers is Rs.656/-. However, male workers are getting more earnings (Rs.866/-) than that of women (Rs.446). The wages are calculated on a daily basis and paid once a month. The lace workers are not happy with the wages and they feel that the wages are not commensurate with the efforts they put in to discharge their functions. However the wages are paid regularly without much delay and the lace workers are satisfied with the mode of payment.

As regards other sources of income, a limited number of lace workers get income from land and house. It is significant to note here that most of the female work force has earnings of other family members as a source of supplementary income.

As far as expenditure pattern is concerned, the average expenditure of the lace worker family is Rs.1967/- per



month. A majority of them are indebted to the extent of Rs.1779/- on an average either to their employers or private money lenders. It is found that a major reason for this indebtedness is the household expenditure.

A comparative data of income and expenditure of lace workers per month leads to the conclusion that the monthly income including the other sources is Rs.1663/-. Hence it can be inferred that on an average a lace worker becomes indebted to the extent of Rs.304/- every month.

In the ultimate analysis, it can be stated that the lace making is dominated by women work force with a marginal number of male workers. Socially they are distributed among different communities but majority of them belong to Kapu community. The income of the lace workers is less than their expenditure and hence they are indebted. It is to be noted here that the monthly wages paid to the lace workers fall much short of the minimum wages notified by the government of Andhra Pradesh under the Minimum Wages Act. They are also denied the statutory leave and holiday facilities.

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