

A Study On

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND WORKING CONDITIONS  
OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN CROCHET LACE  
CLUSTERS – NARSAPUR**



Submission of Dissertation for  
**Minor Research Project**  
Under the Financial Assistance of RUSA 2.0  
Through Ch.S.D.St. Theresa's College for Women, Eluru

By

Principal Investigator

**Dr.Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

M.A.(IRPM)., MBA., B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Management Studies

Dr. C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N. College, Narsapur**



Co-Investigator

**Dr.Ch.Srinivas**

M.Com., MBA.,Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Dept. of Mgt. Studies

Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre

**Sri Y.N.College, Narsapur**

**Sri Yerramilli Narayana Murthy College (A)**

**Dr. C.S. Rao P.G Centre**

(Affiliated to Adikavi Nanayya University, Rajamahendravaram)

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*NARSAPUR – 534275, W.G.Dt., A.P.*

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**CH. S. D. ST. THERESA'S COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (AUTONOMOUS), ELURU**

Affiliated to Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram

College of Excellence, NAAC A<sup>+</sup> (3.56/4)

Phone numbers: 08812-251210, Fax: 08812-250380, Website: [www.chsd:theresacollege.net](http://www.chsd:theresacollege.net)

Email: [chsdtheresa@gmail.com](mailto:chsdtheresa@gmail.com), [st\\_theresa2003@yahoo.co.in](mailto:st_theresa2003@yahoo.co.in)

Contact Nos: 7337461488, 9490970007, 9441751205

From  
The Principal  
St. Theresa's College, Eluru

**No: F. MRP-325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0-STC)**

**Dated : June.,2019**

The Accounts Officer  
Ch. S. D. St. Theresa's (A)College for Women,  
Eluru, West Godavari Dist. 534003

**LINKNO: 1-19/7**

**Department of Management**

**Sub:** Financial Assistance to Minor Research Projects-Approval-Cum Sanction Letter of first instalment - reg-

Sir/Madam,

This has reference to the Minor Research Project Proposal submitted by MR/MRS/ MS Dr. G S Ramakrishna, Department of **Management** entitled **SOCIO – ECONOMIC AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN CROCHET LACE CLUSTERS - NARASAPUR** of Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous), Narsapur for Financial Assistance under the above scheme and to say that RUSA Coordinator has approved a grant of **Rs. 60,000** to the Principal Investigator (PI) for undertaking the above mentioned Minor Research Project as per the items of the expenditure listed below;

Item	Amount allocated (Rs.)	Amount sanctioned as first instalment (Rs.)
Books & Journals	10,000/-	5,000/-
Computer Hiring & Typing Charges	20,000/-	10,000/-
Fieldwork & travel	20,000/-	10,000/-
Contingency (Incl. Special Needs)	10,000/-	5,000/-
Total	60,000/-	30,000/-

1. I am further to convey the sanction of the above said payment under RUSA RS. 30,000/- to the Principal, Sri. Y.N. College (Autonomous), Narasapur - 534275, W.G. Dist. A.P. of the concerned college as first instalment towards the above project.
2. The above approval is subject to the general conditions of grants prescribed by the RUSA for the scheme.
3. The sanctioned amount is valid for payment during the financial year 2019-20 only and the amount of the grant shall be credited to "The Principal of the Concerned College", by electronic mode.

## ANNEXURE-V

**PROGRESS REPORT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE DURATION  
FROM 2018 TO 2019**

RUSA 2.0 Approval under

No. & Date & Link No. : RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019  
(MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-  
19/4 Dt. June 2019.

Name of the Principal Investigator : Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna  
Department : Department of Management Studies  
University/ College : Dr. C.S.Rao P.G.Centre  
Sri Y.N.College, Narsapur

S.No.	Item of Expen.	Total Grant	Actual Grant Approd	Actual Expdr. Incurred	Unspent if any	Balance to be paid
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**Non-Recurring**

01	Books/ Journals	10,000/-	5,000/-	10,410/-	NIL	NIL
02	Computer Hiring & Typing	20,000/-	10,000/-	20,600/-	NIL	NIL
Total (non-recurring)		30,000/-	15,000/-	31,010/-		

**Recurring**

01	Field work & Travel	20,000/-	10,000/-	23,042/-	NIL	NIL
02	Contingency	10,000/-	5,000/-	10,170/-	NIL	NIL
03	Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total (Recurring)		30,000/-	15,000/-	33,212/-	NIL	NIL

**CERTIFICATE**

Certificate that the above grant has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to the grant.

If as a result of a check on audit object, some irregularity is noticed at a later stage, action will be taken to refund, adjust or regularize the objected amount.

  
**PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATOR**

**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**  
M.A (IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies  
Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre  
**Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)**  
(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 9440173704

  
**CHARTED  
ACCOUNTANT**



  
**PRINCIPAL OF  
THE COLLEGE**

**PRINCIPAL**  
Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 9440173704



Cell: 9440173731  
Email: drgsrk66@gmail.com  
**RUSA MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN MGT. STUDIES**  
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND WORKING**  
**CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN**  
**CROCHET LACE CLUSTERS - NARSAPUR**



**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

Ref: RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-19/4 dt.June 2019

M.A(IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Dt.

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Mgt. Studies, Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N.College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Narsapur -534275

To

The Principal

Sri Y.N. College

Narsapur

Sir,

Sub: RUSA 2.0 Minor Research Project - submission of Bills, Statement  
of expenditure and Utilization Certificate for Rs.64,222/- Reg.

Ref: RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC)

Link No. 1-19/4 Dt. June 2019.

\*\*\*

With reference to the above I am to state that RUSA 2.0 Minor Research Project has sanctioned Rs.60,000/- and released Rs. 30.000/-towards books and journals, equipment, filed work and travel and contingency grant to me, which has been paid to me as advance. I am herewith submitting bills, material of expenditure and utilization certificate Rs. 64,222/- ( rupees sixty four thousand and two hundred twenty two only) incurred towards working expenses for research for the period from 2018 to 2019.

I request your kind honour to send the Utilisation Certificate to the Principal, Ch. S.D.St. Theresa's College for Women, Eluru with a request to consider the Utilization Certificate and to release the balance grant of filed work and travel and contingency at an early date.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

PRINCIPAL

Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.Dt., (A.P)

**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

M.A (IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre

**Sri Y.N. College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 9440173731



K. Harinath Gupta

B.Com., Grad C.M.A., F.C.A.

☎ 08814 - 276627

Cell : 09490506584

harinathgupta99@gmail.com



**Harinath Gupta & Associates**

Chartered Accountants

ANNEXURE-IV

**UTILISATION CERTIFICATE**

RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-19/4 Dt. June 2019.

Name of the Principal Investigator  
With address

**:Dr.G.S.Rama Krishna**

Associate Professor

Dept. of Management Studies

Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

Sri Y.N.College,

Narsapur-534275

Title of the MRP Project

:Socio-Economic and Working  
Conditions of Women Artisans in  
Crochet Lace Clusters - Narsapur"

Certified that the grant of Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees sixty thousand only) sanctioned by the RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-19/4 Dt. June 2019 towards Minor Research Project work. An actual amount of Rs. 64,222/- has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the RUSA 2.0.

Chartered Accountant

*KH Gupta* 2318

With seal & Membership

31/12/2019



Yerramillivari Street, Near Raithu Bazar, **NARSAPURAM - 534 275.**

## UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE

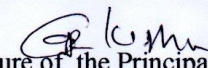
### Minor Research Project (MRP)

**Name of the Principal Investigator: Dr.G.S.Rama Krishna**

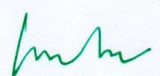
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Management Studies  
Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre  
Sri Y.N.College,  
Narsapur-534275

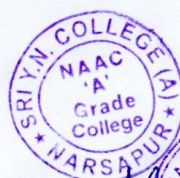
**TITLE OF THE PROJECT:**A Minor Research Project Work on "Socio-Economic and Working Conditions of Women Artisans in Crochet Lace Clusters - Narsapur"

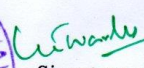
Certified that the grant of Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees sixty thousand only) sanctioned by the RUSA 2.0 dated June 2019 towards Minor Research Project has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by the RUSA 2.0. If as a result of check or audit objection, some irregularity is noticed at a later stage, action will be taken to refund or regularize the objected amount.

  
Signature of the Principal Investigator

**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**  
M.A. (H.C.M.), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt.  
Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G.  
Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)  
(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 944031

  
Signature of the RUSA Coordinator  
**S.M. MAHESWARI, M.A., M.Phil.**  
Vice Principal  
RUSA-COORDINATOR  
Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)  
NARSAPUR, W.G.Dt., (A.P)



  
Signature of the Principal



Chartered Accountant  
with seal & stamp and date

**PRINCIPAL**  
Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.Dt., (A.P)



Cell: 9949859694

Off : 08814 - 273246, Fax:276009  
E-mail : sriynmcollege@rediffmail.com  
Website : www.sriyncollege.org



## **Sri Yerramilli Narayana Murthy College**

**(Autonomous)**

(Affiliated to Adikavi Nannaya University)

Thrice Accredited by NAAC at 'A' Grade

Recognised by UGC as "College with Potential for Excellence"

**NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.Dist, A.P.**

**Dr. Karna Venkateswarlu**

M.Sc (Tech.), Ph.D., FIETE

Principal (FAC)

To  
The Principal  
Ch.S.D.St. Theresa's College for Women  
Eluru

Madam,

Sub: Submission of Final Report of Research work regarding RUSA 2.0  
Minor Research Project

Ref. RUSA Award Lr. No MRP - 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 -  
STC) Link No. 1-19/4 Dt. June 2019.

\*\*\*

As per the direction of RUSA 2.0, I am herewith forwarding final report of  
Research work submitted by Dr. G.S.Rama Krishna, Principal Investigator, for  
the Minor Research Project under the reference above entitled "Socio-economic  
and working conditions of women artisans in crochet lace clusters - Narsapur".

This is for your information and necessary action at your end.

Thanking you Madam,

Yours sincerely,

PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL

Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.Dt., (A.P)





Cell: 9440173731  
Email: drgsrk66@gmail.com  
**RUSA MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN MGT. STUDIES**  
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND WORKING**  
**CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN**  
**CROCHET LACE CLUSTERS - NARSAPUR**



**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

Ref: RUSA Award Lr. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-19/4 dt.June 2019

M.A(IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Dt. 31-12-2019

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Mgt. Studies, Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N.College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Narsapur -534275

### 11. OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED (Give Details)

Narsapur is a remote place in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, India. It is famous for the crochet lace products. The cluster is having around 30 exporters who export to various countries. The clusters has nearly one lakh women artisans doing the lace work. The cluster is located in and around Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh, India, in various villages like Seetharamapuram, Palakol, Venkatrayapalem, Muthyalapalli, Kalipatnam, Mogaltur, etc. The cluster is specialized in doing the lace works like dollies, furnishings, garments, tablemats, etc.

It is hoped that the suggestions mentioned in the study will go a long way in evolving appropriate strategies to combat the problems of women artisans in general and working women in lace clusters in particular. Evolution of lace clusters in Narsapur and socio-economic conditions of women artisans and also the problems, working conditions of women has been presented in 9 chapters.

The study has covered women artisans in lace clusters - Narsapur, Seetharamapuram in West Godavari District. These places are popularly known as Lace Clusters. In the district, majority of Lace workers are women artisans and their working and living conditions are miserable. The lace making is

carried out in-house lace making system and cluster's workshop manufacturing. Therefore the study have been attempted on the socio-economic conditions, working and living conditions of women artisans and their status in society and at home.


Employment in informal sector is a significant segment in the total employment market in India. Many studies revealed that the working and living conditions of women workers in informal sector are not upto the minimum requirements and their position is measurable when compared to workers in formal sector. Lace artisans constitute an important segment of workforce in informal sector at Narsapur, West Godavari District. This study aims at explaining the socio-economic and employment conditions of lace artisans in Narsapur town which offers substantial household employment under putting-out system and workshop system in which secluded Hindu people produce lace which yield about ninety percent of the state's handicrafts exports earnings.

Thus this study un-mistakenly indicated that the following objectives evolved in the following correct.

The objectives of this Minor Research Project study are:

1. To know about the beginnings of Lace Clusters in Narsapur
2. To examine the lace making work in the perspective of women artisans.
3. To find out the social background of women artisans.
4. To evaluate the conditions of employment of lace artisans in terms of working environment.
5. To examine the various HRD programmes in Lace Park and programmes in rural area meant for empowering women artisans.
6. To make suggestions to improve the conditions of women artisans.
7. To identify the factors those are responsible for the motivation of women artisans in the Lace Park and International Lace Trade Centre.

  
**PRINCIPAL**  
Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.Dt., (A.P)

  
**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**  
M.A (IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.  
**Principal Investigator**  
RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies  
Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre  
**Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)**  
(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell:-9440173731



Cell: 9440173731  
Email: drgsrk66@gmail.com  
**RUSA MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN MGT. STUDIES**  
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND WORKING**  
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M.A(IRPM)., M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Dt.

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Mgt. Studies, Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N.College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Narsapur -534275

## **12. Achievements from the Project**

The study have been covered women artisans in crochet lace clusters. The Lace clusters look after the human resource management functions like recruitment, selection, training, wage fixations, timings and shifts, welfare facilities, working conditions, Discipline, grievance rederessal, health provisions, social security schemes, unions and cordial relations with peers and entrepreneurs etc. The present study is confined to the lace making in the clusters and in-house making. The rationale behind selecting the women artisans in clusters is to focus on employer - employee relations. Therefore, HRM functions and crochet lace clusters management, women artisan's working and living conditions and socio-economic conditions are interdisciplinary relevance.

Significance of the study is well known fact that women artisans play a major role in making of Lace items. The natives of Narsapur town and nearby villages, majority women artisans depend upon lace clusters. There by women are economically empowered by earning on their own. In these days all intellectuals are speaking about empowerment of women, but no concrete study has been done in the lace making clusters. This subject will highlight the real



living and working conditions, socio-economic background, empowerment of women and their practical problems.

The women in their part-time are pursuing this work and producing lace in different designs according to the orders of importers and it is not a direct profession to earn their livelihood, they are not aware of the actual cost of the raw material used for the lace making and the value added after the lace is prepared and the rates at which the finished lace is sold in the market. In other words, their work is totally restricted to their labour only. Therefore, artisans are earning very less amount as remuneration in this lace making process.

The cluster artisans are heavily dependent on job work from exporters who have direct orders hence they are paid lower conversion charges. The artisans do not have the capability and capacity of direct domestic marketing.

It is well known fact that women workers play a major role in making of lace items. The natives of Narsapur town and nearby villages, majority of women workers depend upon lace industry. Thereby women are economically empowered by earning on their own income. In these days all intellectuals are speaking about empowerment of women and concrete works and training has been done in the lace making industry. This subject will highlight the real living and working conditions, socio-economic background, empowerment of women and their practical problems.



PRINCIPAL  
Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, V.G.Dt., (A.P)



**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**  
M.A (IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies  
Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre  
**Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)**  
(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 9440173731



Cell: 9440173731  
Email: drgsrk66@gmail.com  
**RUSA MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN MGT. STUDIES**  
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**CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN**  
**CROCHET LACE CLUSTERS - NARSAPUR**



**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

Ref: RUSA Award Lt. No MRP – 325/2019 (MRP/RUSA 2.0 – STC) Link No. 1-19/4 dt.June 2019

M.A(IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Dt.

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Mgt. Studies, Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N.College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Narsapur -534275

### **13. Summary of the Findings (in 500 words)**

Socio-economic and working conditions of women artisans in crochet lace clusters are distressing. It is believed that the working conditions of women lace workers are deplorable, wages low and are subjected to maltreatment.

By Lace handicrafts India's market in handicrafts is rising to the international level, because majority of percentage of lace marketing is in USA, Germany, Australia, England etc. Thereby the Export Promotion Council is conducting exhibitions / fairs in foreign countries and our lace women are participating directly in the exhibitions. Everything is borne by Central Government Schemes for encouraging lace exporters and the women artisans are benefited.

The women in their part time are pursuing this work and producing lace in different design according to the orders of exporters and it is not a direct profession to earn their livelihood, they are not aware of the actual cost of the raw material used for the lace making and the value added after the lace is prepared and the rates at which the finished lace is sold in the market. In other words, their work is totally restricted to their labour only. Therefore, artisans earn very less amount as a remuneration in this lace making process.

The rural women artisans are often socially and culturally isolated. They commonly lack the productive assets other than their working power which would enable them to struggle for independence and self-reliance. They remain attached in various ways to those who have control over land and capital. They have learnt to live with apathy, injustice and have no opportunity for schooling. They work without being recognised as workers, and throughout their lives they are expected to obey male authority. Women's condition as family members and co-workers has not changed even after 12<sup>th</sup> five year plans. Women artisans are taken for granted and they play a important role in contribution to economy. Few studies are available on women artisans. Some of them were undertaken by social scientists and a few of them were undertaken under the government auspices. The focus and the dimensions of the studies tend to vary depending upon the objective and the level at which the study was conducted. But studies portraying the problems of women artisans at the grass root level are few and far between. There is an imperative need to take up more studies at this level to understand the problems of women artisans more vividly. Such an understanding is necessary to evolve appropriate measures to deal with their problems and to bring about overall development of women artisans in general. The Second National Commission on Labour (2002) is also of the same opinion and endorse the views of Human Development Report (1990) that "the low value attached to women's work requires a fundamental remedy and felt that there is a need to redesign national censuses.

The lace industry has high potential for women employment and foreign exchange earnings. Still it is controlled by a few private exporters. Most of the lace women workers are unorganized.

The women in their part time are pursuing this work and producing laces in different designs. They are not aware of the actual cost of the raw material used for the lace making and the value added after the lace is prepared and the rates at which the finished lace is sold in the market. In other words, their work




is totally restricted to their labour only. And it is the agents or middlemen that are making profits.

The nature of work of female includes hand work, joints, bordering and lining. Males do the work of checking, repairing, finishing, washing, ironing, packing and forwarding. It can be stated that the lace making is dominated by women workforce with a marginal number of male workers.

The income of the women artisans are less than their expenditure and hence they are indebted. The physical working environment for the lace workers is congenial but they are not given the statutory leaves and holidays. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable to the lace workers but the wages paid to the workers are not as prescribed under the Act. There is lot of differences between male and female workers wages.

The women who do the joining together of the various parts are not only highly skilled, because this work needs special dexterity and talent, but they are also women who enjoy the confidence of the exporters. There are the only workers who know the shape, the size and the compositions of the finished articles. They also have an idea of the changing tastes of the foreign customers. The exporters keep designs and the particular composition of an article as their trade secret because with the rise of more exporters in the lace business there is keen competition among the exporters for new designs. That is the reason why only trusted workers do the attachment work for the exporters.

In order to provide adequate employment to the lace artisans and improving the quality and status of this foreign exchange earning craft, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced scheme for the development of the lace industry at Narsapur to advise the artisans on improved methods of crocheting and to introduce new and attractive designs to expand the overseas market.

  
PRINCIPAL  
Sri Y.N.College (Autonomous)  
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, W.G.D., (A.P)

  
Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna  
M.A (IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D,  
Principal Investigator  
RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies  
Dept. of Management Studies, Dr. C.S.Rao P.G. Centre  
Sri Y.N. College (Autonomous)  
(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)  
NARSAPUR - 534 275, Cell : 9440115731



Cell: 9440173731  
Email: drgsrk66@gmail.com  
**RUSA MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT IN MGT. STUDIES**  
**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND WORKING**  
**CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ARTISANS IN**  
**CROCHET LACE CLUSTERS - NARSAPUR**



**Dr. Gandham Sri Rama Krishna**

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M.A(IRPM), M.B.A. B.L., D.C.P., Ph.D.

Dt. 31-12-2019

Principal Investigator

RUSA Minor Research Project in Mgt. Studies

Dept. of Mgt. Studies, Dr.C.S.Rao P.G.Centre

**Sri Y.N.College** (Autonomous)

(Thrice Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

Narsapur -534275

#### **14. Contribution to the Society (Give Details)**

It is very clear that these socio-economic conditions of women artisans in lace works have discussed various questions related to the living and working conditions of women artisans and role of social status in the society and various complications reflected in the life of women in society. It is well known fact that women artisans play a major role in making of lace items.

An attempt is made in this research study describes about the origin and growth of crochet lace-work in Narsapur and economic empowerment of women artisans. Lace-work has added its own contribution to the cultural traditions of this State of Andhra Pradesh and hence it has become a part of the cultural history of Andhra Pradesh. In fact, Narsapur came to be recognized as the birth place of lace-work in Andhra Pradesh which is still a flourishing trade.

Human Resource Management is the utilization of human resource (women artisans) to achieve Lace clusters objectives. The human resource in crochet lace consists of women artisans. The human resource endowment is a natural gift given to every nation in this world and human resources play pivotal role in utilizing the natural resources in building a strong nation. In the evolutionary process of HRM, certain approaches viz., have been identified.