SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
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- Ramanagara is one of the largest reeling centers, with largest cocoon market in India offering employment for men, women and children in reeling activities throughout the year.

- The present study comprised a purposive sample of 500 for obtaining the preliminary data comprising 249 males and 251 females. Children below 14 years accounted for 17 percent of the total respondents.

- Majority of the respondents were found to be illiterates with 48 percent accounting for primary level education. Majority of the respondents, viz., men, women and children were addicted to tobacco chewing. Many of the female reeling workers were addicted to alcohol consumption while considerable numbers of male workers were addicted to smoking and alcohol consumption.

- The respondents surveyed were distributed in activities with majority involved in reeling work followed by cooking and cleaning, supervisory work and sorting of cocoons. Majority of the children were found employed in cooking and cleaning activities leading to maximum risk.
• Majority of the workers, including men, women and children worked for 8 hours a day.

• Only few of the respondents have been working for more than 10 years in the reeling units. Majority of the workers surveyed had less than 5 years of working experience in the reeling units.

• A significant number of workers were found to have experienced tiredness, body pain, and difficulty in vision during work, while a considerable number are found to suffer from respiratory disorders, chest pain, cough and skin irritation.

• The peak expiratory flow rate was found to be reduced considerably in a significant number of workers indicating occupational hazard.

• Majority of the respondents, both male and females including children showed an elevated levels of Immunoglobulin E (IgE) indicating increased probability of an IgE-mediated hypersensitivity, responsible for allergic reactions.

• Majority of the respondents showed eosinophilia indicating allergy and asthma in the workers.

The elevated levels of Immunoglobulin E (IgE) in the serum and eosinophilia, supported by respiratory disorders, cough and wheezing points to the allergic reactions and occupational asthma
in the workers. Reducing workplace exposure to respiratory irritants, limiting exposure to relevant environmental allergens and non-occupational irritants such as tobacco smoke and optimizing antiasthma therapy, educating the workers about cleaner working environment would lead to reduced health hazards in the silk reeling industry.