ROLE OF WOMEN IN SERICULTURE,
OBSERVATION OF TWO TRIBAL BLOCK OF
RAIGARH DISTRICT—CHHATTISGARH—INDIA

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ABSTRACT: Sericulture is essentially a village based industry that provides employment to both skilled and unskilled labour, women and aged persons at homes at minimum risk. India continues to the second largest producer of silk in the world and has 16.58% share in global raw silk production. Among the four varieties of silk produced as in 2016-17 the production increased up to 30265 MT. The employment generation in the country is raised to 8.51 million persons in 2016-17 compared to 7.65 million persons in 2012-13. In Chhattisgarh Tasar and mulberry are reared on commercial scale. Tasar is really named as Kosa. Sericulture practiced by the tribal of traditional Districts of Baster, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Surguja. The present article will mainly explore the role of women in sericulture and includes the concept of work, division of labour, segregation of occupations, and dimension of labour and household activities. This article will further discuss the preparation of women toward silkworm, feeding and so on. Women are mostly favoured because of their industrious nature. They are employed in a mulberry garden or silkworm rearing or in a grainage. Coming to the post cocoon technology, the involvement of the women is greater, commencing from silk reeling, weaving and garment manufacturing industry. However, their work has not always been properly recognized or suitably rewarded. Thus the analysis clearly establishes the importance of sericulture over other crops in the generation of fresh employment opportunities in rural areas.

KEY WORDS –Women, Sericulture, employment, tribal, income.

INTRODUCTION
Indian economy reportedly suffers from high incidence of rural poverty un-employment and under-employment. Rural poverty has many forms and is much more complex phenomenon. Poverty alleviation requires suitable policy interventions and appropriate technological options that can increase agricultural productivity without adversely affecting the productive capacity of natural resources (Dewangan et al. 2011). The establishment of rural based industries like sericulture can be very effective in creating new job opportunities and providing supplemental income. Being a rural agro-based labor intensive industry this sector can also play vibrant role to check migration from rural to urban areas (Gangopadhyay, 2009). The socio-economically discriminated women are facing various types of obstacles for empowerment (Sen, 2001). Tribal women face problems and challenges in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life due to the environmental degradation (Awaïs et. al. 2009). Women are involved in most of the operations in agriculture, dairy, poultry, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, fish culture, social forestry and sericulture (Bajwa, 1983; Prasad and Chandra, 1991). It is found that women are engaged in various fields, the participation of women is mostly found in marginal and casual employment due to inadequacy skills, illiteracy, restricted mobility and lack of individual status (Chari, 1983). In fact, women in general are found to bear double burden in the development process—one on the domestic front and other on the economic front (Gupta and Gupta 1987). The continuous increase in prices has also pushed women to income generating activities within or outside the household to maintain an economically sound family. It is found that India is the home to 12.7 crore working women and 90% of them are working in the unorganized sector (Census 2001). Women are mostly engaged in the unorganized sector (Mehta and Sethi, 1997).

The word “Sericulture” has been derived from the word “Su” (Si) which means silk. Sericulture, the art and science of growing silkworm, food plants, rearing silkworms and production of silk is basically an agro-industry and an economically rewarding enterprise consisting of several sets of activities and plays a predominant role in shaping the economic destiny of the rural people (Dewangan et al., 2012). Sericulture is the rearing of silkworms for the productions of cocoons which forms the raw material for producing raw silk. Sericulture originated in China and the Chinese kept it secret for over 3000 years before it leaked to India, Koria and other nations in Asia and Europe (Krishnaswami et al. 1972; Ball, 2009; He, 2010). Sericulture, is divided in two sectors namely farm and industry. The farm sector involves growing silkworm’s food plants, rearing silkworm to produce cocoons and eggs. Reeling, twisting, dyeing, printing, finishing, knitting form the industry sector (Srivastav P. K et. al. 2005). Sericulture, the production of silk worms and thus ultimately of silk fibre (Ganga and Chetty, 1991), has become a promising rural activity in India because of its minimum gestation period, minimal investment, maximum employment potential and quick turnover for investment (Kasi, 2000, 2009a and 2009d). Out of 6.39 lakh villages in India, sericulture is practised in about 69,000 villages (Central Silk Board, 2002; Geetha and Indira, 2011; Lakshmanan et. al. 2011). Sericulture is an extremely labour intensive industry and occupies a pivotal position from the point of providing employment and additional income to weaker sections (Best & Maier, 2007; Bhatta & Rao, 2003). Women in rural India participate in a variety of economic activities. Women have been involved in the sericulture activities in various capacities viz., worker, supervisors and supporting personnel within the family (Venkatesh et. al., 2010). Sericulture is a labor intensive industry in all its phases. It can generate employment up to 11 persons for every kg of raw silk produced. Out of which more than 6 persons are women. More than 60.00 lakh persons are employed as full time workers in the production chain out of which 35-40 lakh persons are women (Rama Lakshmi C.S. 2007). It has been reported that women contribute about 50% of labour to mulberry cultivation and 60% of silkworm rearing respectively (Gate, 2001; Panda, 2007; Singh, N 2006; Srinath, 2008; Thanimizoli, 2001; Vijayalakshmi, V 2002). In sericulture per acre of mulberry plantation required on an average 46 man days in which women’s workers participation is more (52%) compare to men labour because female workers are dominating in weeding, planting operation in the process of mulberry cultivation (Venkatara Ng Naika and Siddaramaiah, 1989). In Malda district of West Bengal it is observed that increase in house hold size and more number of male workers are getting attached to sericulture activities. (Chandan Roy et al. 2015). Sericulture has important socio-cultural implications and it is established large scale employment generation.
and high income generation potential of sericulture (Hanumappa, 1986). It is showed that every acre of sericulture practiced under irrigated condition had a potential to employ 247 men and 193 women round the year (Jayaram et al. 1998). It is found that female labour is quite dominant in all sericulture activities, to an extent of nearly 50% (Lakshmanan et al. 1999). It is observed that in the indoor activity of silkworm rearing women participation was as high as 94.67% and that except for the peak period the entire sericulture activity is conducted using family labour (Saraswathi and Sumangala 2001). Saluja (1986) suggested that women staying in houses could easily rear in a month about 20 Disease Free Layings of bivoline which would provide 118 hours of employment from which the total earning was Rs. 177 amounting for a return of Rs. 1.50 per hour. Hence it was concluded that cocoon rearing had strong potential for gainful employment for women labour. Chandrashekar Reddy R. (1990) observed that sericulture is a highly labour intensive enterprise requiring about 538 man days of labour per acre in comparison to the requirement of labour 252 man days for the cultivation of the alternative crops. Kumara swamy B.K. (1993), observed that sericulture is being labour intensive, it is eminently suited to the economy of the small farms ensuring high employment opportunities to 664 man days of family labour to total labour per acre as compare to only 381 for alternative crops. Jaganathan L. (1996), indicated that sericulture provided more employment opportunities to family labour that is 70 % of total labour compared to alternative crops 44 % only. Kannan (1987) showed that women have become an indispensible part of sericulture industry. Let it be weeding the mulberry garden, leaf picking, chawki rearing, bed cleaning during rearing, spinning or harvesting of cocoons, trained women always have an upper hand in all these operations. Prakash kumar, (1986) found that More than half of the labour force used in cultivation of mulberry and silkworm rearing was contributed by women labour. As per study of Jolly, (1987) Out of the 4005 man days of employment opportunity in sericulture activities, 2161 man days were of light nature fit for women folk. Dandin (1994) surveyed the involvement of women in various sericulture activities and revealed that involvement of women was 49.55% and 49.67% in mulberry production and silkworm rearing respectively. Women’s involvement was found to be less in seed production (20.46%). Analysis of the Udaipur sericulture project, established by the Government of Rajasthan proved that it had a large impact on the lives, status, time use and attitudes of the large number of women who have participated in the project (Creevey, 1996). According to Naresh and Narayana Gowda (2000) the sericulture industry was fairly managed because the participation of women was 61% in total work force in various operations of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing.

In sericulture, women were relegated to less skilled but laborious activities like weeding and disinfecting the equipments (Siddagangamma, 2006). Training of large number of women sericulturists accelerated the promotion of bivoline sericulture in Tamil Nadu, because women were involved in most of the sericulture activities (Quadri and Dandin, 2006). There are more than 58 countries practicing sericulture in the world and it is the only Country in the world to produce all the four known varieties of silk including Mulberry, Eri, tasar and Muga (G.Savithiri, P.Sujathamma and P.Neeraja 2013). India enjoys the availability and practice of mulberry and non-mulberry sericulture like tasar, eri, muga and oak varieties. Among them, the tropical tasar culture is an important rural tribal occupation in the states of Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashra and Andhra Pradesh of India. The tasar silk industry has acquired a big role in improving tribal socio-economic condition besides generating substantial rural employment(Goe,AK; B.N.Brahmachari, M.Thandapani; K.Thangavelu, 1993, Suryanarayana,N; A.K. Srivastava, 2005, Rao,K.M., 2007, Reddy, R.M., M.K. Sinha, B.C. Prasad, 2010b ). Sericulture in India is a fairly organized activity in the cottage industry segment, largely rural based and labour intensive. Cultivation is spread Over 22 states, Covering 172000 hect. Across 54000 villages operating 2580000 landholdos and 29340 Power loom (Dewangan, S. K. et al. 2011). India continues to the second largest producer of silk in the world and has 16.58% share in global raw silk production. Among the four varieties of silk produced as in 2012-13 total raw silk production of 23679 MT in the country. In 2013-14 the production increased up to 26480 MT. The employment generation in the country is raised to 7.85 million persons in 2013-14 compared to 7.65 million persons in 2012-13. In 2016-17 Total Raw Silk Production measured as 30265 MT. And Employment generation reached as 8.51 million persons. Total 3795 MT of Raw silk are Import in India during the same year which value as 1092.26 Crore Rupees (Annual Report of Sericulture, C.S.B. Bangalu, 2017). In Chhattisgarh tasar and mulberry are reared on commercial scale. tasar is reared as Kosa. Sericulture practiced by the tribal of traditional Districts of Bastar, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Surguja. In the time of establishment of Chhattisgarh state i.e. 2000-01 Total number of about 12269 hectare (Departmental tasar+Project+Natural forest block) are available for plantation, whereas in 2014-15 near about 20590 hactare for tasar food plantation and 11797 hectare are identified for rearing and cocoon production. For Natural tasar development near about 34737 hactare of sal and other food plants are available as forest area. Out of which 9844 hactare are used for Natural seed multiplication camp. In 2014-15 Total tasar center are 381 in number and Mulberry center are 74. Total 12,89,44,930 number of tasar cocoons are produced and same year 66278 kg. Mulberry cocoon are produced. Both in tasar and Mulberry sector, employment generation are recorded as 481 families for tasar and 990 families for Mulberry sector. In overall 30792 people are benefited with tasar sector in collection and sell of cocoon. In 2016-17 Total tasar cocoon production are registered as 19, 84, 16,184 number and in Mulberry 60502 kg are achieved. In tasar sector Total 55422 people and in Mulberry sector 908 families are benefitted. In the same year Total 266 natural multiplication camp are organized for propagation of natural cocoon. 28.29 lakh numbers of DIs are supplied to rearers. In the state Total 183 women self help group are working in Reeling sector and 2520 motorised Reeling and spinning machine are working (DOS, Sericulture,Chhattisgarh).

MATERIAL AND METHODS
The present investigation was carried out in 2 Blocks namely Tamnar and Dharamjaigarh of Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh state, based on potentiality and production of tasar/mulberry cocoons, where both types of sericulture – mulberry and tasar are being practiced. Raigarh district is major tasar growing area where tribal are engaged in sericulture activity. Taser silkworm rearing has been going on since 1956-57 and rearing of mulberry silkworm started in the year 1982-83. Sericulture activity covered 312042 acres; with 5739 beneficiaries out of them 3347 are scheduled tribe. Tamnar and Dharamjaigarh are rural populous blocks. The total geographical area of these two blocks is 1970.73, square kilometres. According to census 2011 population are 97975 for Tamnar and 207030 for Dharamjaigarh. Out of which schedule tribe is 44105(21727 Male+22378 Female) of Tamnar and 136915(67783 Male+69132 Female) for Dharamjaigarh. Sex ratio is 1003 for Tamnar and 1004 for Dharamjaigarh and population density is 160 and 135 per Sqkm.

Initially the list of Seri cultural villages and the names of beneficiaries were obtained from local Sericulture department of above 2 Blocks, The primary data was collected from the sampled respondents following the personal interview method using structured interview schedule standardized by Nagaraja (1989). In the above mention blocks four villages were selected with 25 beneficiaries in each village at random for collection of data. Thus, 100 beneficiaries were selected from each block. The farmers were post classified into main and additional based on the engagement of employment. The information sought from the respondents/beneficiaries consisted of three types. The first type pertained to general information. The second type sought was related to Occupational Status, Employment days in a year, Total
Monthly Income, Occupation before the Sericulture, Duration of Sericulture Work, Average Annual Income from the Old Occupation, Crops taken in a year, Cocoon produced in each crop, Profit from each crop. The third type of information pertained to the Losses in Sericulture, Compensation by Government, and Loan according to requirement, Traditional Business is affected or not, total labour period, Change in economic status, Change in Annual Income through Sericulture, Displacement by Sericulture, Impact of Sericulture in Life Style and economics of silk production. Primary and secondary data was analyzed using various statistical tools.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Status and Ownership of House

On the basis of study, the analysis pertaining to employment, income, occupation, risks factor and social impact. In Tamnar & Dharamjaigarh block analysis of the first type of information related that the Kachha houses are 99 % for Tamnar and 100% for Dharamjaigarh. On the other hand Pakka house are 1 for Tamnar and nil for Dharamjaigarh. Regarding ownership of house in Tamnar & Dharamjaigarh, 94 respondents from Tamnar and all the respondents from Dharamjaigarh have their own house.

Status of Working Member in Family

It is observed that in Tamnar block the number of working members in 62 families 02, in 31 families 03, in 3 families 04 and in 4 families 05 members are working. whereas in Dharamjaigarh block the number of working members in 8 families is only 01 and the same way in 51 families 02, in 23 families is 03, in 15 families 04 and in 3 families 05 members are working. It is clear through the analysis that 3 members are involved in the occupation from the average families. It means there is a positive attitude of the members from each family. Sericulture was adopted as Secondary occupation by 98% beneficiaries from Tamnar and 100% from Dharamjaigarh block

Employment Days from Sericulture

In Tamnar block 73% respondents received employment for 100-150 days and 25% received 151-200 days. 201-300 days' employment received by 1% and 301-365 days employment receiver’s respondents are 1%. In Dharamjaigarh 26% respondents received employment for 100-150 days and 74% received 151-200 days. 201-300 and 301-365 days employment receiver’s respondents are nil.

Income from Sericulture

The data indicate that total average monthly income in Dharamjaigarh is only Rs. 3770/- and in Tamnar Rs. 3540/- at their village itself. Whereas from the forest minor produce collection and disposal (once in a year) the average income of the respondents has been estimated for Dharamjaigarh Rs. 5350/-, and Tamnar. it is observed that the total monthly expenditure of the family are 2410/- in Tamnar and 2210/- in Dharamjaigarh.

Basic Preparation for Sericulture

It is observed in the study area that 90 respondents from Tamnar and 98 from Dharamjaigarh block emphasized that they preferably do the Maintenance of plant on priority basis followed by collection of leaf by 25 Respondents from Tamnar and 28 from Dharamjaigarh block. Maintenance of hygienic conditions of rearing room by 45 respondents of Tamnar and 22 from Dharamjaigarh block. So as concerned with arrangement of equipment 51 respondents from Tamnar and 28 from Dharamjaigarh block prefer the work for basic preparation.

Occupation before adopting Sericulture

Out of 200 respondents from study area, the main occupation before adoption of sericulture was Agriculture for 62 from Tamnar and 71 from Dharamjaigarh block whereas 26 respondents do as agriculture labor in Tamnar and 07 in Dharamjaigarh block. Only 02 and 02 respondents are busy with sericulture in both the block. Agriculture with sericulture work are done by 10 respondents from Tamnar block and 20 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block. Primary host plant for silkworm rearing is in the priority of T. arjuna, T. tomentosa, M. alba & S. robusta with Z. zuzuba and that is about 3300 for each respondent in Tamnar block and 3400 in Dharamjaigarh block. All respondents are accepted that the work of sericulture is comparatively better than other work.

Cocoon Production and Profit

It is observed in the study area that 18 respondents from Dharamjaigarh and 6 from Tamnar take only one crop in a year while 11 from Dharamjaigarh and 87 respondents from Tamnar take two crops in a year. In Same manner 71 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block and 04 from Tamnar block take 3 crops in a year. 03 respondents from Tamnar block take five crops. The numbers of cocoon produced are 7750/crop/beneficiaries in Tamnar and in Dharamjaigarh it is 6350. The economic gain by the respondent of Tamnar is Rs.5760/-and in Dharamjaigarh it is Rs.5160/-. The yearly production of cocoons by the respondent of Tamnar are 19800 nos. and in Dharamjaigarh 18900 number. Average annual income about Rs 18000/- for Tamnar and Rs 16980/- for Dharamjaigarh

Domestic Expenditure

In the category of Liquor and Narcotics, 83 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block and 35 from Tamnar block consume there expenditure in liquor. On Tobacco maximum expenditure is incurred by the respondents of Tamnar block i.e. 83, followed by Dharamjaigarh block 69. Same as on Gadakhu 69 from Dharamjaigarh and 65 respondents from Tamnar domestic expenditure has been incurred. In Dharamjaigarh block 05 respondents incurred expenditure on Gaanja whereas nil respondents from Tamnar block expenditure on the same.

Types of Livestock (Milching)

In the study area 24 respondents have cow in Dharamjaigarh block and 25 respondents in Tamnar whereas 04 respondents have Buffalos in Dharamjaigarh and 02 respondents in Tamnar. 10 respondents have shegoats in Dharamjaigarh and 06 respondents in Tamnar. livestock engaged in household burden in Dharamjaigarh block, Ox- by 43 respondents and in Tamnar 50 respondents. In Dharamjaigarh block 14 respondents have poultry whereas in Tamnar block it covers 13 respondents.

Duration of Rearing Of Silkworm:

In the study area 04 respondents from Tamnar block and 02 from Dharamjaigarh block there duration of rearing is only two years whereas 01 respondent from Tamnar and 03 from Dharamjaigarh block do that since three years. Again for four years work as silkworm rearing 36
respondents from Tamnar and 05 from Dharamjaigarh block covered. For 5 or more than five years it’s counted as 59 respondents from Tamnar block and 90 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block.

Movable and Immovable Property

It is observed in the study that in the status of movable property point of view the 72, 33 and 16 respondent from Tamnar block have livestock, Agriculture equipments and vehicles whereas in Dharamjaigarh block 93, 32 and 03 respondents have same property. In the mode of immovable property from the Tamnar block 45 respondent have cattle house, 39 have agricultural land, 68 have house and 01 have well or biogas plant. In Dharamjaigarh block the same manner 41, 46, 44 and 04 respondents have immovable property. The fixed assets earned from old occupation were estimated as Land and Building by 64 and 32 respondents from Tamnar block whereas it is 80 and 74 respondent from Dharamjaigarh block.

Displacement for Sericulture as Livelihood

It is observed that in the Tamnar block no one respondents have been displaced or migrated for livelihood and there is 04 respondents displaced from Dharamjaigarh block. 08 respondents from Dharamjaigarh and 01 from Tamnar feel that sericulture has affected their traditional business/occupation.

Sericulture and Risk Factor

198 respondents had been bore a loss from Sericulture and 02 had not suffered. It indicates the hardship and risk involved in it. Almost all attributed the loss to fluctuation of atmospheric and adverse weather conditions viz heavy rains; high humidity and high temperature cause disease which leads to a complete failure of their crops. Out of 200 respondents only 5 get compensation from government where as 195 denied. All respondents are received full cooperation from the sericulture department. Only 08 respondent from Dharamjaigarh and 33 respondent from Tamnar get loan as per their requirement and 159 not get.

Sericulture and Social Impact

It is observed that all the respondents attributed the following impact by Sericulture –Conservation of environment, No cutting and felling of trees, Interstate migration is checked. Local employment is generated. It served as additional income generating source, Regular savings habit has been developed, want to attach continue with the sericulture. It is suited to our lifestyle. The work is simple and can be done without any cost. Can serve better for the additional income generation and pave the way for the local employment generation. The total labour period has been estimated 8.09 hrs and in Dharamjaigarh 8.08 hrs. All respondents agreed that their economic status has changed. It has been estimated that the annual income rose up to an average of Rs 23650/- respondent in Tamnar and in Dharamjaigarh block Rs. 20200/-.

Suggestion for Change

It is observed in the study area that 67 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block and 91 from Tamnar block suggest for change in field work area. 20 respondents from Dharamjaigarh and 11 from Tamnar block suggest for change in rearing. 28 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block and 09 from Tamnar suggest for change in training. 23 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block and 01 from Tamnar suggest for change in facilitation. Only from Tamnar block 07 respondents suggest for Technical assistance, 09 respondents for Marketing and only 01 for collection of cocoon style suggest.

CONCLUSION

Sericulture has emerged as the most important cash crop with minimum investment, low gestation period, high employment potential and highly remunerative return. It is well suited to the agrarian economy of the Tribal. Suitable for every section of society, a big farmer or a landless farmer, aged person or a youth, man or a woman. Sericulture provides more than 50% employment to the respondent in a year thus stops the inter-state migration. As a woman has a crucial role in the activities of sericulture, it equally creates opportunities and makes them independent socially, economically, politically and otherwise. Sericulture is an important means for generating employment, income enhancement, and crop enterprises, is a most appropriate household activity. In all these activities, women have shown their mettle and performed their tasks most skilfully. No wonder women are playing a very important role in the sericulture industry. Their qualities like maternal instincts and loving care of those under their charge prove to be very helpful in the successful breeding of silkworms. The sericulture industry has opened up phenomenal employment avenues and helped women to become important players in the income generation and decision making process. It is clear through the analysis that 3 members are involved in the occupation from the average families in study area. 73% respondents from Tamnar received 100-150 days employment from sericulture whereas from Dharamjaigarh block 74% respondents received employment of 151-200 days in a year. 87 respondents from Tamnar block take 2 cocoon crops in a year whereas 71 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block take 3 crops in a year. As on Tobacco 83 respondents from Tamnar and 69 from Dharamjaigarh block, domestic expenditure has been incurred. Respondents of the study area have proper livestock. 90 respondents from Tamnar and 98 respondents from Dharamjaigarh preferably do the Plant Maintenance work on priority basis. Year for rearing of silkworm as observed is 5 or more than five years it’s counted as 59 respondents from Tamnar block and 90 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block. The main occupation before adoption of sericulture was Agriculture for 62 respondents from Tamnar block and 71 respondents from Dharamjaigarh block. 198 respondents had been bore a loss from Sericulture. Only 5 respondent get loan as per their requirement and 195 not get. DFLs were supplied from Sericulture centers and their demand of dfls was easily fulfilled by the State sericulture department. 67 respondents from Dharamjaigarh and 91 respondents from Tamnar suggest for change in training pattern.

SUGGESTION

The government should give them compensations for the losses incurred in this occupation due to diseases and the negative impact of natural factors.

There should be enough loan facilities for the improvement of their occupation which is still more beneficial.

The government should be encouraging them to make clothes along with sericulture occupation.

Public Private Participation in the Post-cocoon sector and contract farming with NGOs and corporate participation.
Decrease in forest/timber cutting and diversion towards farm/nonfarm activities, saving of forest land from massive soil erosion through contour Bunding.

REFERENCES


Table 1. STATUS OF SERICULTURE IN CHHATTISGARH

<table>
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<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PRODUCTION OF TASAR RAW SILK (MT)</th>
<th>PRODUCTION OF MULBERRY COCOON (Kg.)</th>
<th>NATURAL MULTIPLICATION CAMP</th>
<th>PRODUCTION OF NATURAL TASAR COCOON (LAKH NO.)</th>
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