

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF GOAT KEEPERS IN BHANDARA DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA STATE

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Abstract: The study was conducted in purposively selected Bhandara district of Maharashtra state. Total 350 goat farmers selected randomly to assess the socio-economic status of the goat farmers. Eight factors were considered to study the socio-economic status and its association with the participation of the goat farmers. It was observed that majority (96.86%) of the respondents had male headed ownership, more than 85 per cent in above 30 years of age category, primary school (34%) and high school (22.28%) educated. Most of the respondents (56%) found in the higher category of annual income i.e. Rs. 10000 and above following agriculture + goat farming (34%) and labour + goat farming (33.71%) as their main occupation. More than 90 per cent respondents not participated in any social institution were landless (43.14%) and marginal farmers (39.71%). However, more than half (51.71%) per cent of the respondents had only goats in their livestock holding. The socio-economic factors viz. sex, age, education, annual income, occupation, social participation, land holding and livestock holding were positively and significantly associated with goat farming ($P < 0.01$).

Keywords: Socio economic status, goat keepers, association, income, occupation.

INTRODUCTION

India is endowed with the largest livestock population in the world which included 140.5 million goats in India and 10391 thousands goats in Maharashtra state (Annual Report, 2012-2013). Goat keeping continues to be an important livelihood activity for the resource poor people in developing countries because of their wider adoptability, low investment, quick pay off and low risk involved. Goat rearing is the most dominant activity in the goat-based farming systems in terms of both contribution to household's total income and employment generation (Kumar and Upadhyay, 2009). Small ruminants like Sheep and goats farming playing an important role in the development of rural mass and contributing to the livelihood of millions of poor by offering immense opportunities and potential for

improvement of income and employment generation. It also acts as cash buffer, reduces the risk of crop failure in mixed farming and tremendous potential for improving the food, employment and livelihood security of rural people (Ramesh *et al.*, 2012, Singh *et al.*, 2013). Goat rearing is immerging as an important source of livelihood particularly for landless labourers and marginal farmers across the country (Braj Mohan *et al*, 2012). Education, Family educational status and exposure to the communication sources are vital in goat keeping (Chandra *et al.*, 2005).

In Maharashtra state goat farming has become an income generating activity for every class of society whether they are landless or land holder, resource poor or progressive farmer and irrespective of their occupation. Hence, an attempt has been made to study the various factor of socio-economic status of the goat keepers and their association with the goat farming.

MATERIAL METHODS

The present study was conducted in purposively selected Bhandara district of Maharashtra state. Seven tahsils namely Bhandara, Mohadi, Tumasar, Lakhani, Sakoli, Lakhandoor and Pauni were selected from the district due to large population density of goats and the more dependability of the farmers on goat keeping for their livelihood. Five villages from each tahasil and ten goat keeper form each village were selected randomly. A goat keeper rearing at least two goats was included in study as respondent. Total 350 goat keepers were selected as sample to study the socio-economic status of the goat keepers.

The Socio-economic factors like sex, age, literacy level, annual income, occupation, social participation, land holding, type of land and livestock holding were included in the study. The desirable data were collected through personal interview technique on pre tested structured schedule. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed by using the statistical tools means, per cent and Pearson's chi-squared test.

RESULT AND DISUSSIONS

Socio-economic factors

Sex: It is evident from Table 1 that majority of the respondents (96.86%) were male whereas, very meager about 3 per cent of the respondents were female. This might be due to the male-headed family and more involvement of the male in cash crop and income generating activity of goat keeping. This findings is in contrast with the findings of Raghavan and Raja (2012) and Baruwa, (2013) reported that majority (65%) of goat farmers were female showing that the enterprise is female dominated.

Table 1: Distribution of goat keepers according to their socio-economic factors**N=350**

Socio-economic factors	Category	Frequency	Per cent
Sex	Male	339	96.86
	Female	11	3.14
Age	Up to 30 years	46	13.14
	31 to 45 years	152	43.43
	46 and above years	152	43.43
Literacy level	Illiterate	66	18.86
	up to primary school (1 st to 4 th)	119	34
	Middle school (5 th to 7 th)	54	15.42
	High school level (8 th to 10 th)	78	22.28
	Higher secondary (11 th to 12 th)	21	6
	graduate and above	12	3.44
Annual income	Up to Rs.5000	50	14.29
	Rs.5001-10, 000	104	29.71
	Rs.10, 001- and above	196	56.00
Occupation	Labour +goat keeping	118	33.71
	Goat keeping	32	9.14
	Agriculture + goat keeping	119	34.00
	Others	81	23.15
Social participation	Co-operative society	21	6.00
	Gram-panchayat and Dairy society	10	2.86
	No social participation	319	91.14
Land holding	Landless	151	43.14
	Marginal farmers (Up to 1 hect.)	139	39.71
	Small farmers (1.01 to 2 hecets.)	41	11.72
	Medium farmers (2.01 to 4 hecets.)	14	4.00
	Large farmers (Above 4 hecets.)	05	1.43
Livestock holding	Cow+ buffalo +bullock pairs +goats and/or sheep	31	8.86
	Cow+ goats and/or sheep	34	9.72
	Buffalo +goats and/or sheep	07	2.00
	Bullock +goat and/or sheep	37	10.57
	Cow +buffalo +goats and/or sheep	05	1.42
	Cow +bullock pairs +goats and/or sheep	31	8.86
	Buffalo +bullock pairs +goats and/or sheep	10	2.86
	Sheep +goats	14	4.00
	Goats	181	51.71

Age: It is observed from Table 1 that majority of respondents (43.43%) belongs to age category of 31 to 45 age. This findings also supported by Tanwar *et al* (2008) reported that

majority of goat farmers belonged to the age group of 31-50 yrs in the tribal area of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. The less percentage (13.14%) was found in up to 30 years of age group. It indicates that the youngsters show less interest in goat keeping. These findings are supported with Sinde *et al.* (1998), Seth *et al.* (2015) and Singh *et al.* (2016).

Literacy level: It is observed from Table 1 that most of the respondents (34%) were educated up to primary followed by high school (22.28%) and middle school educated (15.42%). However, more than 10 per cent of the respondents possess higher secondary to graduate and above level education. The findings supported by Raghavan and Raja (2012) and Baruwa (2013) reported that in socio-economic characteristics 81.6% of the goat farmers were educated. Out of which 36.6% had only primary education in Nigeria. This might be due to more involvement of social and economically backward community farmers deprived from attaining the school for longer duration. Finding is line with Gokhale *et al.* (2002).

Table 4: Distribution of goat keepers according to annual income

Sr. No.		No. of goat keepers	Per cent
1.	Up to Rs.5000	50	14.29
2.	Rs.5001-10, 000	104	29.71
3.	Rs.10, 001- and above	196	56.00
	Total	350	100.00

Annual income: Table 1 shows that more than half of the respondents (56%) had an annual income of Rs. 10,000/- and above followed by medium group (29.71%) had Rs. 5,001 – 10,000/- and about 14 per cent of the respondents had an annual income up to Rs. 5,000/-. The trend of goat keeping was found to be higher income. This might be due to the involvement of literate goat keepers in farming like backyard poultry and fishery or kitchen gardening which, able to fetch more amount of money than others. Findings support by Raghava and Raja (2012) Shinde *et al.* (1998) and Braj Mohan *et al.* (2012) reported that majority of goat farmers (34%) were having an annual income between Rs.10001-20000/- in the semi arid region of Uttar Pradesh.

Occupation: It is reported in Table 1 that most of the respondents (34.00%) had a combination of agriculture + goat farming as their occupation. The similar size of the respondents (33.71%) were worked as labour and involved in goat keeping. As the goat keeping is highly income generating occupation, lower income class people rearing goats for meeting their immediate needs of the money. Only 9.14 per cent of the respondents were

involved in single goat keeping enterprises for their livelihood. This might be due to remunerative nature of goat husbandry where as 23.15 per cent goat keepers were engaged in other occupations like shopkeepers, private work and low income government jobs. This finding confirms that goat keeping widely accepted by unemployment persons, labors and agriculturist. These findings are in agreement with Shinde *et. al.* (1998).

Social participation: Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents (91.14%) had no social participation. This might be due to lack of awareness and lack of interest about social participation. This might be due that most of the peoples belonged to lower income class heavily busy in their routine work of labour or goat farming and they are not adequately aware about the importance of their participation in social institutions. Only 6 per cent of the respondents were involved in the social institutions like co- operative society and whereas, few of them were the office bearer or the members of Grampanchayat or dairy co-operative society.

Land holding: Table 1 shows that most of the respondents were land less (43.14 %), followed by marginal farmers (39.71%) and (11.75%) small farmers. This might be due to large number of peoples involved in labour or other private work following goat keeping as secondary source of income to meet their timely urgent and important needs in their life. However, only 4 per cent of the respondents found in medium farmers category and very meager 1.43 per cent were large farmers. The farmers possess more area of land having more attention towards either specialized or mixed farming like agriculture or agriculture + dairy than any other farming. It is also evidence that increase in land holding proportion of goat keeper decrease. This observation is supported with Sastry *et.al.* (1992), Ramesh *et. al.* (2012) and Braj Mohan *et al* (2012) also reported that the goat farmers were landless 41 (51.90 %) followed by marginal 28 (35.45%), small 8 (10.12%) and medium large 2 (2.53%) in semi arid zone of Uttar Pradesh.

Livestock holding: It is reported in Table 1 that more than 50 per cent of goat keepers were keeping only goats followed by Bullock +goat and/or sheep (10.57%), Cow+ goats and/or sheep (9.72%) and about 9 per cent each had Cow+ buffalo +bullock pairs +goats and/or sheep and Cow +bullock pairs +goats and/or sheep livestock holding. The majority of respondents had goats only might be due to the goats required minimum time and efforts for management as compared to other species and quick and optimum returns in the farming. The finding are supported by Gokhale *et. al.* (2002) and Braj Mohan *et al.* (2012) who also reported that goat was the first preferred animal of goat keepers and out of total goats kept by

goat farmers, non-descript type goats were more dominant in terms of share (60%) followed by Barbari (27%) and Sirohi (13%). It indicated that the goat keepers also keeping the other animals like cow or buffalo for milk for domestic use and pair of bullocks for draft purpose in the field.

Association of the socio-economics factors with the participation of goat keeper in goat keeping

It is evident from Table 2 that amongst all the eight socio-economic factors viz., sex, age, literacy level, annual income, occupation, social participation, land holding and livestock holding had highly significant and positive association with socio economic status of goat keepers

Table 2. Association of the socio-economics factors with the participation of goat keeper in goat keeping

Sr. No	Socio-economic status	X ² values
1	Sex	307.38 ^{**}
2	Age	64.20 ^{**}
3	Literacy level	80.64 ^{**}
4	Annual income	93.42 ^{**}
5	Occupation	57.65 ^{**}
6	Social participation	526.90 ^{**}
7	Land holding	278.91 ^{**}
8	Livestock holding	616.43 ^{**}

^{**} Significant at 1 per cent level of significance

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that majority of goat keepers had male headed ownership of goat farming. More than 80% were found in above 30 years age of category and literate. More than half of the goat keepers belonged to the higher income category i.e. Rs. 10000 and above. Agriculture + goat keeping and Labour + goat keeping were the most preferred occupation by the goat keepers. More than 90% not associated with any social institutions. Most of the goat farmers were landless and more than 50% keeping the single species, goat only in their livestock holding. The socio-economic factors sex, age, literacy level, annual income, occupation, social participation, land holding, type of land and livestock holding significantly associated with participation of goat keepers in goat farming (P<0.01).

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