

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL BACKYARD POULTRY REARERS IN BASTAR DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH**

**A.K. Chaturvedani<sup>1</sup>, Niranjan Lal<sup>2</sup>, Kalpana Dhruw<sup>3</sup> and Sudhir Jaiswal<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>PhD Scholar, Division of Extension Education,

<sup>2</sup>Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Churachandpur, Manipur,

<sup>3</sup>PhD Scholar, Division of Animal Nutrition, <sup>4</sup>PhD Scholar, Division of Poultry Science,  
ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly, UP-243122

E-mail: ajay.chaturvedani001@gmail.com (\*Corresponding Author)

**Abstract:** The present study was conducted in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh with the specific objective of finding out the socio economic profile of the backyard poultry rearers. A multi-stage random sampling procedure was used to select 120 respondents (12 respondents per village) in the study. A structured interview schedule duly pre-tested and validated was used to elicit information from the respondents. The findings of the study revealed most of the poultry rearers (58.00%) were middle aged belonged to Gond tribe (55.83%) with primary to secondary level education and small size family. Agriculture as primary (51.67%) and poultry as secondary occupation (35.38%), with medium flock size (11-16 birds) poultry farms. Majority (84.17%) of the respondents were marginal to small land holding and getting low level of income (67.50%). Majority (51.67%) of the respondents had low level of material possession. The study concludes that the backyard poultry production needs more extension training to enrich their skill and to improve their standard of living.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, Tribals, Chhattisgarh, Backyard poultry.

### **Introduction**

Bastar, the land of tribes and about 70% of the total population comprises tribals, contribute 26.76% of the total tribal population of Chhattisgarh. The major tribes of the Bastar region are Gond, Abhuj Maria, Bhatra Bhatra. These households have traditionally relied on small scale low cost poultry production systems to supplement and enhance their livelihoods (Ahuja and Sen, 2007). Backyard poultry play important role in accelerating the pace of poverty reduction, enhancing the food, nutrition security of the rural households and promotion of gender equality (Ahuja, 2004). Backyard poultry has found special favour with the poor (landless, marginal and small farmers) and tribals, scheduled castes and other backward caste communities (Shinde & Srivastava, 2006, Mandal et al., 2006). Information on the existing backyard poultry production system and tribals involved in this particular system helps in formulating the strategies for better adoption of poultry practices. In this context, the socio economic status of the tribal backyard poultry rearers is very much

essential for the policy makers to develop an effective programme. Hence an effort has been made in the present study to collect information regarding socioeconomic status of backyard poultry rearers and their farming systems in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

### **Materials and Methods**

The present study was purposively conducted in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. The Bastar district comprises of 7 blocks out of which two blocks (Bakawand and Jagdalpur) were chosen randomly. From each block five villages were selected randomly and from each village 12 poultry rearers were selected randomly making a total 120 poultry rearing women were selected for the study. The data was collected using well-structured and pre tested interview schedule. Relevant data pertaining to the study was collected, analysed using frequency, percentage analysis and interpreted.

### **Result and Discussion**

**Age** -Respondents were categorized into three groups based mean  $\pm$  standard deviation viz; young (<30 yrs), middle aged (30-50 yrs) and old (>50 yrs). It was found that out of the total respondents 58.33 percent respondents were in middle age group, 36.67 percent in the young age group and 5.00 percent in the old age group. The average age of Bakawand, Jagdalpur blocks were 32.62, 32.58 years respectively and overall average age was 32.6 years. These observations are in concurrence with the findings of Khan (2006) in Uttar Pradesh.

**Sex** –It could be observed from the table-1 that in Bakawand, Jagdalpur block (55.00%) and (50.00%) of the respondents were male and (45.00%) and (50.00%) of remaining were female respectively. The overall male respondents were (52.50%) and female were (47.50%). It implies that male members of the family were comparatively more engaged in backyard poultry rearing in the study area.

**Religion**- A cursory look at table-1 reveals that majority (81.67%) of the respondents were Hindu and rest (18.34%) were Christian. It implies that study area was Hindu dominating.

**Tribes**- The majority (53.83%) of the respondents on overall basis belonged to Gond tribes, followed by Bhatra tribe (15.00%), Halba (11.67%), Muriya (7.50%), Mariya (4.17%), Kavar (3.33%) and Oraon (2.50%).

**Family type**- It was indicated that majority (75.83%) of the respondents had nuclear family and only (24.17%) respondents had joint family. Table-1 revealed that 75.00 percent and 76.67 percent respondents of Bakawand and Jagdalpur blocks belonged to nuclear family. About (25.00%) and (23.33%) respondents had joint family in Bakawand and Jagdalpur block respectively.

**Family size-** Table -1 reveals that majority (55.00%) of poultry rearers belonged to small (3-6 members) followed by medium (37.50%) with family size (between 6-9 members) and only 7.50 per cent were having larger family size (9-12 members).The average family size was found to be 5.6 in both the selected blocks i.e. Bakawand and Jagdalpur respectively However, overall mean family size was 5.6 members. This indicates the changing social dimension from large to small family size.

**Family education status-** A perusal of data in table-1 reveals that majority (56.67%) of families belonged to low family educational status followed, by medium (40.83 %) and high (2.50%). This indicates that majority of respondents and there family members received education up to primary school education level.

**Type of house-** Table- 1 shows that (45.00%) of the respondents had kaccha house, (23.33%) had mixed housing, (22.50%) had huts and (9.17%) had pucca houses. This implies that the socio-economic status of rearers were very poor in the studied area.

**Land holding-** Land holding is one of important socio-economic parameter, which has influence on the economic and social status of the farmers. Table-1 reveals that the average land holdings amongst the poultry rearers in Bakawand and Jagdalpur blocks were 2.55 and 2.37 acres respectively. The majority (42.50%) of respondents were belonging to small land holding category, followed by marginal (41.67 %), medium (9.17 %) and landless (6.67 %) categories. This may be because those having marginal and smaller land are venturing into other occupations like labour, to improve their income and livelihood.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their social background**

Social characters	Bakawand(n=60)		Jagdalpur(n=60)		Total(N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age</b>						
Young(<30yrs)	21	35.00	23	38.33	44	36.67
Middle(30-50yrs)	37	61.67	33	55.00	70	58.33
Old(>50yrs)	2	3.33	4	6.67	6	5.00
Mean ± Sd	32.62 ±6.99		32.58 ±8.28		32.6 ±7.63	
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	33	55.00	30	50.00	63	52.50
Female	27	45.00	30	50.00	57	47.50
<b>Religion</b>						

Social characters	Bakawand(n=60)		Jagdalpur(n=60)		Total(N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	50	83.33	48	80.00	98	81.66
Christian	10	16.67	12	20.00	22	18.33
<b>Tribes</b>						
Gond	32	53.33	35	58.33	67	55.83
Bhatra	10	16.67	8	13.33	18	15.00
Halba	6	10.00	8	13.33	14	11.67
Muriya	4	6.67	5	8.33	9	7.50
Mariya	3	5.00	2	3.33	5	4.17
Kawar	3	5.00	1	1.67	4	3.33
Oraon	2	3.33	1	1.67	3	2.50
<b>Family type</b>						
Nuclear	45	75.00	46	76.67	91	75.83
Joint	15	25.00	14	23.33	29	24.17
<b>Family size</b>						
Low(3-6)	32	53.33	34	56.67	66	55.00
Medium(6-9)	24	40.00	21	35.00	45	37.50
High(9-12)	4	6.67	5	8.33	9	7.50
Mean $\pm$ Sd	5.6 $\pm$ 1.91		5.6 $\pm$ 1.95		5.6 $\pm$ 1.92	
<b>Family education status</b>						
Low(2-4)	33	55.00	35	58.33	68	56.67
Medium(4-6)	26	43.33	23	38.33	49	40.83
High(6-8)	1	1.67	2	3.33	3	2.50
Mean $\pm$ Sd	3.52 $\pm$ 1.09		3.56 $\pm$ 1.18		3.54 $\pm$ 1.13	
<b>Type of housing</b>						
Hut	15	25.00	12	20.00	27	22.50
Kaccha	28	46.67	26	43.33	54	45.00
Pacca	5	8.33	6	10.00	11	9.17
Mixed	12	20.00	16	26.67	28	23.33
<b>Family land holding</b>						
Landless	3	5.00	5	8.33	8	6.67

Social characters	Bakawand(n=60)		Jagdalpur(n=60)		Total(N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Marginal(<1 hac)	24	40.00	26	43.33	50	41.67
Small(1-2hac)	27	45.00	24	40.00	51	42.50
Medium(2-4hac)	6	10.00	5	8.33	11	9.17
Mean $\pm$ Sd	2.55 $\pm$ 1.578		2.37 $\pm$ 1.605		2.46 $\pm$ 1.587	

**Occupation-** The data presented in table 2 reveals that 51.67 percent respondents had agriculture farming as primary occupation followed by labour (30.00%), business (10.00%) and service (8.33%), whereas (35.83%) respondents had poultry as secondary occupation followed by labour (25.83%), agriculture farming (20.83%) and animal husbandry (17.50%). The primary occupation of both the blocks was agriculture where as backyard poultry farming was found to be a secondary and subsidiary occupation for majority of the respondents. It could provide gainful employment to the family members and utilize the baron and fallow land available with the rearers. Similar finding also reported by Saha (2003) in West Bengal.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to occupation**

Family occupation	Total(N=120)			
	Primary		Secondary	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Labour	36	30.00	31	25.83
Agricultural farming	62	51.67	25	20.83
Animal husbandry	0	0.00	21	17.50
Business/ trade and commerce	12	10.00	0	0.00
Service	10	8.33	0	0.00
Poultry production	0	0.00	43	35.83

**Flock size-** Table 3 reveals that average flock size of Bakawand and Jagdalpur block was 13 and 14 birds respectively. The table further reveals that majority (53.33%) of poultry rearers were found to rear medium size flock (11-16), followed by (24.17 %) had small flock (5-11) and (22.50%) had large flock size (16-22). It indicates that farmers rear poultry at small scale, as a secondary source of income for their livelihood.

**Experience in poultry rearing-** All the backyard poultry respondents reported that they rear desi type and coloured birds. Desi birds seem to be the promising native chicken for low input free range system of rearing for meat and egg production in rural and tribal areas. Table-3 indicates that majority (59.17%) of poultry rearers were having low level of experience (3-15 years), while 35.00 percent had medium level of experience (15-28 years) and the rest 5.83 percent had high level of experience (28-40 years). Mean values of experience in poultry farming of Bakawand and Jagdalpur block were 16 and 14.72 years respectively. Overall mean experience was 15.36 years.

**Gross family income-** A perusal of data given in table- 3 reveals that majority (67.50%) poultry rearers belonged to low income category, followed by medium (26.67%) and high (5.83%) income from all sources including poultry farming. This may be because of, majority of respondents being either landless or marginal farmers and possessing small flock size. The average annual income from all the sources of Bakawand and Jagdalpur block was 42456.7 and 43451.7 respectively with a minimum 13500 in low income group and a maximum 125000 in high income group.

**Gross annual income from poultry-** With respect to annual income from poultry, the data presented in table-3 reveals that majority (51.67%) poultry rearers were in medium income group, followed by low (25.83 %) and high (22.50 %). The average annual income from poultry in Bakawand and Jagdalpur blocks were 3796.67 and 4118.33. The least annual income was 1500 rupees per annum in low income group and maximum 6600 in high income group, so majority of the poultry rearers belonged to below poverty line (BPL) category.

**Level of material possession-** The data in table-3 reveals that majority of poultry rearers (51.66%) had low level of material possession, (38.33%) had medium level and (10.00%) had high level of material possession. It's due to fact that majority of the poultry rearers belonged to below poverty line (BPL) category.

**Table:-3 Distribution of respondents according to economic backgrounds**

Economic characters	Bakawand(n=60)		Jagdapur (n=60)		Total(N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Flock size</b>						
Low (5-11)	17	28.33	12	20.00	29	24.17
Medium (11-16)	32	53.33	32	53.33	64	53.33
High(16-22)	11	18.33	16	26.67	27	22.50
Mean $\pm$ Sd	12.78 $\pm$ 4.211		13.83 $\pm$ 4.126		13.31 $\pm$ 4.184	
<b>Gross annual family income</b>						
Low(13500-50667)	44	73.33	37	61.67	81	67.50
Medium(50667-87833)	12	20.00	20	33.33	32	26.67
High(87833-125000)	4	6.67	3	5.00	7	5.83
Mean $\pm$ Sd	42456.7 $\pm$ 24965		43451.7 $\pm$ 23354.5		42954.2 $\pm$ 24076.6	
<b>Annual income from poultry</b>						
Low(1500-3200)	18	30.00	13	21.67	31	25.83
Medium(3200-4900)	31	51.67	31	51.67	62	51.67
High(4900-6600)	11	18.33	16	26.67	27	22.50
Mean $\pm$ Sd	3796.67 $\pm$ 1293.79		4118.33 $\pm$ 1264.71		3957.5 $\pm$ 1284.14	
<b>Experience in poultry rearing</b>						
Low(3-15)	33	55.00	38	63.33	71	59.17
Medium(15-28)	24	40.00	18	30.00	42	35.00
High(28-40)	3	5.00	4	6.67	7	5.83
Mean $\pm$ Sd	16 $\pm$ 7.44		14.72 $\pm$ 7.63		15.36 $\pm$ 7.54	
<b>Level of material possession</b>						
Low(0-6)	33	55.00	29	48.33	62	51.67
Medium(6-12)	22	36.67	24	40.00	46	38.33
High(12-18)	5	8.33	7	11.67	12	10.00

**Conclusion**

The present study shows that backyard poultry play an important role in supplying the additional income to small, marginal farmers of tribal area. The study also revealed that average flock size was 13.3 and average income from backyard poultry rearing was Rs.

3957.5. Socioeconomic development can be achieved with the help of backyard poultry rearing. There is a wide scope for development of free-range poultry rearing in the tribal backyard poultry production because rural poor women have enough time for rearing desi birds. It would be really very helpful for income generation, women empowerment, and nutritional improvement for the rural family. In the present study, in terms of overall socio-economic improvement cent percent backyard poultry rearers opined that backyard poultry farming helped to improve their socioeconomic condition. As a result, tendency to initiate backyard poultry rearing is widely observed in tribal areas.

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