

Socio-economic status of poultry farmers of Banaskantha district of Gujarat state

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Received : 26 March, 2013

ABSTRACT

Socio-economic factors like age, education, caste, occupation, land holding, and family income status of poultry farmers of Banaskantha district of Gujarat state was studied. It was found that only Muslim community has accepted and adopted this business. Most of the poultry farmers (70 %) were between 31 to 45 years belong to middle age group and 65 % were land owners. About 47.14 per cent poultry farmers were illiterate and 32.86 poultry farmers were educated up to primary. 64.29 per cent respondent's follows mixed farming system and rest were landless. Fifty per cent poultry farmers had medium sized family and medium annual income.

Key words: Respondents, poultry farmers, community

Adoption of any recommended technology largely depends on personal, social and economic characteristics of the farmers, which play an important role in decision making process. Since, adoption is an action, the role of situation or an environment is very crucial is under standing human behaviour. Behaviour takes place in situation, which has profound influences on the individual's action.

Acceptance of recommended poultry practices is not a unit act but a complex process involving sequence and through series of action. The action of an individual farmer is governed by personal, social and economic factor. Some farmers adopt new practices more quickly than other because of difference in personal characteristics. Similarly, if there is difference in economic factor, process of action is changed, thereby the pattern of adoption also changed. Therefore an attempt has been made to study the socio-economic status of poultry farmers of Banaskantha district of north Gujarat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat region. A sample size of 70 poultry farmers was selected based on the purposive random sampling technique. The tool used for the study was interview schedule and pretested for its validity. By personal interview method from all the 70 respondents, responses were recorded in the schedule. Frequency and percentage were marked for the various items. The data were tabulated and statistically analyzed as described by Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was observed that 70.00 per cent respondents were belongs to the middle age group followed by 22.86 per cent and 7.14 per cent of old age and young age group respectively (Table 1). The results are in agreement with the findings of Saiyad (1986) and Patel (1999).

Education helps in thinking and widening of mind, which brought about the acceptance of new technology. But here it was found that 47.14 per cent poultry farmers were illiterate, while 32.86, 10.00

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Table 1 Socio-economic attributes of poultry farmers

N = 70

Sr. No.	Particulars	Total No. of Poultry Farmers (Frequency)	Per Cent
1.	Age		
	i. Young age	05	07.14
	ii. Middle age	49	70.00
	iii. Old age	16	22.86
2.	Education		
	i. Illiterate	33	47.14
	ii. Primary	23	32.86
	iii. Secondary	07	10.00
	iv. Above Secondary	07	10.00
3.	Religion		
	i. Hindu	00	00.00
	ii. Muslim	70	100.00
	iii. Sikh	00	00.00
	iv. Christian	00	00.00
4.	Main Occupation		
	i. Poultry Farming	25	35.71
	ii. Dairying	20	28.58
	iii. Cropping	25	35.71
5.	Land Holding		
	i. Landless	25	35.71
	ii. < 5 Acre	27	38.57
	iii. 5-10 Acre	11	15.72
	iv. >10 Acre	07	10.00
6.	Family Size		
	i. Small	14	20.00
	ii. Medium	35	50.00
	iii. Large	21	30.00
7.	Income		
	i. Low	23	32.86
	ii. Medium	34	48.57
	iii. High	13	18.57

and 10.00 per cent poultry farmers were educated up to primary, secondary and college level, respectively (Table 1). The results are not in agreement with the findings of Saiyad (1986) and Patel (1999). This might be due to difference in region. Non-government agencies should work this direction to increase the literacy among the poultry farmers.

It was observed that all the poultry farms belong to only one community, i.e., Muslim. This shows that there was unilateral involvement of single community. No other community was found to be involved in poultry business. Religious taboos and social structure in the district might be the main cause for acceptance / ignorance of poultry farming. However in Kaira districts of middle Gujarat other community also runs the poultry farms (Patel, 1983, Saiyad, 1986). Whereas, in Haryana state poultry entrepreneurship is run by high caste hindus viz. Brahmins Para and Rajputs (Dahiya and Aggarwal 1993).

Mixed farming is followed now a day along with agriculture to earn subsidiary income. However poultry farming alone can be accepted for the employment generation. The results indicated that 64.29 per cent respondents follows mixed farming system i.e. poultry farming for subsidiary income along with cropping and dairying as main source of income. The results are in agreement with findings of Patel (1999). While, 35.71 per cent respondents were found to have poultry farming alone as main source of income. The result indicates that 35.71 per cent respondents are employed through poultry business (Table 1). The results are in agreement with the findings of Mathiyalagan and Subramanian (1995).

It was found that 35.71 per cent respondents were landless while 38.57, 15.72 and 10.00 per cent poultry farmers were small farmers, medium and large farmers respectively (Table 1). The results are in agreement with the findings of Patel (1983). While, results were not in agreement with the findings of Patel (1999).

It was found that 50.00 per cent poultry farmers had medium sized family while 30.00 and 20.00 per cent

respondents had large sized and small sized respectively (Table 1).

Land holding and flock size affect annual income. More income helps in adoption of new technology. From the personal observation and as reported by poultry farmers it was found that 48.57 per cent farmers had medium annual income while 32.86 and 18.57 per cent poultry farmers had low and high annual income respectively (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

Study revealed that all the poultry farmers belong to only one community, i.e., Muslim. So, farmers or respondents from other community should be encouraged for entrepreneurship /employment in poultry business. The study also revealed that 74.28 per cent of respondents are landless (35.71 %) and small farmers (38.57 %). Hence efforts should be made to encourage such type of farmers for more adoption of poultry farming as entrepreneur in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat region.

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