

Socio-Economic Status of Farmers in Karode Village of Thiruvananthapuram District

Dr.M.Subala

Assistant Professor

**Department of Commerce & Centre for Research
St Alphonsa College of Arts &Science Karinkal**

Vismaya Vince

Research Scholar (Reg No.:19213201012001)

**Department of Commerce & Centre for Research
St Alphonsa College of Arts &Science Karinkal**

(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundarnar University, Thirunelveli)

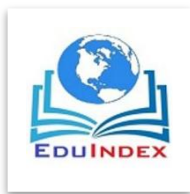
Abstract

Socio-economic status is the foremost issue in the contemporary world especially in the developing world. The economic development of farmers depends on their living standard and socio-economic conditions. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production, income and expenditure pattern etc. strongly influence their living standard and participation in development schemes. The present study was undertaken in Karode village of Thiruvananthapuram district. 60 respondents were selected for the study. The entire study is based on primary data which have been collected by door by door survey with a suitable questionnaire. From the study it is found that majority of the respondents are marginal farmers (holding up to 2.5 acres of land) having nuclear family, educated up to middle school, with medium annual income. Majority of farmers had medium level of socio-economic status. Only few percentages of people enjoy little better life where most of the people lie in risky situation.

Keywords : Socio-economic status, farmers

INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic status is the field of study that examines social and economic factors to better understand how the combination of both influences something. It is a combined measurement of economic and social position of an individual or a group in relation to others in the society. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production, income and expenditure pattern etc. of people strongly influence their living standard and participation in development schemes. This study focuses on socio-economic status of farmers in Karode village of Thiruvananthapuram district. Agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian economy and the farmers are important part for survival of our societies because they provide food and fiber that nourishes and cloths us. In Indian economy agriculture sector contributes 14% of total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population. Socio-economic study of farmers is mainly for understanding the present condition of farmers regarding the lifestyle, education status, health status,



and their overall development. It gives a picture of farmer and his family in respect of social and economic position in a community.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The farmers are the backbone of Indian economy but everything is not going right for them. Their life is getting more and more difficult day by day. The condition of farmers in India is critical. They are not getting enough pay. The middlemen get most of the money, so a farmer gets nothing in hand. Sometimes the situation gets so worse that they are not even able to get proper food. Thus farmers go in famine. Socio-economic study of farmers in Karode village of Thiruvananthapuram district is mainly for understanding the present condition of that farmers regarding their lifestyle, education status, problems faced by them and their overall development. As farmers are the main contributors to the country's GDP it is essential to study their economic and social condition.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the socio-economic profile of respondents.
2. To determine the factors influencing farm activities.
3. To analyse the problems faced by farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Karode village of Thiruvananthapuram district. Karode village was purposively selected as it was convenience to the researcher. From this village 60 respondents were selected randomly. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Specially developed interview schedule focusing on socio-economic status of the respondents was developed for primary data collection from farmers. Secondary data were collected from various books, journals, thesis and reports. Different statistical tools like simple percentage, rank test and the Garret ranking technique were used for analysing the data.

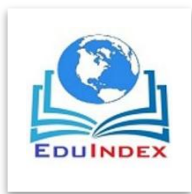
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

1. Socio-economic Profile of Respondents

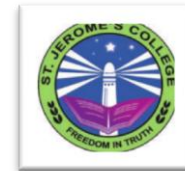
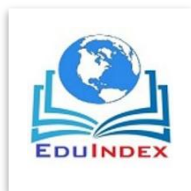
The researcher identified 13 parameters that help to know the socio-economic status of farmers in Karode village. The analysis is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Socio-economic Profile of Respondents

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Sex	Male	42	70
		Female	18	30
2.	Age	31-40	6	10
		41-50	9	15
		51-60	23	38.33
		Above 60	20	33.33



3.	Marital Status	Single	3	5		
		Married	50	83.33		
		Divorced	0	0		
		Widowed	7	11.67		
4	Level of Education	Illiterate	4	6.67		
		Primary School	14	23.33		
		Middle School	20	33.33		
		High School	12	20		
		Higher Secondary	7	11.67		
		Graduate	3	5		
		Post Graduate	0	0		
		Others	6	10		
		5	Type of Family	Nuclear	41	68.33
				Joint	19	31.67
6	Home	Hut	3	5		
		Kachha house	16	26.67		
		Pakka house	41	68.33		
7	Category of Farmer	Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)	51	85		
		Small (2.5- 5 acres)	8	13.33		
		Medium (5-10 acres)	1	1.67		
		Large (Above 10 acres)	0	0		
8	Farming Experience	Below 2 years	6	10		
		2-5	13	21.67		
		5-10	12	20		
		Above 10 years	29	48.33		
9	Material Possession	Motor cycle	42	70		
		Car	11	18.33		
		Internet Facility	5	8.33		
		Refrigerator	37	61.67		
		Gobar gas plant	25	41.67		
		Television	53	88.33		
10	Source of finance	Commercial banks	5	8.33		
		Co-operative banks	24	40		
		Money lenders	14	23.33		
		Friends & Relatives	10	10.67		



11	Savings from farming per month	Others	7	11.67
		No savings	10	16.67
		Below 1000	31	51.67
		1000-2000	14	23.33
		2000-5000	4	6.67
		Above 5000	1	1.67
12	Indebtedness	Yes	53	88.33
		No	7	11.67
13	Adoption of Technology	Poor	22	36.67
		Medium	35	58.33
		High	3	5

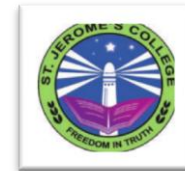
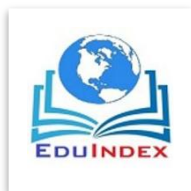
Source: Primary Data

The socio-economic characteristics of sample farmers have been presented in Table 1. It is clear from Table 1 that, 70% of respondents were male and 30% is female. Most of the farmers were included in the age category of 51-60 (38.33%) and above 60 years (33.33%). 83.33% of farmers were married. It was observed that, 6.67 percent of respondents were illiterate. 33.33 per cent of the respondents were educated up to middle school, 23.33 per cent of respondents were educated up to primary school level, only 5 per cent of the respondents were graduates. From this it is clear that, most of the farmers were educated up to middle school. 68.33 percent of respondents had nuclear family. Most the farmers had pakka house (68.33%). Only 5 percentage of farmers had hut. Majority of respondents in this village were marginal farmers (85%). That means they hold below 2.5 acres of land. Half of respondents had above 10 years of farming experience. Only 10% had the experience of below 2 years. 70% of respondents were using motor cycle. 18.33% had car. Only 8.33% had internet facility. 61.67% of respondents were using refrigerator. 41.67% of farmers had gobar gas plant and 88.33% of respondents were using television in their house. Majority of farmers (40%) were taken loans from cooperative banks. And 23.33% of farmers approach money lenders for capital. 51.67% of the respondents had a savings below 1000 rupees per month. 16.67% had no savings at all. And only 1.67% of farmers having a savings above 5000 rupees per month. Nearly 90% of farmers had indebtedness. Majority farmers (58.33%) were adopted medium level technologies. From above table the researcher can conclude that Majority of farmers in this village had medium socio-economic status.

2. Factors Influencing Farm Activities

The researcher identified 3 physical and 6 economic variables that help to analyse the factors which influence the farming activities in that particular village. The respondents are asked to give their opinion on it. The analysis is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Factors Which Influence Farming Activities



Factors	Frequency	Mean Score	Rank
Physical Factors			
Climate	29	0.48	1
Soil	21	0.35	2
Topology	10	0.17	3
	60		
Economic Factors			
Land Tenure	2	0.03	6
Market	7	0.12	4
Transport	4	0.06	5
Capital	19	0.32	1
Government Policies	11	0.18	3
Technology	17	0.28	2
	60		

Source: Primary Data

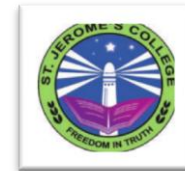
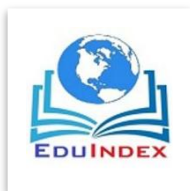
Table 2 exhibits both the physical and economic factors which influence the farming activities. It is clear from Table 2 that, most influence physical factor in this village is climate. And topology is the least affecting factor and it is ranked 3. In the case of economic factors, capital is the most influenced economic factor and it is ranked first. The technology scores second rank. Land tenure is ranked least in this table.

3. Problems Faced by Farmers

The following Table 3 shows the problems faced by farmers in this village. Garret ranking technique is used for analysis. The respondents were asked to give rank for each problem.

Table 3. Problems Faced by Farmers

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Average Score	Rank
F1	0	70	0	0	208	96	84	180	1015	198	1851	18.51	9
F2	3772	140	315	232	104	0	0	0	29	0	4592	45.92	1
F3	0	210	189	928	1144	576	0	72	29	18	3166	31.66	5
F4	82	560	1449	1102	0	384	0	36	0	0	3613	36.13	3
F5	1558	1960	315	0	208	48	0	72	0	18	4179	41.79	2
F6	328	420	567	1160	624	240	84	36	29	0	3488	34.88	4
F7	82	70	126	232	208	768	378	756	29	18	2667	26.67	7
F8	0	0	63	174	416	192	504	828	58	126	2361	23.61	8
F9	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	36	58	1008	1150	11.50	10



F10	82	280	189	406	468	624	462	144	145	54	2854	28.54	6
------------	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	------	-------	---

Source: Primary Data

Where,

F1 - Water Scarcity

F2 - Fragmented Land Holding

F3 - Scarcity of agricultural inputs

F4 - Indebtedness

F5 - Scarcity of Capital

F6 - Climatic Changes

F7 -Transport and Storage Facility

F8 - Agricultural Marketing

F9 - Soil Erosion

F10 - Lack of Mechanisation

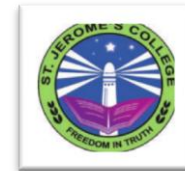
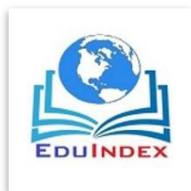
From the above table it is clear that, fragmented land holding (F2) is the major problem faced by the farmers in Karode village and it ranks first. Scarcity of capital (F5) and indebtedness (F4) score second and third ranks respectively. Soil erosion (F9) scores least rank.

SUGGESTIONS

- The study suggests that co-operative banks still emerge as an important source of financing loans. Steps should be taken to improve their efficiency.
- The banks should give soft loans to the farmers to help them to pursue their agricultural activities with easy terms and conditions and recover them from debt burden.
- The government should provide better seeds, fertilizers, better techniques of production.
- The government should take necessary steps to provide education to farmers.
- The government should take steps to give subsidies on fertilizers, seeds and for buying farm equipment.
- The study reveals that youngsters were not interested in agricultural activities. So it is essential to create awareness about the importance of agriculture among them. New age technologies should be taught to these youngsters so that it will create confidence among them to pursue agriculture.

CONCLUSION

Village is the prime institute striving for integrated rural development. The study focuses on socio-economic status of respondents. From this study it is concluded that majority of farmers in Karode village had medium level of socio-economic status. And they are facing some physical and economic problems. The government should take necessary steps to uplift the life of farmers. They should provide better agricultural inputs and financial assistance to farmers. The result shows that there is a need to give more emphasis on education of farmers as education plays a vital role in determining the adoption of new technology. It is one of the best steps to solve most of the problems. The farmers who have education will have a strong preference for the adoption of new technology in their field. This will help the farmers to get more yield and thus get more income. Each and every people in the society must be aware about the importance of agriculture and its



contribution to our GDP. Thus all of them have to get a chance to become a part in the growth of our country.

REFERENCES

- Atanu Nanda, 2012. The socio-economic status of pineapple growers under contract farming condition. Department of Agril. Extension Education, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252, India. Indian Journal of Agricultural Research.
- Satyameshwari Chouhan, Sameer Daniel etc. 2017. Analysis Socioeconomic Status of Farmers Adopted Agroforestry of Basavanapura and Hejjige Village, Nanjangud. India, Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Science.
- Anonymous, 2013. Annual Report 2012-2013, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. Government of India, March, 2013.
- Anonymous, 2016. "State of Indian Farmers: A Report", Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi.
- Mwase .W, Sefasi .A etc. 2015. Factors affecting adoption of agroforestry and evergreen agriculture in Southern Africa. Environment and natural resource research.
- Mukungei P. K, Cheserek G. J etc. 2013. Socio-economic factors affecting farmers' in Turbo division, Usain Gishu County, Kenya. Journal of emerging trends in economics and management sciences.
- Kale .N, S. Konde, D. Mankar, 2014. Socio-economic, psychological and situational causes of suicides of farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Karnataka Journal of Agriculture Sciences.