



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF MILK PRODUCERS IN KHATAV TAHSIL

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INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture is backbone of the Indian economy. In India, agriculture is a source of livelihood. According to 2011 census, 68 percent of Indian population is engaged in agricultural activity. It has been the source of supply of raw materials to our leading industries, but agriculture is known as gamble in the hands of monsoon due to inadequate and irregular rain fall. Indian farming is becoming uneconomic due to the heavy Pressure of population. Therefore, people cannot get adequate income. Hence they could not solve their economic problems.

In this situation, in India where 80 Percent of the farmers are small holders, agriculture should be supplemented with the subsidiary occupation such as dairy, poultry sheep rearing, cattle breeding etc. In these activities, dairy is leading activity and plays a vital role in the rural economy specially drought prone area. It change in socio-economic structure of rural economy. It provides employment opportunities to the people like landless small and marginal farmers with supplementary occupation and ultimately helps them to increase the standard of living.

We know due to less literacy rate workforce in tertiary area are also less so more illiterate people particularly woman from rural area are more attracted towards dairy sector. Today dairy is major regular source of income for the small and marginal farmers.

Objectives:-

1. To study the dairy activity in the drought prone area.
2. To study the socio-economic status of milk producers in Khatav tahsil.

The Study Region :-

The study region is a part of Deccan plateau. It has an average height of about 626 meters from mean sea level. The geographical area of the region is 136457 Hectares and populated by 16.68 lakh persons (2001) It includes 143 Villages.

Khatav tahsil is located south of Satara . It is bordered to the North by Phaltan taluka , to the north-west by Koregaon taluka, to the north-east by Man taluka of Satara district and to the South by Kadegaon and Khanapur tahsils of Sangli Districts.

In the study region Mahadev range is divided into three directions. They are different names such as central range as Mhaskoba Dongar, eastern range as Mahiman and Vardhangad Dongar and western range as Aundh Dongar. In Khatav Tahasil, Solannath, Bhapshah , Vardhangad and Bhushanagad are the small hill ranges.

The study region receives less rainfall than most and is categorized as a drought affected region.

Data base and Methodology:-

A geographical study is based on field work. The research work is based on both primary as well as secondary sources of data at village level. The Primary data relating to various

parameters of socio-economic status were collected through field work and secondary data is collected from District Census Handbook, Animal census, various books and reports.

The villages selected to 10 percent of total villages by random sampling method and the milk producers have also selected by 10 percent of total milk producers in each sample villages.

Data and information were analyzed by various methods conclusion were drawn.

Discussion:-

Table-1

Main Occupation of milk producers

Sr.No	Occupation	Milk Producers	Percentage
1	Farming	131	80.86
2	Dairy	05	3.09
3	Business	04	2.47
4	Services	01	0.62
5	Labour	21	12.96
	Total	162	100

Source:- Compiled by the researcher based on field work.

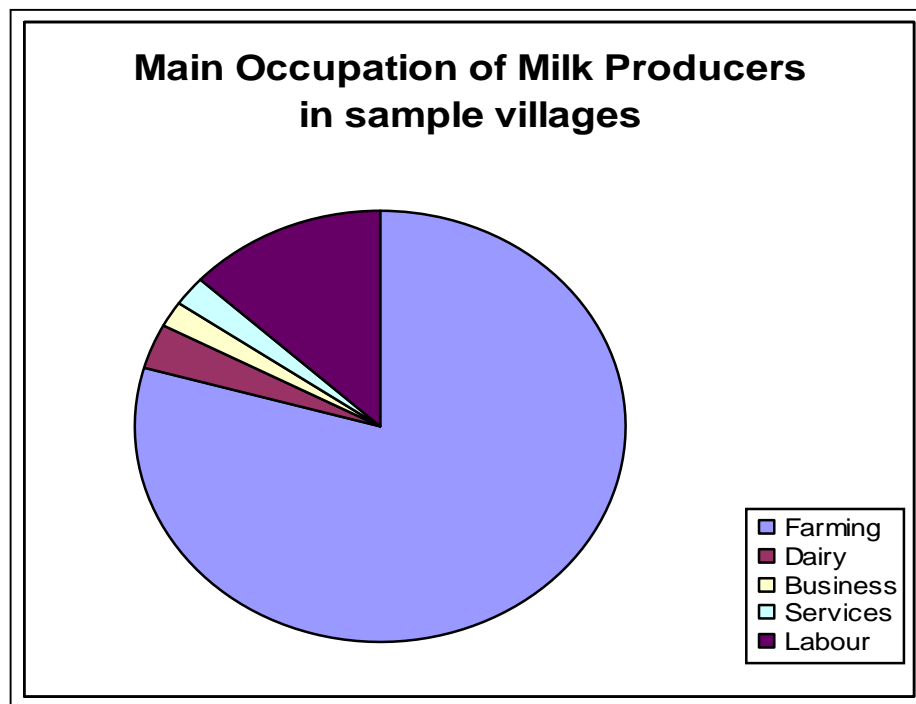


Table reveals that the main occupation of milk producers in the study region. It is observed that 80.86 percent milk producers main occupation is farming. The percentage of milk producers whose main occupation is dairy activity is 3.09 percent and 2.47 and 0.62 percent milk producers engaged in business and services respectively. Nearly 12.96 percent milk producers main occupation is working as labourer. Most of these labourers keep 2-3 cows or buffaloes for dairy activity. They get fodder free of cost the farmers for whom they work.

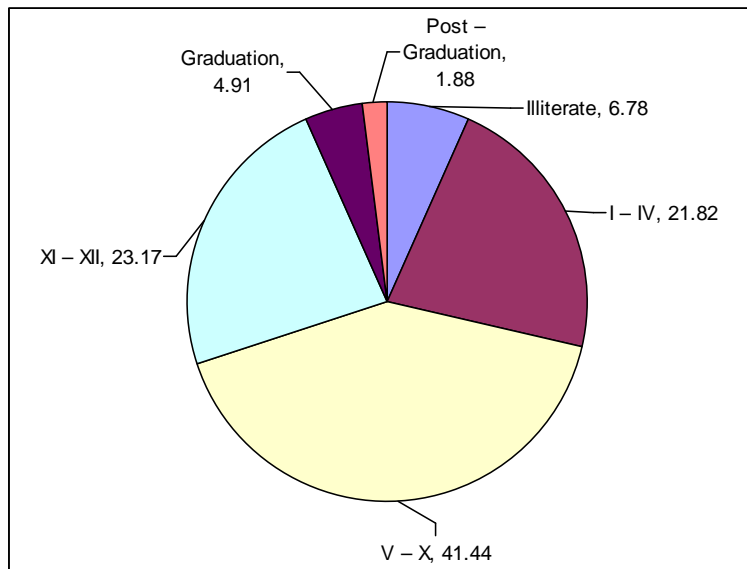
Table No. 2
Educational status of milk producers in sample villages

Sr. No.	Education	Percentage
1	Illiterate	6.78
2	I – IV	21.82
3	V – X	41.44
4	XI – XII	23.17
5	Graduation	4.91
6	Post – Graduation	1.88
Total		100

Source: - Compiled by the researcher based on field work

The table reveals that the educational status of 162 milk producers in 14 sample villages in Khatav tahsil. It is observed that the nearly 7 percent milk producers are illiterate. Illiteracy is generally observed among the agricultural labourers. It also shows the highest percentage (41.44 %) of milk producers in the high school category followed by Junior college (23.17%), Primary (21.82%), graduation and post-graduation. Most of the graduate and post-graduate milk producers have established their own dairy centers. They are financially supported by the banks.

Educational status of milk producers in sample villages



Economic Structure of the Region:

Table No-3
Employment provided by dairy activity

Dudh Sangh			Milk Societies		
Total No.	Total workers	Total monthly salary (lakh)	Total No.	Total workers	Total monthly salary (Rs.)
05	75	2.29	44	52	85300

Source :- Compiled by the researcher based on field work.

There are five number of dudh sanghs in Khatav tahsil and it is provided the employment opportunity to 75 peoples and 44 milk societies provided employment to 52 peoples, which monthly salary is found Rs 2.29 lakh and 85300 per month respectively. It means dairy activity create a large scale employment and helps the reduction of rural poverty. It also helps milk producer to increase the standard of living.

Standard of Living :-

Every persons social status depends upon various factors such as economic condition, sources of income, land holding, irrigation facilities, job, size of family, business etc.

Table-4

Availability of Particulars by Milk Producers in Sample Villages

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of milk producers	Percentage
1	Television	157	96.9
2	Telephone/mobile	160	98.7
3	Electricity	158	97.5
4	Toilets	141	87.0
5	Simple Home	135	83.3
6	Rcc / cement	27	16.6
7	Motor cycle	144	88.8
8	Four wheeler / Tracter	23	14.2
9	Refrigerator	29	17.9
10	Changing cropping pattern	06	3.7

Source :- Compiled by the researcher based on field work

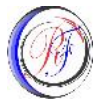
The table 4 reveals that the milk producers and their infrastructural facilities in the 14 sample villages in Khatav tahsil.

It is observed that there are highest percentage of milk producers (98.7%) have available telephone or mobile facilities, followed by electricity (97.5%), Television (96.9%) and Motor cycle (88.8%). There are 83.3 per cent milk producers lived in simple homes and only 16.6 per cent milk producers lived in cement and RCC buildings. It is also shows that out of 162 milk producers, 17.9 per cent milk producers have refrigerator and 14.2 per cent have four wheelers. But out of total milk producers only 3.7 per cent milk producers have changed the cropping pattern in last ten years.

Limitations:-

As no records were maintained by the households, the data was collected by survey method on their memory and past experience.

CONCLUSION:



1. Agriculture is main occupation and dairy farming in subsidiary occupation of the study region.
2. Dairy activity has become an instrument of changing the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor milk producers.
3. In Khatav tahsil, five dudh sanghs are collected the cows and buffaloes milk and chilling and pasturized them.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The milk producers do not maintain the records income and expenditure of dairy and related operations. It is suggested that the record should be maintained for their own performance.
2. Fodder especially green fodder supply should be increased the area under irrigation in drought prone area.
3. Farmers should be necessary to rethinking of HYV milch cattle in drought prone area.
4. Peoples should change their attitude regarding dairy farming, they should produce milk by-products.

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