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A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF BANDUR SHEEP REARING FARMERS IN MANDYA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture and livestock are inter-dependent in our economy and livestock has been recognized as an important approach for sustained livelihood. India has made remarkable stride in the area of livestock population in the world. Sheep and goat have an inseparable identity with the farmers in India from time immemorial. The present study focused on the socio-economic condition of the Bandur sheep farmers which is an exclusive variety of Mandya district, Karnataka. The general characteristics of farmers, earning pattern, land holding pattern, other livestock reared, kind and amount of investment, viable marketing channels and currently practicing methods are discussed. This study clearly shows that rearing Bandur sheep is profitable venture compare to other local breed of Mandya district and farmer's economic condition improving gradually.

KEYWORDS: Bandur Sheep, Livestock, Mandya District, Socio-Economic Conditions

INTRODUCTION

Livestock is one of the major forces behind every sustainable livelihood and it works in tandem with the agriculture as livestock provider. India has the largest livestock population in the world. The total livestock population of India makes up a huge number of 4890 million and India stands first in buffalo population (97 million), second in cattle (185 million), third n goats (124 million), fourth in sheep (61 million) and fifth in chickens (457 million). In India, Andhra Pradesh stands first in sheep population (21 million), followed by Rajasthan (10 million) and Karnataka (7.2 million). In goat population, West Bengal stands first (18 million), followed by Rajasthan (16 million) and Karnataka is in 9th position (4.4 million).

The present study focused on particular breed called Bandur sheep, which is an exclusive variety of Mandya district. The Bandur strain of the breed is known for its meaty conformation and meat quality. The State Animal Husbandry Department indicates that a large movement of this breed out of Mandya district because of an increase in irrigated cultivated area, leaving little land with natural vegetation for sheep grazing. There is a need for conservation of this breed, which is perhaps the best meat breed of the country as far as conformation is concerned, although body weights, weight gains, feed conversion efficiency and carcass yield are not much higher than other breeds. They are relatively small, predominantly white in color, but in some cases the face is light brown, and this may extend to the neck. They have a compact body with a typical reversed U-shape conformation from the rear. The ears are long, leafy and drooping, the tail is short and thin and a large percentage of animals carry wattles. They have a slightly Roman nose. Both sexes are polled. The coat is extremely coarse and hairy. Average age at first lambing is 645 days, with a lambing interval of 378 days. The

lambing percentage is 70 and the litter size is single. Breeding is pure; rams are generally selected on the basis of body weight and conformation. Dressing percentage on pre-slaughter live-weight basis for animals slaughtered at 12 months is 49. Wool production is approximately 372 gm annually.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The specific objective of the study is to analyze the socio-economic status of Bandur sheep rearing farmers in Mandya district, Karnataka.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The socio-economic condition of farmers engaged in rearing Bandur sheep is good than other local breed of Mandya district

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study pertains to the Bandur sheep rearing farmers present in Mandya district. The farmers are generally suspicious of the motive of any investigation. Therefore, the investigator has confronted with various drawbacks in ascertaining accuracy of data. However, greater care was taken to collect the data as accurately as possible. Further, the expressed opinion with regard to various issues of the study may not be totally free from personal bias and prejudice. Hence, the results of the study cannot be generalized (beyond the limits of the study area) in Karnataka as a whole.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

An acquaintance with related literature of past studies is a must for sound research methodology. The study regarding socio-economic status of livestock rearing farmers must be done. Some important studies have been reviewed hereunder. Robert (1981) undertaken a study to delineate the relationship between the economics pursuits carried out by men and women in a farming community in northern Ghana and the nutritional status of their children. Certain indicators of farm resources and investment were positively correlated with above average nutritional status, the most significant difference were noted with respect to the trading activities of the parents. The group of children which exhibited the highest proportion above the median weight for age was those whose mothers had their own income from trading.

Thiruvenkadan *et. al.* (2004) conducted a study o 2309 households of Mecheri sheep breeding tract to collect information on social economic status, marketing and economics of Mecheri sheep under farmer's field condition in Salem district.

Babatunde *et. al.* (2007) took a study on socio-economic characteristics and determinants of the food security status of rural farming households in Kwara state of Nigeria using random sampling technique. The study revealed that household and quality of food obtained from own productions were found to be the factors for determining the food security status of farming households.

Indranil and Bikramjit (2009) studied about the importance and benefits obtained from mied livestock farming which was a leveraging asset for rural development.

Choudhary *et. al.* (2013) conducted study to know family status of sheep rearers in arid and semiarid region of Rajasthan that 53.33 per cent of the sheep rearers prefer to live in nuclear family, while rest 46.67 per cent live in joint

family. It was observed that 79.17 per cent sheep rearers of the study area did not had any media for getting information while, 20.83 per cent sheep reareres received the information through radio, TV and news paper.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objective of the present study on the economic analysis of Bandur sheep farming in Mandya district, totally three taluks Mandya, Malavalli and Srirangapatna were selected because in these three taluks Banur sheep were dominating against local breed according to 18th livestock census. Again from each taluk four to five villages are selected. For the purpose of the study 16 village were selected from the three taluks by adopting the random sampling technique. From each village, 6-7 sample farmers were randomly selected for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

With the given data, which is being observed from the study, various results are being obtained. From the table 1, depicts the age group wise classification of the rearers revealed that majority (48.89 %) were in 46 to 65 years category followed by the age group of 25 to 45 and more than 66 years of age group. It is also shown education level of the farmers, which reveals that most of the farmers were illiterates (77.78) followed by the primary educated farmers (14.44 %) and secondary educated (5.56 %).

From the table 2, it has been found that agriculture is the main occupation of most of the respondents (70 %), followed by sheep rearing (18 %) and daily wages labour (12 %). The percentage of earnings by male and female members of the family is also discussed. Earnings from male family members constitute (90 %) whereas female members constitute remaining 10 %. Average annual income of the majority respondents (67.78 %) was less than Rs. 10,000, followed by 25 % of respondents with Rs. 11,000 to 20,000, 4 % of respondents with more than Rs. 30,000 and remaining 2 % of respondents with Rs.21,000 to 30,000.

The land holding pattern of the Bandur sheep rearing farmers is presented in table 3. Out of 90 respondents, 81 of the respondents (90 %) has 0 to 2.5 acres of dry land followed by 6 respondents (6.67 %) has 2.5 to 5 acres and 3 of them (3.33 %) has more than 5 acres. In case of irrigated land, 69 of the respondents (76.67 %) has 0 to 2.5 acres followed by 11 respondents (12.22 %) has 2.5 to 5 acres and 10 respondents (11.11 %) has more than 5 acres. In table 4, livestock reared along with sheep Bandur sheep is discussed. Out of 90 respondents, 39 respondents (31.45 %) rear cross breed cows along with Bandur sheep followed by 36 respondents (29.03 %) who rears goats, 25 respondents (20.16 %) rear buffaloes and remaining 24 respondents (19.35 %) rear bullock.

The assets owned by the Bandur sheep rearing farmers are presented in table 5. Out of 90 respondents, 71 of the respondents (78.89 %) reside in titled house followed by each 7 respondents reside in sheet (7.78 %) and RCC (7.78 %) respectively and remaining 5 respondents (5.56 %) reside in thatched house. Among the total respondents 59 respondents (65.56 %) has mobile phones, 61 respondents (67.78 %) has Televisions, 20 respondents (22.22 %) has two wheelers, 53 respondents (58.89 %) has bicycles and only 3 respondents (3.33 %) has cars. Out of 90 respondents only 13 (14.44 %) of them has pump sets and only 17 (18.89 %) has bullock carts.

Table 6 shows the market value of Bandur sheep according to its age and weight wise. For sheep whose age is less than 3 months weights less than 15 kgs have market value Rs. 3000 to 5000. Age of sheep from 4 to 6 months weights 16 to 20 kgs have Rs. 5001 to 8000 as market value. For sheep age from 7 to 10 months with weight 21 to 25 kgs has market

value Rs. 8001 to 12000 and from 11 to 12 months whose weight is 26 to 30 kgs has Rs. 12001 to 15000 market value. More than 12 months of age and weights from 31 to 35 kgs has more than Rs. 15,000 as a market value. Out of 90 respondents, 26 respondents (29.41 %) has sheep from 11 to 12 months of age, followed by 18 respondents (19.61 %) has sheep less than 3 months of age, 14 respondents (15.69 %) has 4 to 6 months old sheep, 12 respondents (13.73 %) has 7 to 10 months old sheep, 4 respondents (3.92 %) has more than 12 months old sheep. The remaining 16 respondents (17.65 %) has no idea regarding their sheep age and weight.

The composition of feed supplement given to Bandur sheep is shown in table 7. Out of 90 respondents, 32 respondents (35.55 %) give concentrated feed followed by 21 respondents (23.33 %) give horse gram , 18 respondents (20 %) give horse gram and concentrated feed, 4 respondents (4.44 %) give wheat flour and 15 respondents (16.65 %) give all the above mentioned feed. Table 8 represents the shearing and labor charges on Bandur sheep rearing. 54 respondents (60 %) were spending Rs. 30 as shearing charge, 17 and 18 % were spending Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 respectively. Only 2 per cent were spending Rs. 100 as shearing charge and the remaining respondents have no shearing charge. Majority of the respondents (97 %) were involved in rearing Bandur sheep and only 3 % respondents have hired the labour.

The marketing expenditure on Bandur sheep is shown in table 9. Out of 90 respondents, 32 respondents (35.50 %) spends commission/charges for middlemen more than Rs. 50, followed by 24 respondents (26.70 %) spends Rs. 51 to 100, and 2 respondents (2.2 %)spends Rs. 201 to 300 and 30 respondents (33.30 %) does not spend any amount. Majority of the respondents 49 (54.50 %) does not spend any amount as transportation charges, while 21 respondents (23.30 %) spends Rs. 10 to 50 as transportation charges followed by 9 respondents (10 %) spends Rs. 51 to 100, 7 respondents (7.8 %) spends Rs. 101 to 200, 4 respondents (4.4 %) spends Rs. 201 to 500.

Table 1: General Characteristics of Sheep Farmers

Sl. No.	Category		Sheep Rearing Farmers	Percentage to the Total
1.	Age	< 45	30	33.33
		46 to 65	44	48.89
		>66	16	17.78
2.	Education	Illiterate	70	77.78
		Primary	13	14.44
		Secondary	5	5.56
		PUC	2	2.22
	Total		**90**	**100.00**

Table 2: Earning Pattern of Sheep Rearer

Sl. No.	Category		No. of Farmers	Percentage to the Total
1.	Main Occupation	Agriculture	63	70.00
		Daily Wages	11	12.22
		Sheep Rearing	16	17.78
2.	Earning Members	Male	90	100.00
		Female	12	13.34
3.	Average Income	< 10,000	61	67.78
		11,000 to 20,000	23	25.55
		21,000 to 30,000	2	2.22
		> 31,000	4	4.44
	Total		**90**	**100.00**

Table 3: Land Holding Pattern of the Bandur Sheep Rearing Farmers (Bandur Sheep)

Sl. No	Category (Acres)		No. of Rearers	Percentage to the Total
1.	Dry land	0 to 2.5	81	90.00
		2.5 to 5	6	6.67
		> 5	3	3.33
2.	Irrigated land	0 to 2.5	69	76.67
		2.5 to 5	11	12.22
		> 5	10	11.11
	Total		90	100.00

Table 4: Livestock Reared Along with Bandur Sheep

Sl. No.	Livestock	No. of Farmers	Percentage to the Total
1.	Goat	36	29.03
2.	Cross breed Cows	39	31.45
3.	Buffalo	25	20.16
4.	Bullock	24	19.35

Table 5: Assets Owned by the Sheep Rearing Farmers

Sl. No.	Category		No. of Respondents	Percentage to the Total
1.	House type	Thatched	5	5.56
		Sheet	7	7.78
		Tiled	71	78.89
		RCC	7	7.78
2	Assets	Mobile	59	65.56
		TV	61	67.78
		Two wheelers	20	22.22
		Bicycle	53	58.89
		Car	3	3.33
3.	Farm asset	Pump set	13	14.44
		Bullock cart	17	18.89

Table 6: Age cum Weight Wise Market Value of Bandur Sheep

Sl. No.	Age of Sheep (in months)	Weight of Sheep (kgs)	Bandur Sheep Value (Rs.)	No. of Sheep Rearers	Percentage to the Total
1.	<3	<15	3000 to 5000	18	19.61
2.	4 to 6	16 to 20	5001 to 8000	14	15.69
3	7 to 10	21 to 25	8001 to 12000	12	13.73
4.	11 to 12	26 to 30	12001 to 15000	26	29.41
5.	> 12	31 to 35	>15000	4	3.92
6.	No idea (Female)			16	17.65
	Total			90	100.00

Table 7: Composition of Feed Supplement Given to Bandur Sheep

Sl. No	Type of Feed	No. of Sheep Rearers	Percentage to the Total
1.	Horse gram	21	23.33
2.	Concentrated feed	32	35.55
3.	Wheat flour	4	4.44
4.	Horse gram and concentrated feed	18	20
5.	All the above	15	16.65
	Total	**90**	**100.00**

Table 8: Shearing and Labor Charges on Bandur Sheep Rearing

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Farmers	Percentages (%)
	Shearing Charges (Rs.)		
1.	15	15	16.55
2.	20	16	17.77
3.	30	54	60
4.	100	2	2.22
5.	No Charges	3	3.33
	Labor Involved		
1.	Hired	3	3.33
2.	Family Members	87	96.67

Table 9: Marketing Expenditure on Bandur Sheep

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Farmers	Percentages (%)	Particulars	No. of Farmers	Percentages (%)
	Commission/Charges for Middlemen (Rs.)			**Transportation Charges (Rs.)**		
1.	<50	32	35.5	10 to 50	21	23.3
2.	51 to 100	24	26.7	51 to 100	9	10
3.	101 to 200	2	2.2	101 to 200	7	7.8
4.	201 to 300	2	2.2	201 to 300	4	4.4
5.	No expenses	30	33.3	No expenses	49	54.5
	Total	**90**	**100**	**Total**	**90**	**100**

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The socio-demographic classification of the farmers includes information about age, family status, earning members, education levels and occupation of the farmers. Among the rearers majority of the farmers were in the age of 46 to 65 years followed by less than 45 years age group. Similar studies have been found by Dahiya and Aggarwal (1993) studied that impact of socio-economic factors on the adoption of poultry farming in the three districts of Haryana, 70 per cent were land owners and aged between 20 and 50 years and only 20 per cent of new poultry farmers entered the business without any training.

Among the sample of farmers, the education levels is very low, most of the farmers don't have education background. Similar studies, which were being conducted by Jha *et. al* (2000) found that in Birchpur village of Karnal district of Haryana, 41.40 per cent of the rearers (dairy farmers) were illiterate and 23.77 per cent, 20.90 per cent, 3.27 per cent had high school level, middle school and college level of education respectively. From this study it is found that in most of the families males are the earning members.

The socio-economic status of the sheep rearing farmers can be measured by observing the parameters like type of residence, average income, land holding, assets (mobile, vehicle, television, bicycle, and car), farm assets (sheep, goats, bullock cart, pump set). Thiruvenkadan (2004) conducted a similar study to know the socio-economic status of the sheep rearing farmers. Most of the family's average income falls between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000. Jha *et. al* (2000) made study on farmers land holdings, they found that 29.51 per cent, 26.23 per cent, 28.28 per cent, 14.75 per cent and 1.23 per cent of the farmers were landless, marginal, small, medium and large farmers respectively.

According to this study, it has been found that majority of the farmers have residence with tiled roofing followed by roofing with the sheet and RCC. Similar kind of study was also being carried out by Babatunde (2007) which was on socio economic characteristics and determinants of food security status of rural farming households in Kwara state of Nigeria using random sampling technique. His study was focused on household income, household size, educational status of household's head and quality of food obtained from own production and also determined the food security of farming households. The assets like mobile, television, bicycle, two wheelers and car represent the economic status of family. From this study it has been found that only 65 per cent of the farmers were with the mobile, 67 per cent of the farmers said they possess televising on and only 3.33 per cent of farmers have car with them. Similar study has been done by Choudhary *et. al.* (2013) said that the farmers obtained the sheep market information from TV and newspaper which shows the asset with them.

For this study, the farmers were asked about the subsidiary farming practices along with sheep rearing. On an average every farmer has 3 to 4 goats, 1 to 2 cows and buffaloes (mulching animals). Only few farmers (15 and 18 %) of the farmers replied that they possess water pump set and bullock cart with them. Similar studies are being carried out by Indranil and Bikramjit (2009) who studied about the importance and benefits obtained from mixed livestock farming which was a leveraging asset for rural development.

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