



Socio-Economic Condition of Farmers in Western Hilly Area of Kolhapur District: A Case Study

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Abstract:

Socio-economic status of farmers plays a key role in agriculture. It is observed that eventually with time there has been a significant change in the overall life style of the farmers. Further the farmers are trying to increase their income level by investing more in agriculture activities. The present research work focuses on systematic assessment of socio-economic status of the farmers from western hilly part of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.

The area selected for the present study is western hilly part of Kolhapur district. This part mainly consists of seven tahsils viz. Shahuwadi, Panhala, Gaganbavda, Radhanagari, Bhudargad, Ajara and Chandgad tahsils respectively. 14 Villages are selected randomly from this area. Stratified random sampling method is employed for the collection of socio-economic data. Statistical Package for Social Sciences is used for analysis of the data.

Introduction:

Agriculture plays an important role in Indian economy. More than 68 percent population depends upon agriculture. Socio-economic status of farmers in western hilly region of Kolhapur district gives an indication to understand the social and economic background of farmers to understand rural development in the study area. To understand socio-economic status of farmers some indicators have been taken as unit of analysis. The socio-economic status has been analyzed by using indicators like sex, religion, castes, age, education, family type, family size, occupational status, income status, no. of wells, land status, housing type, housing facilities, and health status etc. These aspects are studied respectively and the results are included in this study. Current Study focuses on systematic study of socioeconomic status of farmers from western hilly region of Kolhapur district.

Objective:

1. To study the profile of farmers in western hilly part of the district.
2. To study the socio-economic status of the respondents.

Study Area:

Kolhapur district lies in the western side of Deccan plateau in Maharashtra state. The region under study extends between 150 17' north and 17017' north latitudes and 73040' east and 74042' east longitudes and comprising 12 tahsils. The average annual rainfall varies from minimum of 610.10 (Shirol) mm to maximum of 6021.70 mm (Gaganbavda). The major crops cultivated in the region are Paddy, Sugarcane and Nagali in western part of the district.