



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:

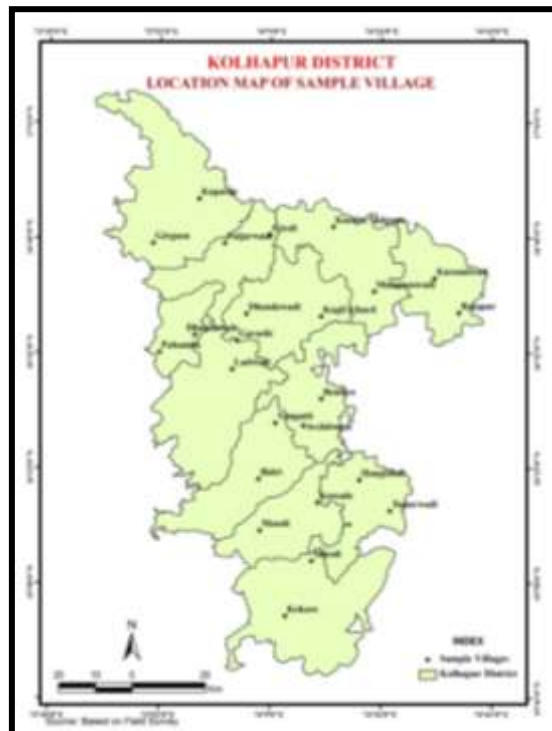
Agriculture plays an important role in Indian economy. More than 68 percent population depends upon agriculture. Socio-economic status of farmers in western hilly region of Kolhapur district gives an indication to understand the social and economic background of farmers to understand rural development 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.



Database:

The present research work is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through intensive field work through schedule, interviews, spot observation from farmers. Collection of primary data, fieldwork is very significant and accepted approach which provides the required data about the farmers for evaluating the socio-economic status. The secondary data is collected through village diary, Grampanchayat Office and District Census Handbook etc.

Methodology:

The present research study was conducted in Western Hilly Zone (WHZ) of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra during the year 2017-18. By seeing the convenience and familiarity of the researcher with the area Western Hilly Zone (WHZ) of Kolhapur district was purposefully selected. There are 12 tahsils in the Kolhapur district, out of these 7 tahsils of western hilly part is selected and 2 villages selected in each tahsil. So, 14 villages are selected for the present study. In each tahsil, one village is selected and it is situated near river bank or plain area and another one is apart from the river basin or near to hilly area.

The Stratified Random Sampling techniques are applied for collection of primary data. In each village, 15 percent household respondents are selected out of total households in the village by the random sampling techniques. There are 2105 total households in 14 villages, so 315 household respondents (15 percent) are selected for the collection of primary data.

Results And Discussions:

A. Profile of the Farmers.

1. Gender-wise classification of Farmers:

Table No. 1

Gender-wise Classification of farmers



Table No. 1

Gender-wise Classification of farmers

Sr. No	Gender	Respondent	Percent
1	Male	276	87.62
2	Female	39	12.38
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 1

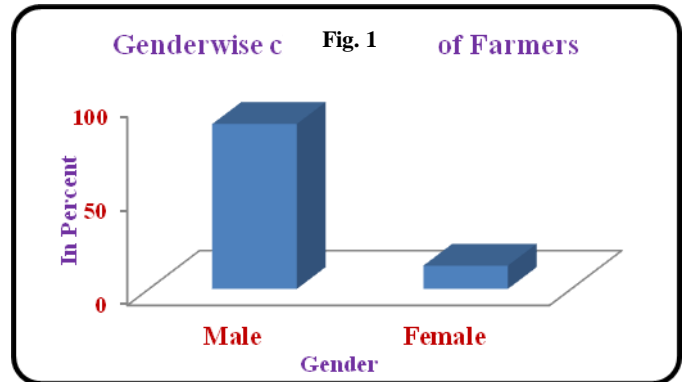


Table No. 1 reveals that gender-wise classification of farmers in case study village of Kolhapur district. In this villages 87.62 per cent respondents are belonging to Male category followed by 12.38 per cent are female respondents.

2. Religion-wise Classification of Farmers:

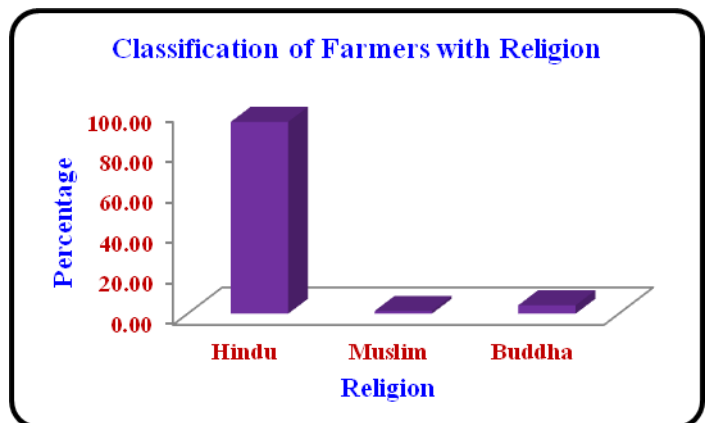
Table No. 2

Classification of farmers as per Religion

Sr. No	Religion	No. of family	In %
1	Hindu	298	94.60
2	Muslim	04	1.27
3	Buddha	13	4.13
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 2



Above table no.2 and fig no. 2 reveals that religion-wise composition of farmers in the study area. Farmers comes from different religion but in the study area maximum number of farmers are observed in Hindu religion i.e. 94.60 per cent followed by Buddha (4.13 percent) and Muslim (1.27 per cent) respectively.

3. Caste Composition of Farmers:

Table No. 3

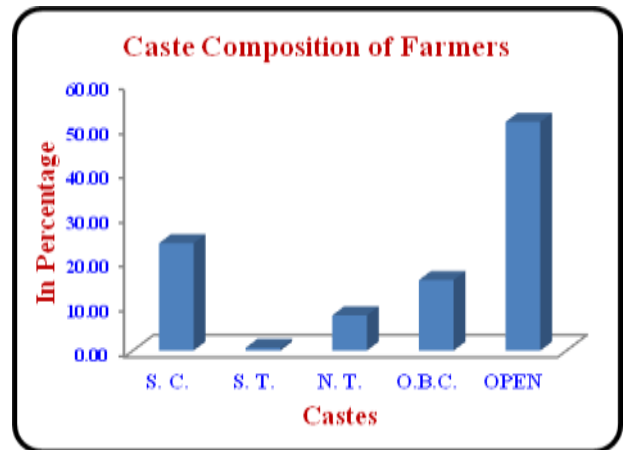
Composition of farmers according to Caste

Sr. No	Castes	No. of family	In %
1	Maratha (Open)	162	51.43
2	Scheduled Castes (S.C.)	76	24.13
3	Scheduled Tribes (S.T.)	02	0.63
4	Nomadic Tribes (N.T.)	25	7.94

Fig. 3



5	Other Backward Class (O.B.C.)	50	15.87
Total		315	100



Source: Based on Field Work.

Above table no. 3 shows that 51.43 per cent area followed by the Scheduled Caste and O.B.C. i.e. 24.13 per cent and 15.87 per cent respectively. Scheduled Tribe and Nomadic Tribes (N.T.) farmers having 0.63 and 7.94 per cent respectively in the study area. The socially backward caste Mahar, Mang, Chambhar, Dhor, Holar these caste people engaged in this work because they are socially lower category and landless or land holding size is very small.

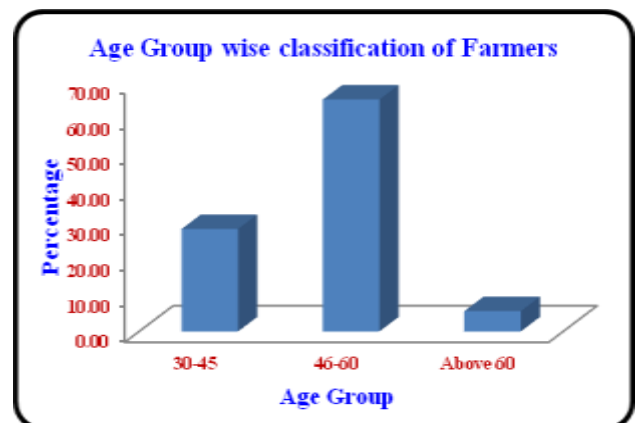
4. Age Group wise classification of Farmers:

The following table no. 4 showing the age group wise classification of farmers in the study area.

Table No. 4
Farmers according to Age Group

Sr. No	Age Group	No. of family	Percentage
1	30-45	91	28.89
2	46-60	206	65.40
3	Above 60	18	5.71
Total		315	100

Fig. 4



Source: Based on Field Work.

Age group of the farmers is different and un 60 has been found highest percentage of farmers w group of 30-45 (28.89 per cent), and Above 60 having 5.71 per cent respectively. The reason might be that middle aged persons are more experienced. They are actually doing the agriculture.

5. Educational Status of Farmers:

The following table no. 5 reveals that the educational status of farmers in the study area. Most of the farmers had primary as well as secondary level of education (Both of 31.33 percent respectively).



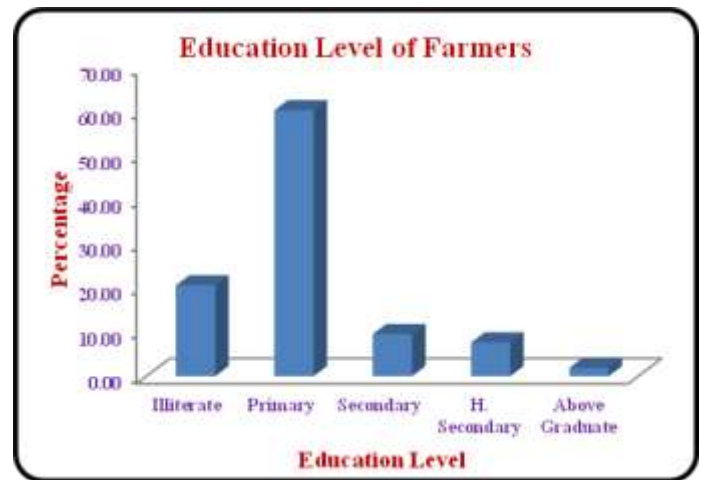
Table No. 5

Educational Status of Farmers

Sr. No	Education Level	No. of family	Percent
1	Illiterate	65	20.63
2	Primary	190	60.32
3	Secondary	30	9.52
4	High. Secondary	24	7.62
5	Above Graduate	6	1.90
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 5



Here educational status of farmers is shown in the above table. In the society economic standard is depends on the education so we have considered education status of farmers. Table also shows educational level in to five categories. In the sample villages maximum proportion of farmers i.e. 60.32 per cent belonging to Primary education level. In present study 20.63 percent farmers is illiterate. This is the main cause of the people to bring in agriculture sector. 7.62 per cent farmers educated upto higher secondary level. The graduation and above education is only 1.90 per cent. It means that 98 percent farmers left their school in middle due to economical problem and they are away from the awareness about education.

6. Type of Family:

The tendency of the family segregation is common in recent years and also the people interested to live independently for their better living standards. It leads to division of the families into nuclear families. 72.38 per cent farmers having nuclear family and 28.89 per cent farmers having joint family sample villages respectively. (Table 6 and Fig. 6).

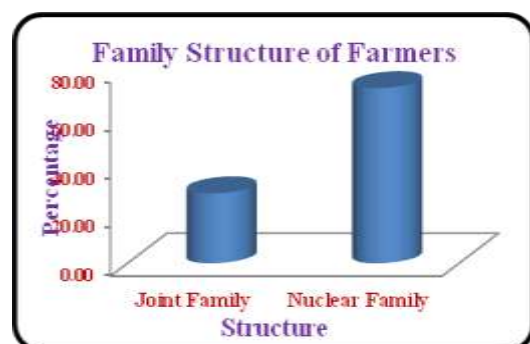
Table No. 6

Family type of Farmers

Sr. No.	Family Types	No. of Family	Percentage
1	Joint Family	91	28.89
2	Nuclear Family	228	72.38
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 6



7. Family Size of Farmers:

The study region is mostly dominated by the nuclear farmer's family. As per the family size analysis is made

Table no. 7 depicts family size of farmers in the study area. Here 64.76 per cent farmers have 4 to 7 persons in their family and 27.30 per cent farmers have less than 4 members in the family. 7.93 per cent farmers have large family size which contains more than 7 family members.

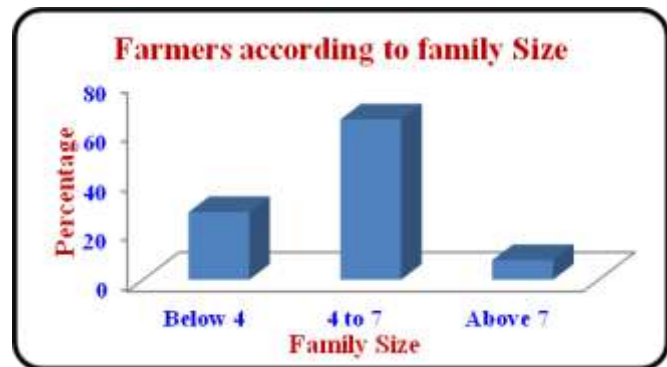
Table No. 7

Fig. 7

Family Size of Farmers

Sr. No.	Family Size	No. of family	In %
1	Below 4	86	27.30
2	4 to 7	204	64.76
3	Above 7	25	7.93
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.



8. Occupational Structure of Farmers:

Occupation is another one important indicator to analyze the socio economic status of farmers. Below table shows occupation structure of farmers and it is divided in six categories viz. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Hotel Business, Wage Labour, Govt. Job and Private Job also. In the study area most of the farmers are belongs to Agriculture (Farming) sector i.e. 74.60 per cent, followed by animal husbandry (8.25 per cent), hotel business (6.35 per cent), wage labour (5.40 percent), private job of farmers having only 3.49 percent respectively.

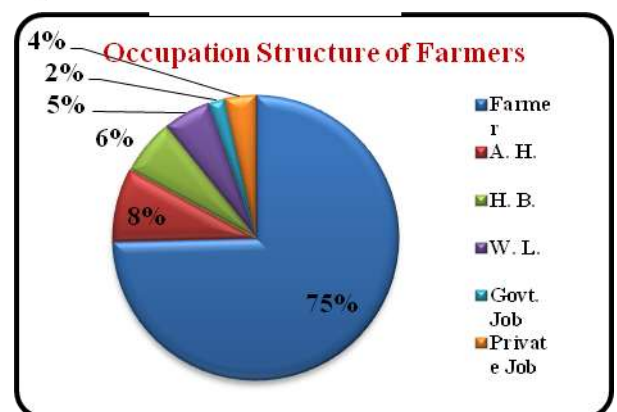
Table No. 8

Occupation Structure of Farmers

Sr. No	Occupation Structure	No. of family	In %
1	Farmer	235	74.60
2	Animal Husbandry	26	8.25
3	Hotel Business	20	6.35
4	Wage Labour	17	5.40
5	Govt. Job	6	1.90
6	Private Job	11	3.49
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 8



9. Income Level of Farmers:

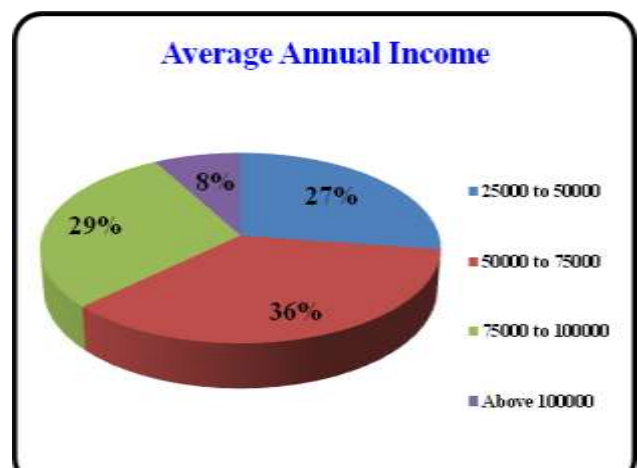
It is observed that, 35.56 per cent farmers fall in 50000 to 75000 income group followed by 29.21 % farmers in 75000 to 100000 in 25000 income group. 7.94 per cent of farmers fall in above 100000 respectively.

Table No. 9

Income Level of Farmers

Sr. No	Income Group	No. of family	In %
1	25000 to 50000	86	27.30
2	50000 to 75000	112	35.56

Fig. 9





3	75000 to 100000	92	29.21
4	Above 100000	25	7.94
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

10. Wells Classification of Farmers:

Wells are very important for irrigation purpose. The following table no 10 and bar-diagram no. 10 represents the wells classification of farmers. It is observed that, 58.41 per cent farmers having only one well followed by 35.24 per cent farmers having no wells, 4.13 per cent and 2.22 per cent of farmers having in 2 and 3 wells in the study region respectively.

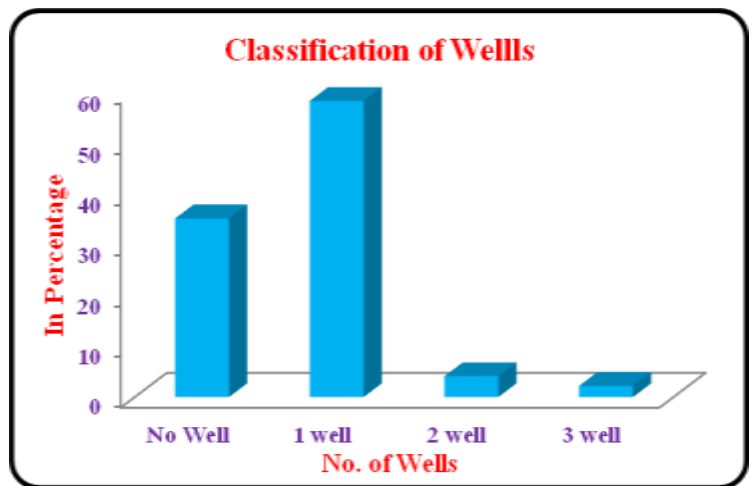
Table No. 10

Classification of Wells

Sr. No	No. of Wells	No. of family	In %
1	0	111	35.24
2	1	184	58.41
3	2	13	4.13
4	3	7	2.22
Total		315	100

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 10



11. Land-wise Classification of Farm.....

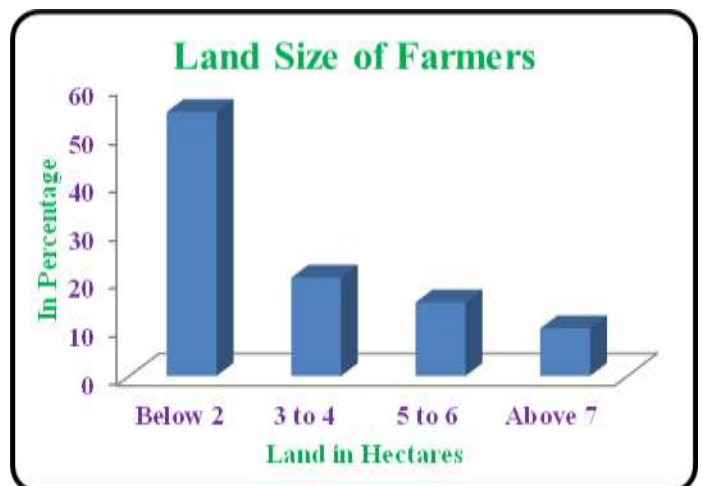
The bar graph represents the land classification of farmers in the study region. According to graph, 54.60 per cent families have below 2 hectare land followed by 20.32 per cent family in 3 to 4 hectare land, 15.24 per cent family have 5 to 6 hectare land and only 9.84 per cent families having above 7 hectares land respectively.

Table No. 11

Land Classification of Farmers

Sr. No	Land in Hectare	No. of family	In %
1	Below 2	172	54.60
2	3 to 4	64	20.32
3	5 to 6	48	15.24
4	Above 7	31	9.84
Total		315	100

Fig. 11



Source: Based on Field Work.

12. Housing type of Farmers:

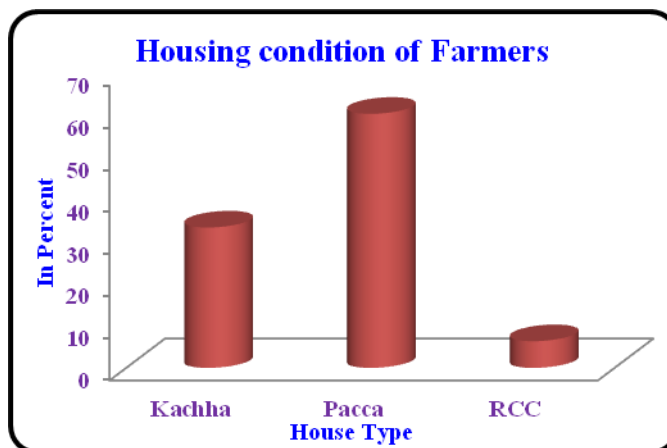
The Diagrams besides, represents the house type of farmers. It is observed that the house type of farmers is not uniform. 33.33 per cent family or local peoples construct Kachha homes. According to graph, 190 families (60.31 per cent) have Pacca houses and only 20 families (6.34 per cent) have construct RCC homes but size of house is small.

Table No. 12

House Type of Farmers

Sr. No	Type of House	No. of family	In %
1	Kachha	105	33.33
2	Pacca	190	60.31
3	RCC	20	6.34
Total		150	100

Fig. 12



Source: Based on Field Work.

13. Housing Facilities of Farmers:

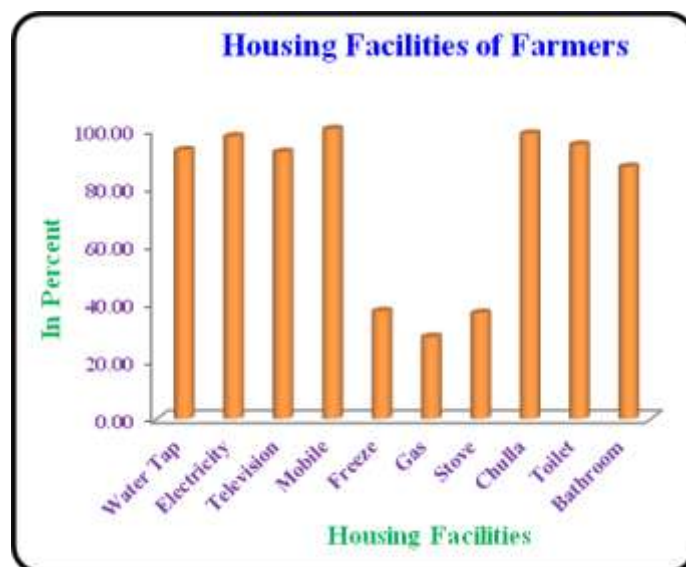
The following bar graphs represent an account of the facilities present in the houses of the sample Villages. Housing facility shows the standard of living of human life. In this villages 92.70 per cent houses is water tap available. In 307 families (97.46 per cent) having electrification available. In study area, due to Nirmal Gram Yojna of govt. 94.60 per cent farmers utilized toilets but 5.40 per cent farmers have no toilets.

Table No. 13

Housing Facility of Farmers

Sr. No	Type of House	No. of Family	In %
1	Water Tap	292	92.70
2	Electrification	307	97.46
3	Television	290	92.06
4	Mobile	315	100.00
5	Freeze	117	37.14
6	Gas	89	28.25
7	Stove	115	36.51
8	Chulla	310	98.41
9	Toilet	298	94.60
10	Attach Bathroom	274	86.98

Fig. 13



Source: Based on Field Work.



14. Type of Disease:

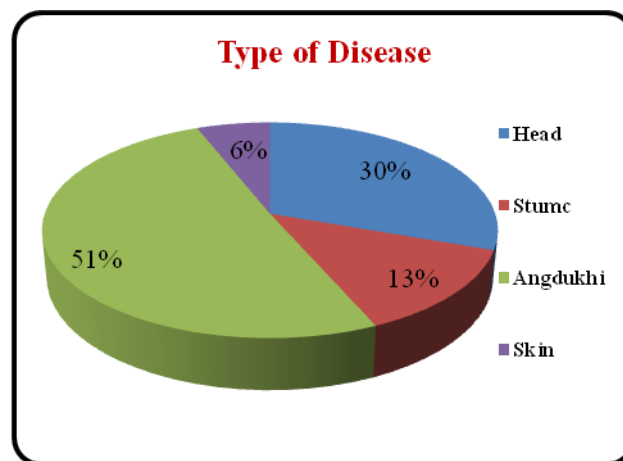
The below diagram represents the types of diseases that the farmers have undergone. It is found that 87.33 percent family have suffered from Angdukhi followed by 60 percent suffered from Stumc, 48 percent farmers suffered from Head and 20.66 percent farmers have suffered from Skin diseases respectively. All these diseases are due to their nature of activity and age.

Table No. 14
Type of Disease

Sr. No	Disease Type	No. of family	In %
1	Head	156	49.52
2	Stumc	67	21.27
3	Angdukhi	260	82.54
4	Skin	31	9.84

Source: Based on Field Work.

Fig. 14



B. Socio-economic Status of the respondents:

15. Socio-economic Status of Western Hilly farmers:

The composite indices of 14 items for 14 villages have been divided into three categories. The villages of the first category have socio-economic status is high (Index value above 105), those of the second category have moderately socio-economic status (Index value between 100-105) and those of third category low socio-economic status (Index value below 100) (Table 15).

Table No. 15
Socio-economic status of western hilly farmers

Category	Index Value	No. of Villages	Name of Villages
High	Above 105	02	Koparde (Shahuwadi) Shirol (Chandgad).
Moderate	100 -105	03	Giroli (Panhala), Kowade (Ajra), Masoli (Ajra).
Low	Below 100	09	Girgaon (Shahuwadi). Bidri-Vhangutti (Bhudargad). Gavashi- Ladwadi (Radhanagari). Dhundavde- Palsambe (Gaganbavda). Paijarwadi (Panhala), Kokare (Chandgad).

Source: Compiled by the researchers.

Majour Findings & Conclusion:

The findings of the study will help to know the socio-economic condition of farmers in western hilly part of the district. The study uses both primary and secondary data for analyzing the living standard of farmers.



1. The analysis of the socio-economic study of farmers helps to study the background of farmers. Majority of farmers belonging to Hindu religion (94.60 %) followed by Buddha (4.13%) religion.
2. Caste wise analysis shows socio-economic background of Maratha community is better than other caste farmer.
3. Age group wise analysis reveals that age group of 46-60 has been found highest percentage of farmers which is 65.40 % and lowest percent of farmers observed in the age group of above 60 (5.71%).
4. Educational profile of the farmers shows that 60.32 % of the farmers have primary education. Illiterates are noticed to the extent of 20.63 % but there is no post graduate farmers are noticed.
5. With respect to size of family 64.76 % farmers have moderate family size(4-7 members) followed by 27.30 % farmers have small family size (below 4 members) whereas only 7.93 % farmers have large family(More than 7 members).
6. It is observed that, 54.60 percent families have below 2 hectare land and only 9.84 percent families having above 7 hectares land respectively.
7. It is also observed that, house type of farmers is not uniform. 190 families (60.31 percent) have Pacca houses and only 20 families (6.34 percent) have construct RCC homes but size of house is small.
8. It is also found that in sample villages 92.70 percent houses is water tap, 307 families (97.46 per cent) having electrification, 94.60 per cent farmers utilized toilets but 5.40 per cent farmers have no toilets.
9. It is found that 82.54 percent family have suffered from Angdukhi followed by 21.27 percent suffered from Stumc, 49.52 percent farmers suffered from Headaq and 9.84 percent farmers have suffered from Skin diseases respectively.

Policy Implications:

- The study suggests that farmers should adopt allied activities as dairying, poultry farms, piggery, vegetables gardens and commercial crop so that they can supplement their income.
- The farmers of these seven tahsils are still relying only on paddy, sugarcane and Nagali.
- The study suggests that there is a need of government assistance to promote the participation of farmers, mainly female ones in agricultural training and workshops.

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