

PSOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE SMALL FARMERS IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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Abstract: The growth is far from inclusive. The Oxford English Dictionary gives four meanings to the word 'inclusive', with the most appropriate for the purposes in this paper being, "not excluding any section of society." Agriculture is extremely important for inclusive growth, since a large majority of the Indian population is dependent on farming. Improved agricultural productivity would bring in its wake increased family incomes for this vast majority. This, together with better infrastructure in the countryside – greater rural connectivity, rural electrification and investment in irrigation, would aid tremendously in tackling rural poverty, as well as add to the overall prosperity of the nation. The 'India Shining' campaign of the previous government failed to impress the people precisely for this reason because a majority of the rural populace had remained outside the purview of the increase in national GDP.

Keyword: Psocio-Economic , Farmers , society , electrification.

INTRODUCTION

Our path to agricultural development has necessarily to be two-fold. One, we have to develop villages, improve agriculture and agro-industries and infrastructure in rural India. Secondly, we need to empower the small farmers and give them new path for their farm development. On this ground firstly it is the need to find out the socio-economic status of these farmers. The same was taken into consideration in this study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the level of farm income of the small farmers.
2. To study the social aspects of the small farmers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

To study the above said objectives Marshiras and Madha talukas of the Solapur district were selected (i.e. one is high irrigated and second is low irrigated respectively). Then after from high irrigated taluka 5 villages were selected on the basis of having maximum area under irrigation and from low irrigated taluka 5 villages were selected on the basis of having low irrigated area under irrigation. From each village 10 farmers were selected. At the same time caste factor of the farmers was considered. In this way totally 100 farmers (i.e. from high irrigated taluka 50 and low irrigated taluka 50) were interviewed with the pre-tasted schedule. At the time of selection of farmers from these two talukas the farmers were selected who were having below 5 acres of land. Moreover, fieldwork was carried out in these two talukas in August 2011 to collect primary statistical information on the relevant variables. For to calculate the farm income at constant Price the prices of the year 2003-04 was considered and per capita farm income the following formula was used.

$$\text{Per Capita Farm Income} = \frac{\text{Farm Income at Constant Price}}{\text{Total Family Members}}$$

The secondary data was used from the socio-economic survey report of the Solapur District for the year 2009-10.

PROFILE OF THE SOLAPUR DISTRICT:

Among the districts of the Maharashtra State, Solapur district is known as the most chronic drought prone district. Agriculture in this district is an important economic activity. The prospect of agriculture is connected very much with timely and adequate occurrence of rainfall. The land use pattern showed that of the total geographical areas nearly 75% area was brought under cultivation. Thus, district has relatively higher proportion of the net sown area as compared to the state (58%). Moreover, the soil and climatic conditions in the district are such that it has both inferior cropping pattern, dominated by low value crops and relatively low yield in respect of most of the important crops. Of the total areas under cultivation, nearly 50% area occupied by jowar and followed by other cereals and pulses. Ultimately it shows the existence of peasant farming. Farmers in such low rainfall area get reluctant to adopt new technique in the production process due to uncertainty of returns associated with new techniques of production. The cropping pattern therefore is adjusted to the climatic condition and to a great extent to their own food habits and consumption pattern. Moreover, in such areas the magnitude of adoption of new crops and new techniques depend upon the speed with which they could be integrated and assimilated within the existing system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Land Ownership

The available land cultivated by owner himself is called the land ownership. Land ownership creates incentive to adopt new technique of production because owners can avail the benefits derived from new technology.

Table 1
Land Ownership

(Land in acres)

Sr.no.	Land	Area	Average area
1	Owned Land	298.5	2.98
2	Operated land	310.5	3.10
3	Lease in Land	12	0.12

Source: Compiled from the field work.

Table 1 shows that, the land ownership of the small farmers in Solapur district. The small farmers in Solapur district having 298.5 acres of owned land. But the operated land of the small farmers was 310.5 acres with 12 acres lease in land. In short the small farmers in Solapur district has averagely 3.10 acres of operated land.

Farm Income at Current Prices

Table 2 shows the farm income of the small farmers in Solapur district.

Table 2
Annual Farm Income

(at current prices in Rs.'000')

Sr.no.	Income Method	Income	Average Income
1	At Current Price	6656.12	66.56
2	At Constant Price	2658.76	26.58
3	Per Capita Farm Income	4.56	0.045

Source: Compiled from the fieldwork.

It is clear from the above table 2 that, the average income from farm to the small farmer was Rs. 66.56 thousand at current prices. For comparison purpose, farm income at constant price is more realistic as compared to farm income at current price. So it shows averagely Rs. 26.58 thousand. Per capita agricultural income is most important which measure the level of agriculture development. The per capita agricultural income here indicates the average income of farmer's family.

Use of Family Labour

Table 3 presents the use of family labourers on small farm in Solapur district.

Table 3
Annual Use of Family Labour in Agriculture

Sr.no	Use in	Number
1	Working Days	262
2	Per Acre Use	1.18

Source: Compiled from fieldwork.

The small farmers and his family member's work's on their farm for 262 days in a year. It is also found that, the per acre use of family labours on their farm was 1.18 days

Use of Hired Labours

The small farmers in Solapur district also use the hired labours on their farm. The table 4 shows the use of hired labours in working days on small farm.

Table 4
Annual Use of Hired Labours in Agriculture

(In working days)

Sr.no	Use in	Number
1	Working Days	7616
2	Per Acre Use	24.52

Source: Compiled from fieldwork.

The above table 4 reveals that, there was a 7616 working days worked by hired labours on small farm. Where the per acre use of hired labours in working days was 24.52.

Per Acre Productivity:

Here an attempt has been made to find the farm productivity (value) of the small farmers in Solapur district.

Table 5
Per Acre Productivity (Value)

Sr. no.	Item	Area/Rupees
1	Average Holding	3.10
2	Per Acre Productivity	8562.83

Source: Compiled from fieldwork.

Note: 1) Average size of land holding is in acre
2) per acre productivity is in rupees

It is clear from table 5 that, the average holding of the small farmers in Solapur district was 3.10 acres. While the per acre productivity of their land in value was Rs.8562.83.

Family Dependency

Moreover, an attempt is made to examine the position of dependency. How many family members depend on the head of the family is considered as family dependency. Table 6.6 showed the family dependency in Solapur district.

Table 6
Small Farmers and Family dependency

Sr.no	Item	Numbers
1	Dependent Member	483
2	Average Dependent Member	4.83

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork.

The above table 6 reveals that, the average dependent members on small farmers in Solapur district was 4.83. It means the population of India is failed to control the members of the small farmer's family.

Expenditure on Some Social Indicators:

The expenditure on some important indicators by small farmers has higher importance regarding to show their social status. On this ground here an attempt has been made to find out the expenditure of the small farmers on the some social indicators e.g. Education, News papers, Consumption, Health, Entertainment and Festivals etc.

Expenditure on Education and News Papers:

Table 7 shows the expenditure by small farmers in solapur district on education and news papers.

Table 7
Average Expenditure on Some Social Indicators

(in Rs.)

Sr.no	Item	Expenditure
1	Education	2394
2	News Paper (Per Month)	98.9

Source: Compiled from fieldwork.

It was found that, the annual average expenditure on education by small farmers was Rs. 2394. Where the monthly average expenditure on news paper was Rs. 98.9.

Expenditure on Consumption and Health:

Table 7 shows the annual average expenditure by small farmers in solapur district on Consumption and Health.

Table 8
Average Expenditure on Some Social Indicators

(in Rs.)

Sr.no	Item	Expenditure
1	Consumption	10744
2	Health	2030

Source: Compiled from fieldwork.

The expenditure on consumption and health are very significant regarding empowerment of family. It is clear

from table 8 that, the annual average expenditure on consumption by small farmers was Rs. 10744. While on health annually the average expenditure was Rs.2030.

CONCLUSION:

The forgoing analysis reveals that, the small farmers of Solapur district has averagely 3.10 acres of operated land. The overall economic condition of the small farmers was so poor. Because they were getting 26.58 thousand Rs. Income (at constant price) from their farm in a year. The use of family labours as well as hired labours on the farm was found very less. Moreover the productivity (value) of their land was yearly Rs.8562.83. About some social indicators it was observed that, there was near about 5 members are depend on each small farmers in the district. The expenditure on consumption and education by a small farmer in a year was only Rs. 10744 and Rs.2394 respectively. While the expenditure on the health was annually Rs. 2030. Moreover the small farmers in the district were spending monthly Rs.98.90 for news papers.

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