



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; SP-11(10): 172-173
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 02-08-2022

Accepted: 06-09-2022

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Socio economic profile of Kozhikootam beneficiaries of Wayanad district

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Abstract

Kozhikootam is a poultry farming entrepreneurial venture under Kudumbashree (Women self-help group) in Kerala, Kudumbashree has been empowering women in Kerala since 1998 by appealing women in a number of employment generation activities. A study was designed to analyse socio economic profile of Kozhikootam beneficiaries of Wayanad district. Multi stage random sampling technique was adopted, 75 beneficiaries were selected and data was collected using personal interview. The study revealed that majority of the Kozhikootam beneficiaries studied were of middle age with primary education, belonging Muslim religion and unreserved communities. It could also be observed that majority of them were living as nuclear families and size of the family was three to four members. Primary occupation was agriculture and secondary occupation being animal husbandry with above ten years of experience. Land owned by majority of beneficiaries was well irrigated with size of below one acre and birds possessed by each beneficiary were 16-20 each with average flock size of 18 birds. As majority beneficiaries are of educated and owning land chances for improving their livelihood by animal husbandry activities is possible.

Keywords: Socio-economic, profile, Kozhikootam, Kudumbashree, beneficiary

Introduction

In the ancient era there was a credible variation in societies view on role of women and their capacity to perform in different endeavours as evidenced from woman achieving highest levels of power in politics and other administrations. It is clear that literacy played a crucial role in recognition of power of women as well as their empowerment.

Organizations such as Kudumbashree facilitate underprivileged woman of the society to empower themselves. Kazhakootam is one such venture in which woman are betrothed in backyard poultry farming. Backyard poultry farming is one of the fastest growing sectors in Indian agriculture today. In sight of the growing concern about meeting the per capita requirement of protein for rural citizens of India, poultry meat and eggs have proven to be the best and cheapest solution to address this issue (Rath *et al.*, 2015) [6]. The poultry sector in India is broadly divided into two sub-sectors – one with a highly structured commercial sector with about 80 percent of the total market share and the other being unorganized with about 20 percent of the total market share. This unorganized sector also referred to as backyard poultry, plays a key role in additional income generation and family nutrition to the poorest of the poor.

Materials and Methods

Ex Post facto research design was adopted for the study and the unit of study was Livestock based Women Self Help Group (LWSHG) members. Multi stage sampling technique was used to select the final respondents for the study. Wayanad district was purposively selected for the study. As the livestock activity Kozhikootam was not implemented in Mananthavady taluk, the respondents were selected only from the remaining two taluks. Six groups, each comprised of five members, and two groups, each comprised of ten members, of Kozhikootam were selected from Vythiri taluk. Five groups, each comprised of five members, of Kozhikootam livestock activity were also selected at randomly from Sulthan Bathery. The final sample size of the Kozhikootam livestock activity selected from the two taluks was 75 respondents. Interview schedule was used as a tool to collect information from the respondents. For this a well-structured interview schedule was prepared and data was collected by personal interview with the beneficiaries.

Results and Discussion

The socio-economic profile of respondents of the study revealed that 61.33 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to the middle age group, followed by young age group (24.00%) and old age group (14.67%) This may be due to the fact that middle aged persons are more capable to carry out activities of the farm in addition to household work. The above finding was in agreement with Chetan (2014)^[1] and Soni *et al.* (2016)^[2]. 36.00 percent of beneficiaries had secondary education while the beneficiaries belonging to illiterate, primary, higher secondary and diploma education categories were 9.33 percent, 33.33 percent, 13.33 percent and 8.00 percent respectively. None of the beneficiaries had education of graduation and above.

45.33 percent of the beneficiaries were Muslims followed by Hindus (33.33%) and Christians (21.33%). 46.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to general caste followed by OBCs (44.00%) and STs (9.33%). As per the 2011 census report of religion wise population of Wayanad district, Hindu population is highest in the district. The findings in case of Pratap *et al.* (2017)^[5] displayed almost equal representation of Hindu and Muslim community.

82.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to nuclear family followed by joint family (17.33%). 70.67 percent of the beneficiaries had family size of three to four members followed by five to six members (28.00%) and one to two members (1.33%). None of them had family size of seven to above. This reflects the trend of modern social system where the desire to live an independent life, insulated against probable familial conflict and the general tendency of the parents to give their children a separate living space is evident. This finding was in line with Thangamani and Muthuselvi (2013)^[3].

69.33 percent of the beneficiaries considered agriculture as their primary occupation followed by animal husbandry (13.33%), self-employment (9.33%) and farm laborers (8.00%). None of the beneficiaries were neither unemployed nor government employees. 86.67 percent of the beneficiaries considered animal husbandry as their secondary occupation followed by no secondary occupation (12.00%) and agriculture (1.33%) and none of the beneficiaries were neither self-employed nor farm laborers. This finding was in agreement with the finding of Babu (2013)^[4].

74.67 percent were highly experienced followed by moderately experienced (21.33%) and less experienced (4.00%) category. Agriculture and animal husbandry are considered as family livings and the beneficiaries had reasonably more experience in the selected livestock activities. The above finding was in line with Chethan (2014)^[1].

53.33 percent of the beneficiaries were having land holding below one acre followed by up to 10 cents (22.67%), one to two acres (10.67%), above two acres (5.33%) and 8.00 percent of beneficiaries were landless. The smaller landholding might be due to augmented population resulting in shattering, as majority of beneficiaries in this study belonged to nuclear family type and subdivision of land by family members. The above finding is in line with that of Chethan (2014)^[1].

89.85 percent of the beneficiaries were having land with well irrigation followed by rain fed (8.69%) and canal irrigation (1.45%). As majority of beneficiaries considered agriculture as primary occupation therefore irrigation facilities are well equipped.

33.33 percent of beneficiaries possessed 15 to 20 birds followed by one to five birds (25.33%), six to ten birds and 20 to 50 birds (16.00%), 11 to 15 birds (6.67%) and above 50 birds (2.67%). As this venture was mainly concentrated on backyard poultry rearing therefore the average flock size was 18.

45.33 percent of the beneficiaries had annual total income of 25,000 to 50,000 rupees followed by below 25,000 rupees (40.00%), 50,000 to one lakh rupees (12.00%) and above one lakh rupees (2.67%) before joining SHG. 42.67 percent of the beneficiaries had income ranging from 25,000 to 50,000 followed by 37.33 percent with below 25,000, 16.00 percent with 50,000 to one lakh and 4.00 percent with above one lakh rupees after joining SHG. Income after joining SHGs has comparatively increased when compared to income after joining SHGs.

Conclusion

The present study helped us to derive the conclusion that majority of the beneficiaries belonged to middle age group with primary education. As majority of the beneficiaries were of nuclear family type with three to four members of family size resulted in greater income when compared to before joining SHGs. These beneficiaries should be trained about farming in large scale and increasing income.

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