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Maousami
Ex-Ph.D. Scholar, Department Veterinary Extension Education, IVRI, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, Livestock Development, Chhattisgarh, India

BP Singh
Head, Division of Technology Assessment and Capacity Building ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya, India

Manoj Yadav
Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, Livestock Development Department, Chhattisgarh, India

Rajesh Kumar
Associate Professor, Department of VAHEE, COVAS, Kishanganj, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Bihar, India

Corresponding Author:
Rajesh Kumar
Associate Professor, Department of VAHEE, COVAS, Kishanganj, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Bihar, India

Social and economic characteristics of Hill Korwa tribes involved in Animal husbandry practices

Maousami, BP Singh, Manoj Yadav and Rajesh Kumar

Abstract
Animal husbandry can play a vital role in tribal development as it generates a continuous stream of income and employment. The present study was carried out purposively in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, because of the highest population of Hill Korwa tribes. From each village 10 respondents (Hill Korwas) having livestock and poultry with them, were selected randomly to make the total sample size of 200 in present study. Analysis of data revealed that Majority (61%) of respondents from pooled data were from middle age group were illiterate, possessed medium level of experience, only 45 percent respondents had formal training on different topics related to agriculture farming, livestock farming, forestry, environment protection etc. 48 percent of the respondents had radio, 37 percent had mobile phone majority (73%) of respondents were labour followed by livestock farming (21%) and majority of respondents belonged to medium (Rs 6000-10000), categories of income from livestock and poultry.

Keywords: Social and economic characteristics, Hill Korwa tribes, Income, Employment, Occupation

Introduction
India has the largest concentration of tribal population in Asia and it is the second largest in the world. As per NSSO (2009-10) the population of Schedule Tribe in India is 806.49 lakhs in which 68.28 lakhs belongs to Chhattisgarh state, percentagewise it is 10.87% for India and 38.34% for Chhattisgarh. At present five primitive tribes live in Chhattisgarh, Hill Korwa is one among them. They are predominantly rural living, mostly in forests and mountains. A large segment of their population lives below the poverty line and suffers from a high infant mortality rate, severe malnutrition, various communicable diseases, lower literacy rates and an extremely slow pace of development. Animal husbandry can play a vital role in tribal development as it generates a continuous stream of income and employment. For the tribal households, dairying is one of the most important and economically viable occupations, which provide them a source of income to sustain their livelihood whereas, goats and poultry offer a lot of potential for livelihood improvement. A comprehensive review of available literature regarding Hill Korwa tribes reveals that social and economic characteristics are predominating factor in development of the animal husbandry sector among them. Assuming the importance of the fact social and economic parameters studied in-depth among Hill Korwa tribes.

Materials and Methods
Based on the nature of research problem, exploratory research design was followed in the present study. The present study was carried out purposively in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, because of the highest population of Hill Korwa tribes. Each block was selected purposively as having five or more villages comprising more than 20 households of Hill Korwa tribes. From each block 5 villages were selected randomly. Selection of villages was also followed double phase sampling. In first phase, only those villages were selected which were having more than 20 tribal households of hill korwas. In second phase, 5 villages were selected randomly from previously identified villages for the study. Hence, study was conducted in 20 selected villages from four blocks. From each village 10 respondents (Hill Korwas) having livestock and poultry with them, were selected randomly to make the total sample size of 200 in present study. The data collected from respondents were coded, tabulated, analyzed and presented in the form of tables. The various statistical tools like frequency and percentages, arithmetic mean, range and chi square test etc. were used in analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Personal characteristics of Hill Korwa tribes

The data presented in Table 1 reveals that majority of respondents (61%) as a whole were from middle age group followed by young (22%) and old (17%) age groups. Majority of respondents from small (67.8%), medium (48.5%) and large (62.5%) herd size categories were in middle age group. Maurya (2010) [3] and Kumar (2012) [2] also reported majority of the respondents under middle age group. It is evident that majority (99%) of respondents in all the groups were illiterate. Only in small herd size category 1.7% respondents were educated upto high school. Lack of educational facilities, unawareness, lack of interest and lack of resources might be the reasons for illiteracy among majority of respondents. Sharma *et al.* (2007) [7] also found only 2.64% literacy rate in hill korwa tribes. The experience gained in animal husbandry is reflected through years of involvement. Majority of overall respondents (60%) possessed medium level of experience followed by low level of experience (30%) and high level of experience (10%). Majority of respondents from small (57.6%), medium (63.6%) and large (62.5%) herd size categories had medium level of experience. It was found in the study area that, majority (55%) respondents never had formal training whereas 45 percent respondents had formal training on different topics as tendu patta sangrahan and save forest from fire, goat management and feed fodder development, integrated water management programme, tribal development, urea treatment, increase water holding capacity, self-help group preparation, mashroom production, backyard poultry farming, education and sanitation development, water shed development, inhancing life style and knowledge about different schemes, self-help group preparation for honey production, increase livestock production, seed production programme, common disease and their management, increase livestock and agricultural products, goat management and feed fodder development and forest protection etc. It is supported by Chauhan *et al.* (2004) [1], Singh and Mate (2013) [8], Tungdim and Kapoor (2010) [10] and Puttaraja and Heggade (2012) [4].

Table 1: Personal characteristics of respondents among different herd size categories

Variables	Small (n=118)	Medium (n=66)	Large (n=16)	Overall (N=200)	Pearson Chi-Square
Age (in years)					**18.85****
Young (25-38)	28(23.7)	12(18.2)	4(25)	44(22)	
Middle (39-51)	80(67.8)	32(48.5)	10(62.5)	122(61)	
Old (52-65)	10(8.5)	22(33.3)	2(12.5)	34(17)	
Education of respondents					**1.40**
Illiterate	116(98.3)	66(100)	16(100)	198(99)	
High school	2(1.7)	0(0)	0(0)	2(1)	
Experience of livestock farming (in years)					**31.27****
Low (5-17)	48(40.7)	10(15.2)	2(12.5)	60(30)	
Medium (18-29)	68(57.6)	42(63.6)	10(62.5)	120(60)	
High (30-41)	2(1.7)	14(21.2)	4(25)	20(10)	
Training received					**21.45****
No	72(61)	38(57.6)	0(0)	110(55)	
Yes	46(39)	28(42.4)	16(100)	90(45)	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage
Figures bears different superscript differ significantly
**p<0.01; *p<0.05

Social characteristics of Hill Korwa tribes

It is evident from table 2 that the majority of respondents in small (81.4%), medium (66.7%), large (100%) and overall (78%) were grouped under medium (4-6 members) family size followed by large (>6 members) and small (< 4 members) family size type. Result indicates that there was highly significant association among these three categories of respondents and their family size. It reflects that majority of the small (96.6%), medium (78.8%), large (100) and overall respondents (91%) had nuclear family whereas joint family was dominated among only 9 percent respondents. Nuclear family is a prime cultural characteristic of Hill Korwa tribes. Sharma *et al.* (2007) [7] also discovers nuclear family among the hill korwas preponderates with a frequency of 96.25 percent.

Table 2: Social characteristics of respondents among different herd size categories

Variables	Small (n=118)	Medium (n=66)	Large (n=16)	Overall (N=200)	Pearson Chi-Square
Family size					**46.21****
Small (>4)	18(15.3)	0(0)	0(0)	18(9)	
Medium (4-6)	96(81.4)	44(66.7)	16(100)	156(78)	
Large (6<)	4(3.4)	22(33.3)	0(0)	26(13)	
Family type					**18.13****
Nuclear	114(96.6)	52(78.8)	16(100)	182(91)	
Joint	4(3.4)	14(21.2)	0(0)	18(9)	
Family size					**46.21****
Small (>4)	18(15.3)	0(0)	0(0)	18(9)	
Medium (4-6)	96(81.4)	44(66.7)	16(100)	156(78)	
Large (6<)	4(3.4)	22(33.3)	0(0)	26(13)	
Family type					**18.13****
Nuclear	114(96.6)	52(78.8)	16(100)	182(91)	
Joint	4(3.4)	14(21.2)	0(0)	18(9)	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage
Figures bears different superscript differ significantly
**p<0.01;*p<0.05

Economic characteristics of Hill Korwa tribes

Possession of communication and entertainment materials may increase the exposure of an individual to outside world and thereby the general awareness and progressive outlook of an individual also enhance. The study reveals that in overall data only 48 percent of the respondents had radio, 37 percent had mobile phone and 1 percent had motorcycle with them, whereas majority (90%) of respondents had bicycle with them. The results indicate the poor economic condition of Hill Korwa tribes. Possession of mobile and radio were highly associated with herd size categories as shown by chi square analysis. Table reveals that majority (73%) of respondents were engaged in labour as their primary occupation followed by livestock farming (21%) and agricultural farming (6%). Majority of small (78%) and medium (72.7%) herd size categories were engaged in labour as their prime occupation. Livestock farming was the prime occupation for the respondents of large herd size category (50%). Herd size categories were highly associated with livestock farming, agriculture farming and labor as shown by chi square analysis. For subsidiary occupation 80 percent of respondents were engaged with labour and 79 percent each were engaged with livestock farming and agriculture farming. Whereas 11 percent respondents were engaged with other livelihood activities such as collection and selling of Mahua, Tamarind, Tendu leaves, fuel wood etc. from the forest. Land is considered as one of the important socio-economic indicators as for as wealth of the farmers. Land holding shows the social status and progressiveness of the farmer. Data presented in the table 3 indicated that majority of respondents from small (69.5%), medium (90.9%) and large (37.5%) herd size categories were small land holders owning 0.05-2.05 acres of land. The pooled figure indicates that majority (74%) of respondents were small land holders (0.05 -2.05 acres), 22 percent were landless and 2 percent each were medium (2.06-4.05 acres) and large (4.06-6.05 acres) land holders. It is evident from the data in Table 3 that the overall majority (49%) of respondents falls under medium (9-17 birds) flock size category, followed by 37 percent in small (0-8 birds) and 14 percent in large (18-26 birds) flock size category. Majority of respondents in each group (small 45.6 percent, medium 54.5percent and large 50 percent) had small flock size. Majority of large sized flock holders fall into medium herd size category. Mandal *et al*. (2006) also reported that majority of the respondents (72.92%) had a medium flock size. Only 10.41 percent poultry owners had a small flock size. Most of small (52.5%), medium (48.5%), large (50%) and overall farmers (51%) belong to medium (Rs 18000-27000) income group followed by high (Rs 28000-37000) and low (Rs 7000-17000) income groups. In pooled data majority (47.5%) belonged to medium (Rs 6000-10000), 11000-15000) income categories as reported by Thorat (2009). In the small herd size category, 60.2 percent respondents belonged to low-income category and in medium herd size category 72.7 percent belonged to medium income category whereas 37.5 percent each of large herd size category belonged to low- and medium-income categories.

Table 3: Economic characteristics of respondents among different herd size categories

Variables	Small(n=118)	Medium (n=66)	Large (n=16)	Overall (N=200)	Pearson Chi-Square
Radio possession					3.94
No	68(58)	28(42.4)	8(50)	104(52)	
Yes	50(42)	38(57.6)	8(50)	96(48)	
Mobile possession					11.08**
No	80(67.8)	42(63.6)	4(25)	126(63)	
Yes	38(32.2)	24(36.4)	12(75)	74(37)	
Bicycle possession					15.44**
No	20(17)	0(0)	0(0)	20(10)	
Yes	98(83)	66(100)	16(100)	180(90)	
Motorcycle possession					1.40
No	116(98)	66(100)	16(100)	198(99)	
Yes	2(1.7)	0(0)	0(0)	2(1)	
Primary occupation					
Agricultural farming	2(1.7)	8(12.1)	2(12.5)	12(6)	9.46**
Livestock farming	24(20.3)	10(15.2)	8(50)	42(21)	9.50**
Labour	92(78)	48(72.7)	6(37.5)	146(73)	11.70**
Subcidiary occupation					
Agricultural farming	90(76.3)	56(84.8)	12(75)	158(79)	2.04
Livestock farming	94(80)	56(84.8)	8(50)	158(79)	9.50**
Labour	94(80)	52(78.8)	14(87.5)	160(80)	0.63
Others	8(6.8)	10(15.2)	4(25)	22(11)	6.51*
Land holding					74.85**
No land	36(30.5)	4(6.1)	4(25)	44(22)	
Small (.05-2.05)	82(69.5)	60(90.9)	6(37.5)	148(74)	
Medium (2.06-4.05)	0(0)	2(3)	2(12.5)	4(2)	
Large (4.06-6.05)	0(0)	0(0)	4(25)	4(2)	
Flock size					10.30*
Small (0-8)	50(42.4)	16(24.3)	8(50)	74(37)	
Medium (9-17)	54(45.6)	36(54.5)	8(50)	98(49)	
Large (18-26)	14(11.9)	14(21.2)	0(0)	28(14)	
Annual income (in Rs.)					14.63**
Low (7000-17000)	36(30.5)	8(12.1)	4(25)	48(24)	
Medium (18000-27000)	62(52.5)	32(48.5)	8(50)	102(51)	
High (28000-37000)	20(17)	26(39.4)	4(25)	50(25)	

Annual income from livestock (in Rs.)					36.03**
Low (1000-5000)	71(60.2)	16(24.2)	6(37.5)	93(46.5)	
Medium (6000-10000)	41(34.7)	48(72.7)	6(37.5)	95(47.5)	
High (11000-15000)	6(5)	2(3)	4(25)	12(6)	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage
Figures bears different superscript differ significantly
**p<0.01;*p<0.05

Conclusion

Majority (61%) of respondents from pooled data were from middle age group were illiterate, possessed medium level of experience, only 45 percent respondents had formal training on different topics related to agriculture farming, livestock farming, forestry, environment protection etc., 48 percent of the respondents had radio, 37 percent had mobile phone majority (73%) of respondents were labour followed by livestock farming (21%) and majority of respondents belonged to medium (Rs 6000-10000), categories of income from livestock and poultry.

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