

A Sociological Study of Marginal Farmers in Kolhapur District**Dr. K. M. Desai**Assist. Professor & Head Department of Sociology,
Shri Shahaji Chh. Mahavidyalaya, Kolhapur**Introduction:**

Farmers having less than two hectares (five acres) of land are called small farmers and those having less than one hectare (2.5 acres) are called marginal farmers. A farmer with a modest amount of subsistence pays from his private land, who seldom works as an agricultural labour. Marginal farmer means an agricultural tract up to 1 hectare for a peasant farming as an owner or tenant or share cropper. Those with less than 2 hectares of farm land are referred as small and marginal farmers. They comprise about 86.2 percent of all farmers in India, but own just 47.3 of all the crop area, according to provisional numbers from the 10th agriculture census 2015-2016 released. India's small and marginal farmers comprise 78 percent of the country's farmers but own only 33 percent of total cultivated land and produce 41 percent of the country's food grains.

Since the outbreak of Covid -19 in late December 2019, it has spread over more than 227 countries affecting. India's Covid 19 tally climbed to 3,16,13,993 on July 31, 2021, while the death toll due to the viral disease short up to 4,23,810 with 593 more people succumbing to it. The Union health ministry said. PTI reported that the number of active cases has gone up to 4, 08, 920, according for 1. 29 percent of the total number of cases, while the national Covid -19 recovery rate was recorded at 97.37 percent the data showed.

As the infection is assuming pandemic proportions, the government has declared four stages of national -wide lockdown starting from March 24th 2020 to contain the spread of this dangerous disease. However, the small and marginal farmers who are having less than two hectare of land holding accounts for 86.2 percent a large majority of the farming community have been hit very badly by this pandemic.

The Theoretical Perspective:

In this present research paper the researcher has adopted 'Change and development theory' and it is proper applied for the present research study.

The Research Problem:

The present study aims was to understand and critically examine the socio-economic status and problems of marginal farmers in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

Objectives Of Study:

The specific objectives of the present study were as under.

1. To study the socio-economic status of the marginal farmers.
2. To understand the problems of the marginal farmers.
3. To suggest possible recommendation with social perspective.

Hypotheses:

The specific hypotheses have been formulated of the present study as per the following.

- 1 The marginal farmers social and economic status is very poor
- 2 The marginal farmer's education status is lower.

Significance of the Study:

The present study is mostly useful for the advancement of theoretical knowledge on the subject in particular and also for suggestion to the marginal farmers. The findings of the present study have enriched our theoretical understanding about problems and economic and social status of marginal farmers in Kolhapur district.

The Study Area:

The area for the present study is confined to Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state.

Universe Of The Study:

The focus of the present study is on the marginal farmers in Kolhapur district. The number of marginal farmers in Kolhapur district 5.03 lakh, the district has altogether 638284 farmers with the total area under cultivation being 457795 hectares. Therefore, all the marginal farmers functioning in Kolhapur district constitutes the universe of present study, out of them marginal farmers, the researcher confirmed 50 marginal farmers functioning at the time of present study.

Research Design:

The researcher has adopted descriptive research design for the present study. The descriptive research design is most useful for description is the fact finding investigation with the adequate interpretation.

Selection Of Respondent:

As per the plan of research, the data on certain general aspects of 50 marginal farmers Kolhapur region were to be collected with the help of questionnaire to be designed for this purpose. Researcher decided to undertake a survey of all the 50 marginal farmers, Officials of which positively responded to us and expressed their willingness to respond to the questionnaire.

The offices of selected sample of marginal farmer's marginal farmers were contacted. The list of marginal farmers was obtained from the office of respective. By using these lists, 50 marginal farmers were selected from various places in Kolhapur district. Fifty marginal farmers were selected by using systematic sampling procedure.

Tools And Techniques:

The researcher has used various tools in the study. The main techniques used for data collection are interview, participant and non-participant observation method. The researcher has been prepared the structured interview schedule to related objectives of the study.

Plan Of Analysis And Interpretation Of Data:

For the present study, the plan of analysis and interpretation of data has given as below:

1. The data has to be collected with the help of interview schedules, which has to be coded after preparation of code books.
2. The coded data has to be processed on computer by using SPSS software.

3. The computer output will be used for analysis and interpretation with the help of simple statistical tools such as frequency distribution and percentage.

In order to process the collected data through both the questionnaire and the interview schedule, the suitable codebooks [data definition files] were prepared. The data were processed with the help of computer. The computer generated output is used for the analysis and interpretation of the data presented in this report.

Major Findings:

The researcher has find out the five major findings in the present study which are given as below.

General causes of marginal farmers problems :

- 1) Lack of water management.
- 2) Fully depends on a farm.
- 3) Lack of supplementary side business.
- 4) Use of traditional method of agriculture & lack of updates knowledge.
- 5) Conflict, dispute among family members.

Marginal farmers & their problems:

Problems of marginal farmers in Kolhapur district as per the following

- 1) Disorganized Farming
- 2) Use small farm land
- 3) Literacy & obstacles to developments-
- 4) Lack of irrigation facilities
- 5) Not proper management in Government platform
- 6) Poverty in villages
- 7) Generation gap

Solutions to the problem:

- 1) Pension to the marginal farmers
- 2) Storage facility for put the material
- 3) Provided Irrigation facilities to the marginal farmers
- 4) Need to modern technology in agricultural sector
- 5) Provide subsidy for loan facility and also purchase new seeds and modern techniques.
- 7) Training to farmers to growth the product
- 8) Clubbing of small field:

- 9) Miss overuse of water and need for better water management
- 10) Provide the facility to the marginal farmers for the secondary occupation source of income

Limitations:

1. The study area is conducted only in the Kolhapur town.
2. The study is not covered all the farmers problems of female sex workers.
3. Limited selected samples size.

Conclusion:

To conclude, the present study revealed that, social and economic condition is responsible for the lower status of marginal farmers in Indian society. Small marginal farmers are facing some problems in rural Indian society.. Marginal farmers are an important component in society. Now it is time to focus on social economical problem of marginal farmers. At the same time they do not want subsidies on seed, fertilizers package on drought or any natural calamities expertly possible efforts from government agencies regarding water harvesting, irrigation system loan facility, processing industries etc. There is need of proper plan of rehabilitation and provide other income sources for the livelihood.

Recommendation:

The researcher has given recommendations as per the following.

1. Proper awareness about water management education.
2. Available other income sources.
3. Tanning camp for growth the production.
4. Plan for improvement living things and give facility of social welfare.

References:

1. Rupinder Kaur: Marginal and Small Farmers in Rural India
2. R.L.Pitale: India Rich Agriculture: Poor Farmers
3. Dr. Senthil Natesan: Indian Agriculture: A Way Forward