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Sociological status of paddy growers farmers in Bankura district of West Bengal

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Abstract
The study was conducted in Bankura district of West Bengal data were collected from 120 paddy growers farmers using structured interview schedule. 40 paddy growers farmers were chosen from each selected villages thus constituting a sample size of 120 by simple random method. The majority of the respondents (65.83%) belonged to the middle age group (between 39 to 59 years) with the majority of General caste (89.17%) of the selected paddy growers farmer most of selected farmers (70.83%) were having secondary level of education. The majority of the respondents were having (51.67%) medium size of family (5-9) members & majority of the respondents (45%) are having only other type of primary occupation. Majority of the respondents (66.27%) were having 22 to 50 years experience in paddy farming. Social participation majority of the respondents (95.84 %) belongs to medium participation group with (76.67%) of the selected farmers were had Medium farm (8 to 20 acre), & higher % of the respondents (69.17%) were having their income in the medium range between Rs. (36705 to 74555) & 65% of the respondents belonged to low annual yield category that is below 4 Qu. The majority of the respondents (91.67%) had hired tractor & 98.84% had been hiring harvester as farm machineries. Almost all of the respondents 99.17% had an access to market and also majority of the respondents that is 77.17% had an access to credit.

Keywords: socio-economic, farming experience, social participation, annual income

Introduction
Civilization began with agriculture. When our nomadic ancestors began to settle and grow their own food, human society was forever changed. Not only did villages, towns and cities begin to flourish, but so did know ledge, the arts and the technological sciences. Paddy (*Oryza Sativa* L.) belongs to Poaceae family, have also been the backbone of agricultural economy of India from time immemorial. As a cereal grain, it is the most widely consumed staple crop for a large part of the world's human population, especially in India as well as West Bengal. It is the agricultural commodity with the third-highest Worldwide production, after sugarcane and maize, according to 2012 (FAOSTAT data). Paddy is the major staple food crop and a main stag for the rural population and their food security. It is mainly cultivated by small farmers in land holdings of less than hectare. Paddy is also a wage commodity for the workers involving in the production of cash crops or non-agricultural sectors. Paddy provides vital nutrition as much of the population of West Bengal, as well as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Assam etc. It is the central to the food security of over half of the World population. Developing countries account for 95% of the total production, out of which China and India alone responsible for nearly half of the World's output. World production of paddy has been raised steadily from about 200 million tonnes of paddy rice in 1960 to over 678 million tonnes in 2009. The 3 countries which has the largest productivity of paddy in 2009 were china (197 million tonnes), India (131 million tonnes) and Indonesia (64 million tonnes) among the six largest rice producers, the most productive farms of paddy in 2009 were is china producing (6.59 tonnes /hectare). A World Bank –FAO study claims that 8% to 26% of paddy was lost in developing countries. In view of production, West Bengal ranked 1st in paddy cultivation. Bankura is one of the major paddy producing districts in the state in 2007-08, and Production is 1173.6 thousand tonnes in that year.

Methodology
The study was conducted during the year 2017 in the Bankura district of the West Bengal state. The West Bengal state consist of 23 districts, out of which Bankura district was selected

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purposively only one blocks namely Chhatna was selected purposively for the present study from Chhatna block, 3 villages were selected on the basis of maximum availability of paddy cultivations area in the villages. In this way the villages, kamarkuli, jadavpur, & jamadarpara from Chhatna block were selected for the study. A list of farm families who are engaged in Paddy cultivation was prepared. From the list of each selected village, 40 farm families were selected randomly. In this way a total of 120 farm families (40* 3 = 120), were selected as respondents for collection of data. The data were collected by personal interview with the help of pre-tested structure Interview schedule. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean score, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were used.

Results and Discussion

The findings on age of the respondents are presented in Table.no.1 the majority of the respondents (65.83%) belonged to the middle age group (between 39 to 59 years). However 33.33 % of the respondents were of old age group (<59 years),whereas, 0.83% of the respondent belonged to young age group (> 39 years). The majority of General caste is 89.83% of the selected farmers, followed by 6.67% of the respondents were belonging to SC and 4.17% of the respondents belonged to OBC category. It can be concluded that the majority of the respondents belonged to General categoty presented in Table.no.02.The most of paddy growers farmers (70.83%) were having secondary level of education followed by 15.83% of them having more then secondary level of education, 12.50 % of them Passed primary level and only 0.83% of respondents are illiterate. The findings concluded that the most of the respondents in the study had Secondary level of education presented in (Table no.03). The majority 51.67 per cent of the respondents were having medium size of family (5 to 9members), followed by 34.17% of the respondents had small size of family (below 5 members) and only 14.17% of the respondents had large size of family (above 9 members) presented in Table.no.04. The majority of the respondents (45%) are having only other type of primary occupation among which (33.83%) of the respondents are having only farming as their primary occupation, (15%) of the respondents occupation is agriculture and dairy farming and (17%) of the respondents occupation is farming and artisan presented in Table.no 05. The majority of respondents (66.27%) are moderately experienced (22-50) years, (20%) highly experience (above 50 years), & (13.33%) moderately experienced (below-22 years) in general farming respectively presented in Table.no.06.Social participation majority of the respondents (95.84%) belongs to medium participation group followed by (4.16%) respondents belonged from high participation group that are represented in Table no.07. The majority of the respondents have medium size farm (8-20 acre) that is 76.67% & 14.17% of the respondents have high size of farm(above 20 acre) and 9.17% of the respondents have low size of the farm(below 8 acre) respectively presented in Table.no.08. It is very difficult to assess the average annual income of each individual, as they are not maintaining any records the attempt was made to collect the annual income of the respondents through discussion and interpretative from different angles. The distribution of the respondents according to their annual income is presented in Table no 09. Higher

percentage of the respondents (69.17%) were having their income in the medium range between Rs.(36705 to 74555), followed by 15.83 % of respondents had their annual income in high the range above 74555 Rs while only 15 % of the respondents had obtained income up to Rs.36705. It is evident from the table no.10 that 65% of the respondents belonged to low annual yield category that is below 4 qu. 20% of the respondents belonged to high annual yield above 4 qu. & only 15% of the respondents belonged to medium category that is 4 qu. from the Table no.11 it reveals that 91.67% of the respondents had hired tractor and only 8.33% owned their own and the majority of the respondents 98.84% had been hiring harvester as farm machineries and only 4.17% of the remaining respondents have owned their harvester. It had been also noted that 70% of the respondents had hired both cart and thresher and 30% of the respondents had owned both cart and thresher. It has been also found from study that majority of the respondents had hired farm machineries.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their age-n= 120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Young (below-39 yrs)	1	0.83
Middle aged (39-59 yrs)	79	65.83
Old (above-59yrs)	40	33.33
Total	120	100.00

Mean= 57, S.d. = 12
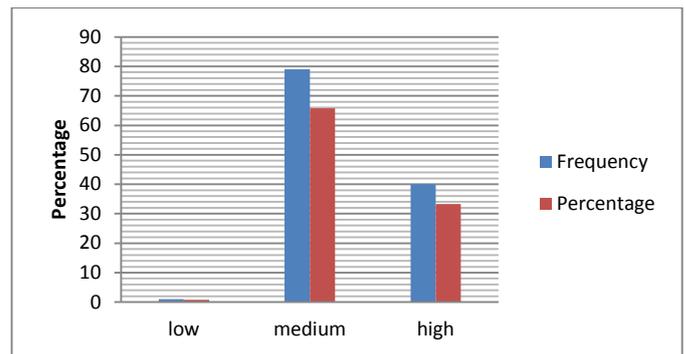
Fig 1

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their caste n= 120

Category	Frequency	(%)
SC	8	6.67
ST	0	0
OBC	5	4.17
GEN	107	89.17
TOTAL	120	100
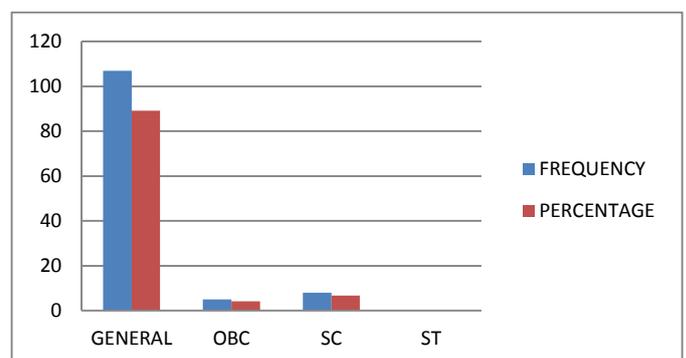
Fig 2

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their education n= 120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Illiterate	1	0.83
Can read and write	0	0
Primary	15	12.50
Secondary	85	70.83
Above	19	15.83
Total	120	100
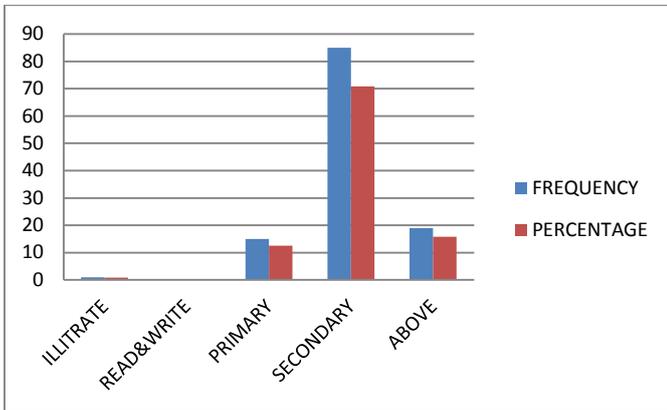
Fig 3

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their family size n=120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Small (below- 5)	41	34.17
Medium (between- 5 to 9)	62	51.67
Large (above- 9)	17	14.17
Total	120	100

Mean=7, sd=2
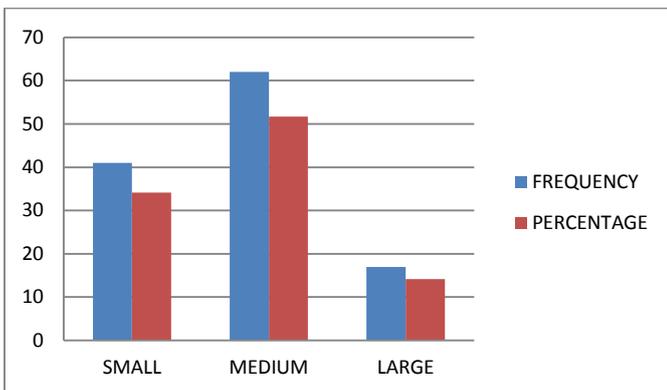
Fig 4

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their occupation

Category	Frequency	(%)
Farming only	43	33.83
Agricultural & Dairy farming	18	15
Farming & Artisan	5	5.17
Other	54	45
Total	120	100
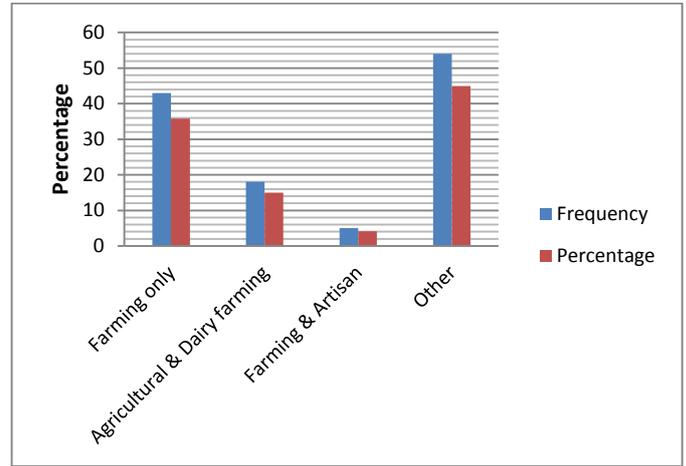
Fig 5

Table 6: Distribution of respondents of paddy cultivation experience n=120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Less (below- 22yrs)	16	13.33
Moderate (between- 22 to 50yrs)	80	66.27
Highly (above- 50yr)	24	20
Total	120	100

Mean=36, sd=14
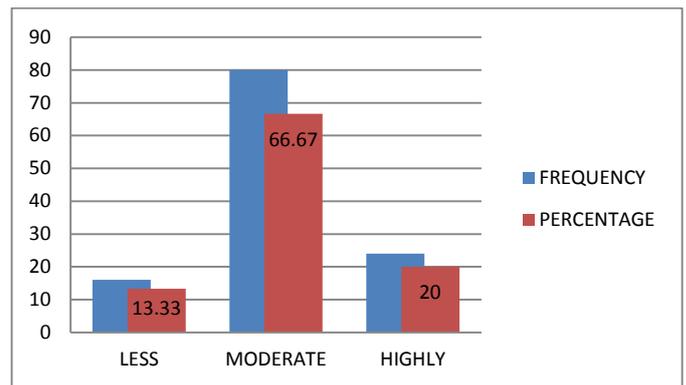
Fig 6

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to Social Participation n=120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Low (below-4)	0	0
Medium (between4-6.)	115	95.84
High (above-6.)	5	4.16
Total	120	100

Mean=5, Sd=1
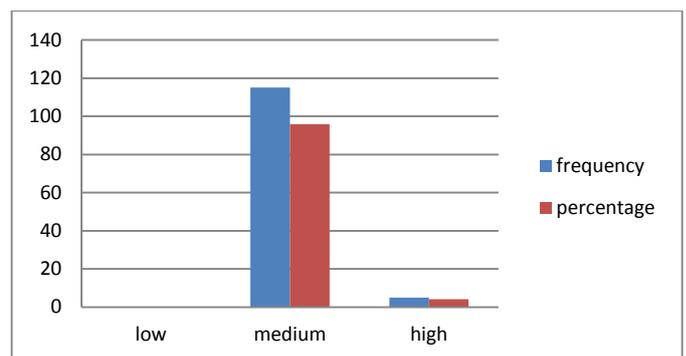
Fig 7

Table 8: Distribution of the respondents according to their farm size n= 120

Category	Frequency	(%)
Low (below-8 acre)	11	9.17
Medium (between 8-20)	92	76.67
High (above -20 acre)	17	14.17
Total	120	100

Mean=14, sd=6
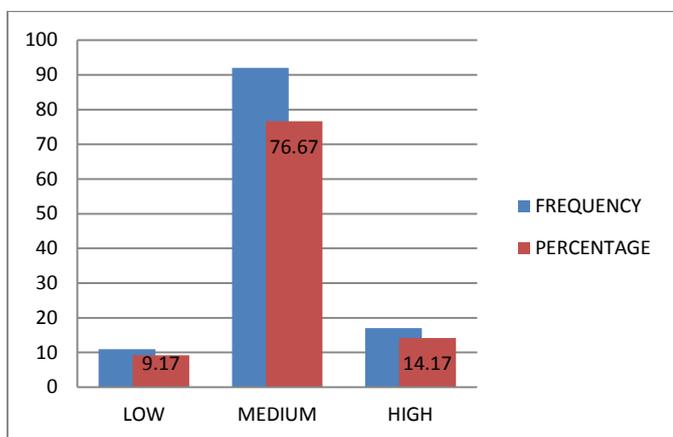
Fig 8

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to annual income n= 120

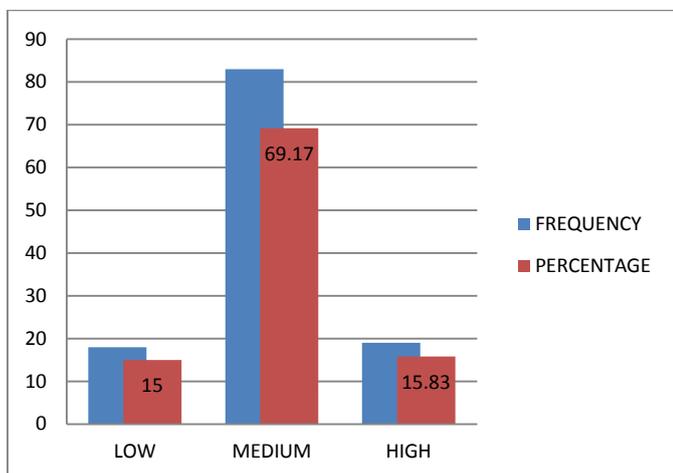| S. no	Income category	Frequency	(%)
1.	Low (below 36705 Rs)	18	15
2.	Medium (between 36705-74555 Rs.)	83	69.17
3.	High (above 74555 Rs.)	19	15.83

Mean= 55630 s.d.= 18925

Fig 9

Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to yield per hectare n= 120

S. no	Category (Qtl / acre)	Frequency	(%)
1.	Low (below- 4)	78	65
2.	medium (between 4 to 4)	18	15
3.	High (above 4)	24	20
4.	Total	120	100.00

Mean= 04 s.d.= 0
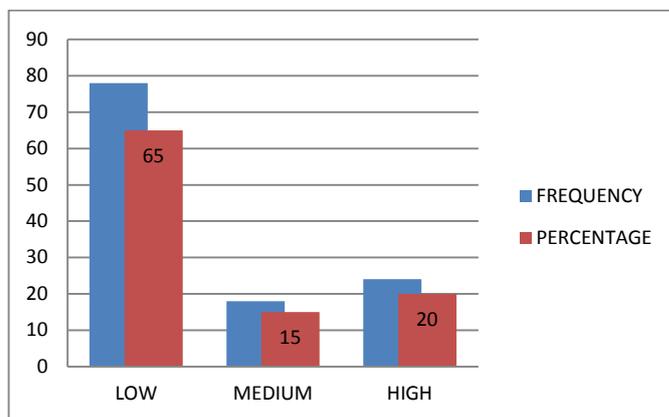
Fig 10

Table 11: Distribution of the respondents according to their farm equipment n= 120

Farm Machineries	Owned		Hired	
	Frequency	(%)	Frequency	(%)
Tractor	10	8.33	110	91.67
Cart	36	30	84	70
Harvester	5	4.17	115	95.84
Thresher	36	30	84	70

Conclusions

Paddy (*Oryza Sativa* L.) belongs to Poaceae family, have also been the backbone of agricultural economy of India from time immemorial. As a cereal grain, it is the most widely consumed staple crop for a large part of the world's human population, especially in India as well as West Bengal. The area of investigation of this study falls in Chhatna block of Bankura district which is situated in red and laterite agricultural zone of state of West Bengal in India. It was very difficult to conduct such an intensive study in the entire state of West Bengal with limited time and resources available to the investigator. Therefore, only chhatna block of bankura district was taken into the consideration for the present study. The study conducted in a cluster of three villages namely, kamarkuli, jadavpur, jamadarpara. Similarly a study could be planned to asses various information needs related to different agricultural aspects of Paddy across different categories of the Paddy growers.

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