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Socio economic profile and constraints faced by self-help group (SHG) members in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

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Abstract
The present study was carried out in all four districts to study the socioeconomic profile and constraints of the members of SHG involved in goat rearing. With 60 goat farmers involved in goat rearing from each district a total of 240 SHG members were studied through pretested interview schedule and observations. Majority percentage of members (66.66%) were from middle age, with an average group size of 11 members, having family size of 3-4 members from nuclear family type (67.08%) with primary education (46.25%) with an annual gross income of Rs.30000-50000/- having marginal landholding, with low herd size, medium extension contacts and moderate mass media exposure (55.41%). Constraints faced by beneficiaries in implementing scientific goat management practices were studied along with general, social and personal constraint. Constraints in implementing in scientific goat management practices revealed that lack of knowledge about balanced feeding in feeding constraints, lack of knowledge about prevalent common diseases in health care constraints, inadequate availability of breeding buck in breeding and middleman not providing remunerative prices in marketing constraints were the major constraints faced by SHG members in implementing scientific goat management practices.

Keywords: Constraints, Socio economic profile, SHG members

Introduction
The purpose of organizing people into groups is to improve their capacity and offer them chances to find jobs through cooperative support, where they can work together to escape the grip of poverty. SHG is one platform that offers people a chance to participate in a group to accomplish a shared objective. The idea behind SHG was first put forth by Bangladeshi professor Mohammed Yunus in 1976 when he established the idea of "Nijeri Kori" which translates to "we do it ourselves or self-help" to boost underprivileged women to start small businesses through the Grameen Bank (Rosita, 2014) [24]. SHG is a well-known method and technique in India for eradicating poverty and promoting livelihoods. SHGs are thus identified by encouraging individuals to start income-generating activities (IGAs) or to improve the livelihood activities they have already started, the SHG movement gives them the chance to have a better standard of living. The typical IGAs of women SHG members in rural areas focus on promoting livelihoods through farming and animal husbandry, with a given choice of livelihood to combat poverty and unemployment.

The total number of livestock in the nation is 535.78 million, which increased 4.6% from the livestock census in 2012; the total number of bovines (including cattle, buffalo, Mithun, and yaks) is 302.79 million, which increased by 1.0% from the previous count. As per 20th Livestock Census goat population percentage was 27.80 per cent have increased since the last census (Livestock census 2019). Women constitute 48.5 percent (586.47 million) of the total population (1210.19 million) in India (Govt. of India census 2011) [8]. The livelihood of almost 20.5 million people depends on livestock. Compared to an average of 14 per cent for all rural households, livestock contributed 16 per cent of the revenue for small farm households. For two-thirds of rural communities, livestock is the main source of income. Additionally, it employs around 8.8 per cent of India's population. India has a tremendous supply of livestock. The livestock industry makes up 25.6 per cent of all of agriculture's GDP and adds 4.11 per cent to it. Women constitute 48.5 percent (586.47 million) of the total population (1210.19 million) in India (Govt. of India census 2011) [8].

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Livestock production and processing are largely done by women in India.

The SHG strategy has been acknowledged as an institutional innovation to organize the underprivileged, stimulate saving, channel credit, support income-producing initiatives, and then empower rural poor people. It is well known that women's involvement in jobs that generate income is thought to elevate their socioeconomic position and provide them more influence in society. Women are becoming more involved in the nation's economic development through SHGs. Through self-help groups, women farmers could increase their returns on expanding value chains (SHGs). With the assistance of SHGs, rural women participate in small-scale business programs. Therefore our present study was to investigate socio economics and constraints of self help group members in Vidarbha region.

Materials and Methods

The current study was a multistage random sampling procedure was applied to draw the sample from each district, 15 self-help groups were considered. From each self-help group, 4 members are considered for the study. A total sample size of 240 self-help group members will be considered. For this 15 SHGs from each of the four districts namely Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, and Bhandara will be selected randomly. The study was based on interview according to objectives of the study. The interview schedule was pre-tested before starting final data collection process to eliminate the element of biasness and minimize errors, with improvement and modification in the interview schedule. The members were interviewed according to the schedule developed and the answers of members are recorded. Based on the objective of the study Ex post facto research design, exploratory research, and case study methods will be used for the study. The collected data was scored, tabulated and analyses according to the objectives of the research work by appropriate statistical tools and methods. Mean, frequeny and percentages were considered. For the evaluation of constraints the garret ranking technique is used and it is as follows:

Garret Ranking

The respondents are asked to assign ranks for all factors and the outcomes of such ranking have been converted into score value with the help of following formula

Percent position= 100 (Rij- 0.5)/Nj

Where,

Rij= rank given for the ith variable by jth respondents

Nj= number of variables

The value of Rij is then multiplied by the Garret value to determine the total Garret score. The average Garret score is then calculated by dividing the total garret score by the amount of alternatives. The alternative ranking is done based on the highest average value.

Results and Discussions

Socio-economic profile of SHG members involved in goat farming

To study the socio-economic profile of the self-help group members involved in goat farming in which various variables like age, education, family size, family type, marital status, annual gross income, land holding, herd size, extension contact, and mass media exposure of the self-help group members was studied and the results are presented below.

Age

Majority of the self-help group members belonged to middle age group (66.66%) followed by young age group (22.5%) and the remaining 10.83 per cent members were from old age group. The current finding from the study are in line with the studies of scholars like Rewani et al. (2014) [23], Savale and Senthilkumar (2018) [27], Rana and Ansari (2017) [22].

Group size of the SHGs

According to Table 1 majority of the groups had 11 members followed by 12 members (26.66%), 10 members (23.33%) and 10 members (11.68%) in the studied SGH groups. The results reported by Feroze and Chauhan (2010) [6], Datta and Raman (2001) [5] indicated that most groups were having small size (10-12 members) which is in conformity with the current findings.

Family size

Most of the family size possesses 3-4 members (71.25%) followed by 5- 6 members (23.75 per cent), above 6 members (4.17 per cent) and only 2 families had 2 or less members. Leelavathi and Sulaiman (2020) [15], Sarania (2015) [26], Pathade (2017) [18] where researched reported that most families had 3-4 members.

Education Status of SHGs members

The education details of the self-help group is depicted in Table. It is clearly evident that three fourth SHG members (75.25 per cent) had education ranging from primary to higher secondary education level where majority of them had education upto primary level only (46.25%). Notably, a sizable member of SHGs were still illiterate (22.93%). Barring 4 individuals with diploma none of them had higher education. From the data, it could be undoubtedly seen that most of the self-help groups got education up to a certain extent and it is due to the schooling facilities being provided to them at village level. Various awareness programs are being organized to increase the urge to be educated as well as make them aware of the importance of education. Reports of John and Lal (2022) [10] are in sync with current study while Bhushan et al (2015) [3] reported that majority of SHG members were illiterates. Kadam et al. (2014) [11] revealed that most were having secondary education, and Neelaiah (2022) [17] reported 52 per cent of members can sign only.

Marital status

It is quite clearly seen that most of the SHG members are married (97.08%) while rest only 2.92 per cent of the respondents are unmarried. The findings of Ghosh (2021) [7], Tejaswini John (2022) [10] and Ahmad and Katoch (2022) [12] were in congruence where researchers reported that majority of the SHG members were married.

Family type of SHG

A nuclear family is a family unit consisting of parents and their children, whereas a joint family is a family unit that includes grandparents, parents, children, and sometimes other relatives living together in one household. Based on the given data in Table No. 4.6 and Figure 4.6 it can be observed that 67.08 per cent respondents were from nuclear families and

remaining 32.92 per cent are from joint families. The studies of scholars like Thangmani and Mutthuselvi (2013) [32], Leelavathi & Sulaiman (2020) [15], Ghosh and Paul (2021) [7], Ahmed and Katoch (2022) [12] revealed that most of the respondents were from nuclear families like that of the present study. The nuclear family type in the current respondents is due to changing tradition of this study region where most of the families are nuclear type.

Annual gross income
Majority of the respondents (58.33%) had an annual gross income within the range of Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.50,000/-, while about 30% of the shg members had an annual income from Rs. 50,000/- to 1,00,000/-. (19.58 per cent) have an income falling within the range of 50000-70000. A smaller percentage of individuals (12.5 per cent) had an annual gross income below Rs.30000/-. These findings are near similar to the findings of Lokhande (2009) [16], and Das (2004) [9] who reported that most of the SHG members were in the medium category of annual gross income within Rs.30,000/--50,000/-. Hmingthanzuala et al. (2016) [9] who also reported that about 8 per cent respondents having less than Rs.30,000/- annual incomes.

Land holding
Highest percentage of respondents (43.33%) had Marginal land holding followed by small scale farmers (24.75%) while 22.9 per cent SHG members had no land possession and only about 9 per cent respondents had more than 2 ha. of land. The current study is in concord with the findings of Shilpa and Bhople (2021) [28], Tejaswini and Panigrahi (2021) [31], while Bhushan et al. (2015) [3] reported that majority of the SHG members were with no land possession.

Herd size
Data from Table No 1 is clearly indicating that majority members (56.25%) have small herd size followed by medium herd size (36.66%) and large herd size (7.08%). These finding were in line with the reports of Savale et al. (2018) [27], Prakash (2009) [20]. Interestingly Bhushan et al. (2015) [3] who reported that about 30 per cent of the members had 0-2 herd size. The low herd size found predominant in the current study could be attributed to the availability of the large grazing land area for the goat.

Extension contacts
Majority of the SHG members had medium extension contact (60.41%) followed by low extension contact (33.75%) while remaining 5.83 per cent respondents reported high extension contact in the study areas. The results of findings done by Lal (2007) [14], Srilatha (2005) [29], are in conformity where they reported that majority of the members had medium extension contacts or exposure while Rewani and Tochhawng (2014) [23] reported that the majority of the respondents had low level of extension contacts.

Mass Media Exposure
55.41 per cent of the respondents had a medium level of contact with mass media, followed by 25 per cent with a high level of contact and remaining 19.59 per cent had low level of mass media exposure. This study of mass media exposure of the members of self-help groups is in consonance with the results reported by Prakash (2009) [20], Srilatha (2005) [29], and

Kaur et al. (2017) [13].

Table 1: Socio economic variables of SHG members of goat farming in Vidarbha region

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age (26-34)	54	22.5
	Middle age (35-45)	160	66.66
	Old (46-55)	26	10.83
Group size	10	56	23.33
	11	92	38.33
	12	64	26.66
	13	28	11.68
Family size	Below 2	2	0.0083
	3-4	171	71.25
	5-6	57	23.75
	Above 6	10	4.17
Education Status	Illiterate	55	22.93
	Primary education (1st to 4th)	111	46.25
	Secondary education (5th to 10th)	60	25
	Higher secondary education (11th,12th)	10	4.16
	Diploma	4	1.66
Marital Status	Married	233	97.08
	Unmarried	7	2.92
Family type	Nuclear	161	67.08
	Joint	79	32.92
Annual gross income	Below 30000	30	12.5
	30000-50000	140	58.33
	50000-70000	47	19.58
	70000-90000	16	6.8
	90000-100000	3	2.8
Land holding	Landless	55	22.9
	Marginal (below 1 ha)	104	43.33
	Small (1-2 ha)	57	24.75
	Semi-medium (2-4 ha)	22	9.1
	Medium (4-10 ha)	1	0.04
	Large (10 ha and above)	1	0.04
Herd size	Small (0-3)	135	56.25
	Medium (4-7)	88	36.66
	Large (8-12)	17	7.08
Extension Contact	Low	81	33.75
	Medium	145	60.41
	High	14	5.83
Mass Media Exposure	Low	47	19.59
	Medium	133	55.41
	High	60	25

Constraints in implementing goat management practices by the members of SHGs
Feeding Management and Health constraints
Lack of knowledge about balanced feeding is the first rank constraint as reported by the SHG members followed by lack of knowledge about the importance of mineral mixture, non-availability of green fodder, high cost of feed and fodder, lack of irrigation facility is ranked as second, third, fourth, fifth respectively. As we noticed regarding health constraints lack of knowledge about prevalent common diseases ranked first with a mean score of 68.18, followed by high cost of vaccine and medicine, lack of awareness about the importance of deworming, lack of awareness about the importance of vaccination, lack of veterinary aids as second, third, fourth, fifth rank respectively. These findings are in consonance with Tanwar (2011) [30] who reported that lack of knowledge about balanced feeding as major constraint while Rajkumar and Kavitha (2014) [21] reported the lack of non-availability of

green fodder as the major constraint. Patil *et al.* (2009) [19] and Tanwar (2011) [30] reported that lack of veterinary aids ranked as the major constraints.

Breeding and Marketing Management Constraints
Inadequate availability of breeding buck with a mean score of 60.13 is ranked as first ranked constraint followed by lack of knowledge about breeding practices and indiscriminate breeding were ranked second and third respectively. It could be inferred from Table No. 2 that middlemen not providing remunerative prices was the foremost constraint with a mean score of 68.86, followed by unorganised goat owners, lack of marketing infrastructure, no agency helps in marketing were

ranked second, third, fourth respectively by the SHG members.
Rajkumar and Kavitha (2014) [21] who reported the non-availability of breeding buck as the major constraint in breeding management. Similarly the findings of the present study are in agreement to those reported by Braj Mohan *et al.* (2009) [4], Wani *et al.* (2009) [33]. The marketing management constraints in the current study are supported by the findings Sabapara *et al.* (2014) [25] who found that lack of marketing infrastructure was the major constraints faced by goat owners. Also, the findings of current study are similar with the findings of Tanwar (2010) [30].

Table 2: Constraints faced by SHG mebers in implementing scientific goat management practices

S.no	Constraints management	Mean score	Rank
	Feeding Management		
1.	Lack of knowledge about balanced feeding	65.35	I
2.	Non-availability of green fodder	51.60	III
3.	High Cost of Feed and fodder	44.37	IV
4.	Lack of irrigation facility	35.81	V
5.	Lack of Knowledge about the importance of mineral mixture	52.46	II
	Health care Management		
1.	Lack of Awareness About the Importance of Vaccination	45.31	IV
2.	Lack of Awareness About the Importance of Deworming	49.20	III
3.	High Cost of Vaccine & Medicine	53.11	II
4.	Lack of Veterinary Aids	33.28	V
5.	Lack of Knowledge about prevalent common diseases	68.18	I
	Breeding Management		
1.	Inadequate availability of breeding buck	60.13	I
2.	Lack of knowledge about breeding practices	58.86	II
3.	Indiscriminate breeding	31	III
	Marketing Management		
1.	Lack of marketing infrastructure	47.37	III
2.	Unorganized goat owners	53.49	II
3.	Middleman not providing remunerative prices	68.86	I
4.	No agency helps in marketing	31.95	IV

Conclusion
Based on the interview responses from respondents it can be concluded that age, educational status, family size, family type and annual income plays crucial role in success of Self-help groups. Illiterate, low land holding and less annual income and small herd size, lack of training hinders the success of SHG. There is need of more focus on extension contact and mass media exposure along with regular training on scientific goat management SHG members. Constraints faced by SHG members *viz.* problem in taking group decisions, lack of mutual understanding among group members, lack of training need to ruled out.

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