



Socio-Economic Profile of the Cash Crops Growers in Himachal Pradesh

Dr. K.C. Sharma,

Professor of Economics,

Department of Evening Studies

H.P.U. Shimla-1

Shimla (H.P) India

Sham Singh

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics

Govt. P.G. College Una (H.P)

Una (H.P) India

Abstract

The present study has been conducted in Solan and Una district of Himachal Pradesh. The areas have been selected purposely for the empirical verification because while district Una falls in low altitude where as, district Solan falls in the mid altitude of Himachal Pradesh. There are five development blocks in Una district (Una, Amb, Gagret, Haroli and Bangana) and five development blocks in Solan district (Dharpur, Kandaghat, Nalagarh, Solan and Kunihar). All the ten blocks of the two panchayats have been selected for the study. A list of villages has been arranged in an ascending order on the basis of their respective population and one village from each development blocks are selected randomly. The size of holdings considered viz. marginal (0-1 hectares), small (1-2 hectares), medium (2-4 hectares) and large size of holding (about 4 hectare area). 404 households are selected randomly in the study area. Agriculture is the main occupation adopted by 72.66 per cent marginal 75.86 per cent small and 70.67 per cent medium farmers and 71.08 per cent large. The maximum number of cash crop growers belong to the general category i.e. 38.57 per cent marginal, 35.04 per cent small and 38.60 per cent medium and 40.0 per cent. The sex ratio has been defined as the number of females per thousand males in the population. The sex-ratio among the all sample households has been worked out 966 females per thousand males.

Keyword Cash Crops, Cultivator , Labour Force, Consumer Unit and Standard Mandays

Introduction

In the economic development of any country whether rich or poor, is the importance of agriculture can be underlined owing to the fact that it is the primary sector of the economy which is instrumental in providing the basic ingredients necessary for the existence of mankind and also provides most of the raw materials which, when transformed into finished products, serve as basic necessities of the human race. In a dominant agrarian economy, agriculture plays a vital role from different several aspects. At a minimum, farm production must be increased rapidly enough to keep pace with population growth. However, in a speedy industrializing economy, this is not enough. Industrialization necessarily brings with it urbanization and a rapid expansion of the industrial labour force. Which results in bringing with it a rising per capita demand for food, based on higher urban incomes. In addition to supplying food, agriculture must provide many of the raw materials for industry. For instance, the fate of textile

industry is crucially influenced by the supply of raw cotton; leather goods industry depends on the availability of hides and skins; food processing brew and tobacco manufactures are all dependent on agricultural supplies. Therefore, the pace of advancement in a wide range of consumer goods manufactures is directly effected by the pace of agricultural development. In addition, agriculture must generate export surpluses in order to earn the foreign exchange with which to finance the import of capital goods and certain kinds of industrial raw materials. However, agriculture besides being a supplier of goods for domestic and export needs, also supplies of production factors such as capital and labour. A rapidly expanding industrial sector necessarily draws some of its labour force from the rural areas. Moreover, in one form or another, agriculture is called upon to save and finance a significant part of the investment for an expansion of industrial plant, transport and other sectors as well. Since independence, India has made much progress in agriculture. Indian agriculture, which grew at the rate of about 1 percent per annum during the fifty years before Independence, has grown at the rate of about 2.6 per cent per annum in the post-Independence era. Expansion of area was the main source of growth in the period of fifties and sixties. After that, the contribution of increased land area under agricultural production has declined over time and increase in productivity became the main source of growth in agricultural production. Another important facet of progress in agriculture is its success in eradicating of its dependence on imported food-grains. Indian agriculture has progressed not only in term of output and yield but the structural changes have also contributed.

Review of Literature

A general review of literature of the period shows that the researchers were very much interested in the economics of cash crops growers including socio-economic profile. Singh (2015) conducted a study on employment pattern among the agricultural labourers in rural Punjab, based on primary data collected from 143 households. He concluded that almost 43 per cent of the total population of agricultural labour households is illiterate and 82.52 per cent belonged to schedule caste category. More than 62 per cent of the agricultural labourers are employed as permanent agricultural labourers. Jagatpal et.al (2017) carried out a study on socio-economic profile of the sugarcane growers in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh, based on primary data collected from 100 samples randomly. They concluded that the majority of 60 percent respondent were found that in middle categories (38-59) age group was 68 percent literate, 67 percent O.B.C., 100 percent Hindu religion, 54 percent nuclear families respectively. The average size of family was 8 members and 1.06 hectare size of land holding respectively. The 78 percent respondents were engaged in main occupation as agriculture and the annual income Rs. 45001 to 172000. Pal et al. (2017) conducted a study on socio-economic profile of sugarcane growers in district Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, based on primary data collected from 200 respondents. They concluded that the majority 75 per cent marginal, 73.68 per cent small and 67.74 per cent medium farmers adopted agriculture as a main occupation. The maximum sugarcane growers belonged to backward caste 58.06 per cent medium, 58.03 per cent marginal and 52.63 per cent small farmers.

Objectives

The present study has been undertaken to achieve the following objective:-

1. To study the socio economic characteristics of sample households.
2. To study the per household standard mandays and standard consumer unit of sample households.

Data Source and Methodology

In the present study, district Una and Solan has been selected purposively for conducting the present empirical verification on the socio-economic profile of the cash crops growers in Himachal Pradesh. The study is based on primary data. The required primary data have been collected with the help of pre-tested schedule from 404 sample households of 20 villages during 2017-18 selected randomly from the ten development blocks of the two district, with the help of pre-tested schedule information, pertaining to age and sex-wise family composition, educational status, consumer units as well as the data regarding income and consumption have been recorded from all the

sample households used in the survey. The statistical tools has been analyzed through simply percentage, average method and data presented through pie and bar diagram.

Further, due to difference in the efficiency of male, female, children and old person standard mandays have been worked out in the present study by attaching the proper co-efficient of efficiency i.e., one woman day (WD) has been treated equal to 0.75 mandays (MD), one child day (CD) has been treated equal to one old person day (OD) and both are considered equal to 0.50 MD, i.e., $1\text{ WD}=0.75\text{ MD}$, $1\text{ CD}=1\text{ OD}=0.50\text{ MD}$ (Ghosh, 1977, p.90). Due to difference in the efficiency of males, females, children and old persons, the 'standard consumer unit ' have been worked out by attaching the proper co-efficient, i.e. in one consumer unit (CU) has been treated equal to 0.50 male child (MC) 0.50 female child (FC) in the 0-9 age group. Both are considered equal to $\text{MC}=\text{FC}=0.50$, one consumer unit (CU) been treated equal to young male (YM), is equal to one young female (YF) and both are considered equal to $\text{YM}=\text{YF}=0.75$ in the 9-15 age group. One consumer unit (CU) has been treated equal to 1.00 adult male (AM) and 0.80 adult female (AF) in the age group 15-59 $\text{AM}=1.00$, $\text{AF}=0.80$, one consumer unit (CU) been treated equal to old male (OM), is equal to one old female in the age group above 59 year above $\text{OM}=0.80$, $\text{OF}=0.70$ (C. Gopalan, 2004, pp.47-58).

Results and Discussion

In the present empirical study the socio-economic profile of the cash crops growers in Himachal Pradesh has been discussed. The study has been divided into various sections.

1.1 Caste wise Family Structure of Sample Households

Viewed independently, the social profile consists of system of family, religion, caste, community, age, sex, education etc., whereas, the economic profile is represented by such factors as the main occupation, ownership of consumer durables and income pattern of concerned households. In the present empirical study, there are 404 sample households consist of 2668 males, females and children. Out of the total 404 sample households, 210 households fall in the category of marginal households having land less than 1 hectare, 117 households are in the category of small households having land 1 to 2 hectares, 57 households of medium households having land 2 to 4 hectares and remaining 20 households fall in the category of large households having more than 4 hectares land respectively. The community wise (caste-wise) distribution of sample households has been presented in table-The Table 1.1 reveals that out of total marginal households, 38.57 per cent have belong to the general community and 27.14 per cent belong to the other backward classes, 22.86 per cent belonged to the scheduled caste community, 11.43 per cent have belong to the scheduled tribes community, out of small category households, 35.04 per cent have belong to the general community and 28.21 per cent belong to the other backward classes, 24.78 per cent belong to the scheduled caste community, 11.97 per cent have belong to the scheduled tribes community. Similarly out of medium category of households, 38.60 per cent have belong to the general community and 24.56 per cent belonged to the other backward classes, 22.80 per cent belong to the scheduled caste community, 14.04 per cent have belong to the scheduled tribes community. It has been revealed that large category of households have 40.0 per cent have belong to the general community and 25.0 per cent belong to the other backward classes, 25.0 per cent belong to the scheduled caste community, 10.0 per cent have belong to the scheduled tribes community. However, in case of all category of households, have 37.62 per cent have belong to the general community and 26.98 per cent belong to the other backward classes, 23.52 per cent belong to the scheduled caste community, 11.88 per cent have belonged to the scheduled tribes community.

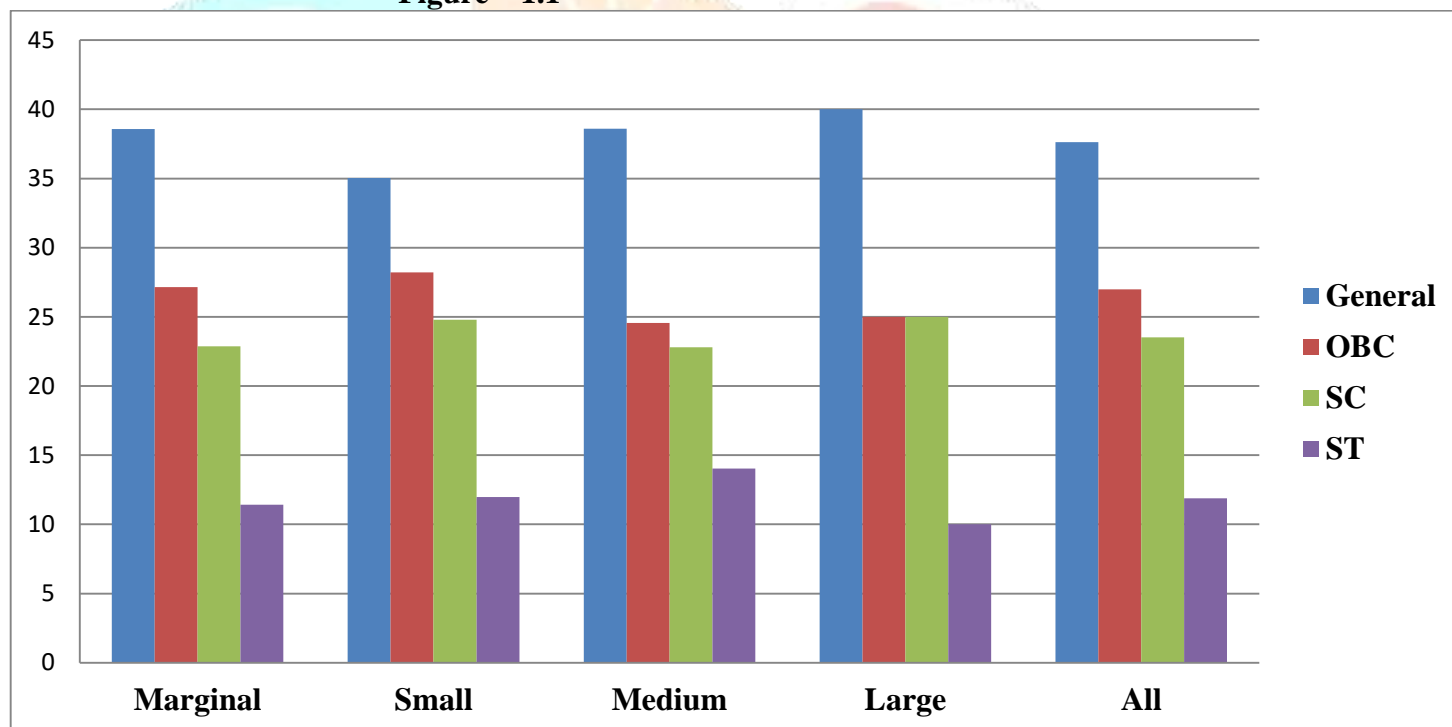
Table- 1.1

Caste Wise Distribution of Sample Households having different size of holding (in Numbers)

Sr. No.	Category	Size of Holdings				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	All
1	General	81 (38.57)	41 (35.04)	22 (38.60)	08 (40.0)	152 (37.62)
2	Other Backward Classes (OBC)	57 (27.14)	33 (28.21)	14 (24.56)	05 (25.0)	109 (26.98)
3	Schedule Castes (SC)	48 (22.86)	29 (24.78)	13 (22.80)	05 (25.0)	95 (23.52)
4	Schedule Tribes (ST)	24 (11.43)	14 (11.97)	08 (14.04)	02 (10.0)	48 (11.88)
5	Total	210 (100)	117 (100)	57 (100)	20 (100)	404 (100)

Note: Figure in parenthesis denotes the percentage to the column total

Figure 1.1



1.1.2 Religion

In the context of religion, it has been observed that there is three communities namely Hindu, Muslim and Sikh which existed among the sample households in the study area. The religion wise distribution of the sample households has been presented in the Table-1.2. The Table reveals that 76.67 per cent marginal households, 72.65 per cent small households, 73.69 per cent medium households and 70.0 per cent large households respectively are belong to Hindu religion. The 17.62 per cent marginal households and 14.53 per cent small households, 17.54 per cent medium households and 15.0 per cent large households respectively are belong to Muslim religion. Whereas

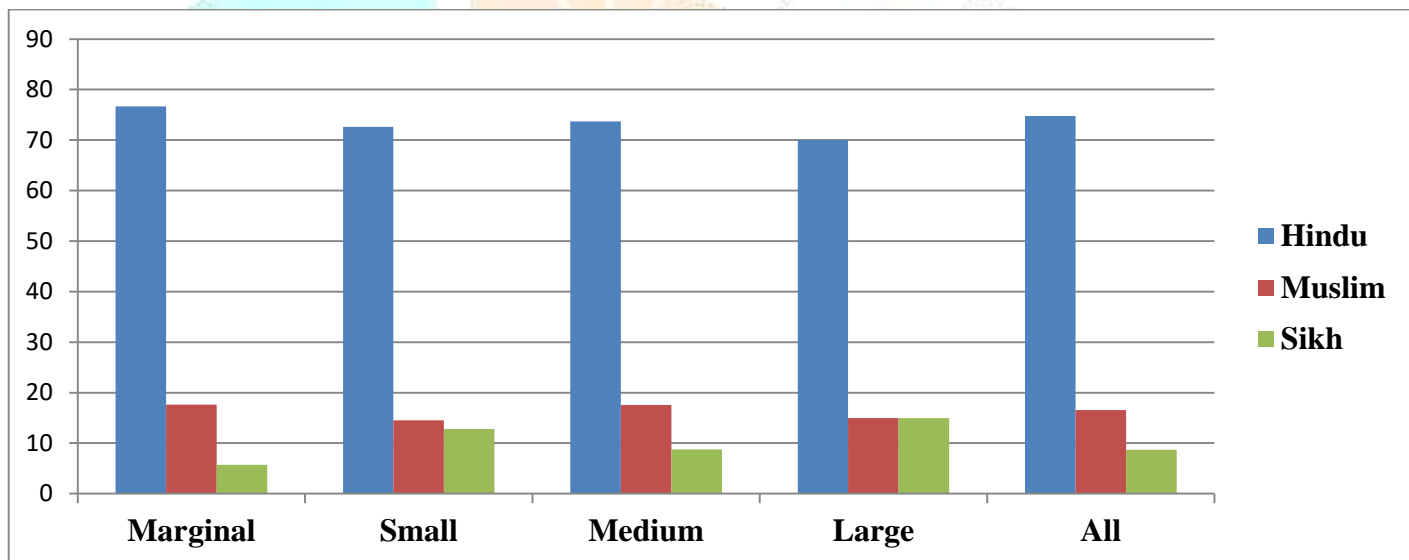
Table 1.2

Religion Wise Distribution of Sample Households (in Numbers)

Sr. No.	Religion	Size of Holdings				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	All
1	Hindu	161 (76.67)	85 (72.65)	42 (73.69)	14 (70.0)	302 (74.75)
2	Muslim	37 (17.62)	17 (14.53)	10 (17.54)	3 (15.0)	67 (16.58)
3	Sikh	12 (5.71)	15 (12.82)	05 (8.77)	3 (15.0)	35 (8.67)
	Total	210 (100)	117 (100)	57 (100)	20 (100)	404 (100)

Note: Figure in parenthesis indicates the percentage to total households.

Figure-1.2



5.71 per cent marginal households and 12.82 per cent small households, 8.77 per cent medium households and 15.0 per cent large households respectively are belong to Sikh religion. Putting all the size of households together, 74.75 per cent belonged to Hindu religion and 16.58 per cent belonged to Muslim religion and 8.67 per cent only to Sikh religion. It has been also observed that the majority of the households belong to the Hindu religion in the study area.

1.1.3 Family wise Distribution of Sample Households having different size of holding

The Table-1.3 reveals that there is two type of family (i) Nuclear system and (ii) Joint system of family prevailed among the sample households. The family system wise distribution of sample households has been presented in the Table-1.3. It specifies that 36.39 per cent joint family system and 63.61 per cent nuclear family system are existed among the sample households. The, Table also reveals that out of total marginal households 38.10 per cent households have joint system of family and 61.90 per cent have nuclear system of family, followed by small households which have 35.90 per cent joint system of family and 64.10 per cent nuclear system of family.

In the medium households 33.33 per cent are belonged to joint system of family and 66.67 per cent are belonged to nuclear system of family. The large households have 30.0 per cent have joint system of family and 70.0 per cent have nuclear system of family. It has been, generally observed that nuclear system of family prevails in the study area mainly because of social and economic security among the family.

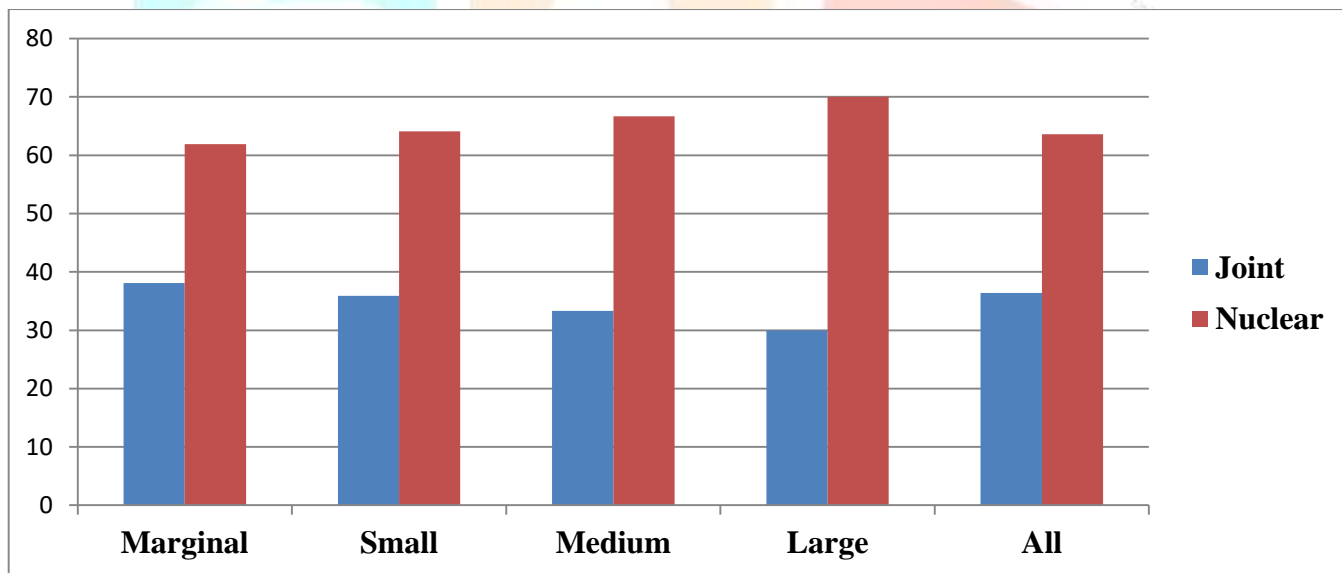
Table- 1.3

Family Wise Distribution of Sample Households (in Numbers)

Sr. No.	Families	Size of Holdings				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	All
1	Joint	80 (38.1)	42 (35.90)	19 (33.33)	6 (30.0)	147 (36.39)
2	Nuclear	130 (61.9)	75 (64.10)	38 (66.67)	14 (70.0)	257 (63.61)
3	Total	210 (100)	117 (100)	57 (100)	20 (100)	404 (100)

Note: Figure in parenthesis indicates the percentage to total households

Figure-1.3



1.4 Age-wise Demographic Features and Sex Ratio

The age factor has a considerable social influence because it exerts a great influence upon social phenomenon in many ways. Age has an important bearing on the limit, above and below which a person cannot be expected to work for economic benefits. Therefore, the age composition of a society sets limits to the availability of working force and hence it also sets a limit to economic gains, which can be reaped by a particular social group. The distribution of population according to age groups and sex-ratio among the sample households has been presented in Table-4.5. The total population among the sample households has been worked out 2668, out of which 1357 males (i.e. 50.86 per cent) and 1311 (i.e.49.14 per cent) are female population. Thus, the age of a person has been important factor in the composition of family in assessing the infants, working force and dependents in the socio-economic activities of the society. The population has been divided into six groups; below 6 years, 6 to 9 years, 9 to 15 years, 15 to 59 years, 59 to 65 years and above 65 years. Can be seen as being helpful in having better insight of the age composition in detail.

Table-1.4

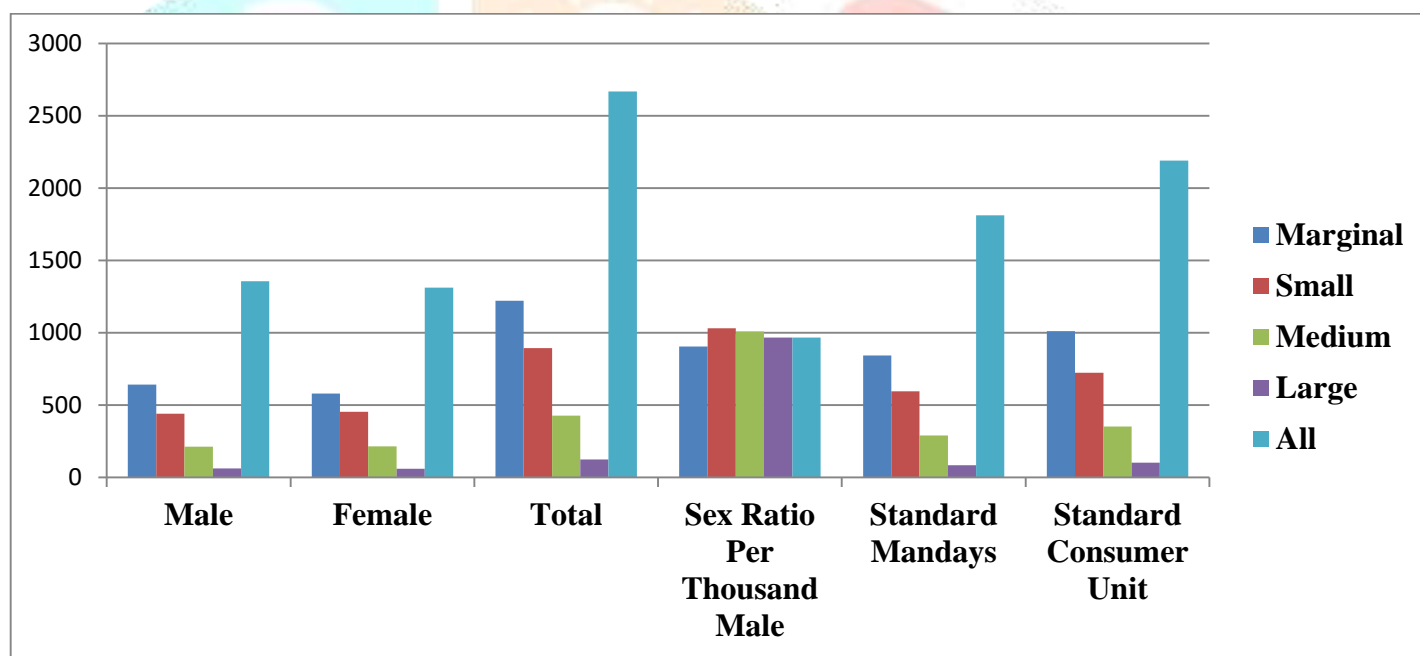
Sr. No.	Age Group	Size of Holdings				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	All
1	0-5 Years					
	Male	47	35	15	5	102
	Female	41	33	12	6	92
	Total	88	68	27	11	194
2	6-9 Years					
	Male	16	21	8	2	47
	Female	22	19	9	3	53
	Total	38	40	17	5	100
3	9-15 Years					
	Male	70	58	25	7	160
	Female	73	56	22	5	156
	Total	143	114	47	12	316
4	15-59 Year					
	Male	430	268	137	44	879
	Female	378	287	146	39	850
	Total	808	555	283	83	1729
5	59-65 Years					
	Male	42	37	10	2	91
	Female	35	35	12	3	85
	Total	77	72	22	5	176
6	65 Years and above					
	Male	36	21	18	3	78
	Female	32	24	14	5	75
	Total	68	45	32	8	153
7	Total Population					
	Male	641	440	213	63	1357
	Female	581	454	215	61	1311
	Total	1222	894	428	124	2668
8	Sex Ratio Per Thousand Male	906	1032	1009	968	966
9	Standard Mandays	842.50	596.25	289.50	84.25	1812.50
10	Per Household Standard Mandays	4.01	5.10	5.08	4.21	4.49
11	Standard Consumer Unit	1011.95	724.80	351.65	101.80	2190.20
12	Per Household Standard Consumer Unit	4.82	6.19	6.17	5.09	5.42

Age- wise Demographic Features and Sex Ratio Among the Sample Households

The first group includes infants who are not capable to do any manual work but are supposed to attend school for formal education till the age of 4 years. The next age group includes the family members up to the age of 6 to 9 years who are enrolled in the schools for study and are able to help the family in carrying out the routine domestic activities. The next group includes the children of 9 to 15 years age who are in the schools for their study but it has been observed that persons in this age group too, contribute substantially in the field operation activities as well as

in other light domestic affairs of the family such as rearing of children, bringing water and fuel, looking after cattle etc. The persons falling in the age group of 15 to 59 years are adults and are actively readily available for gainful economic activities and therefore, this group in the family constitutes the main working force. It is clear from table-4.5 that in almost all the classes of forms, family members are specifically in the age group of 15 to 59 years. Thus, a welcome feature of the age structure of sample households is that more than half of the sample population i.e. 1729 is of active workers. The family members falling in the age group of 59 to 65 years also help in the field operation work and other light household activities, whereas; above 65 years age group have been termed as dependents on the family. Sex ratio has been defined as the number of females per thousand males in the population. The Table-1.4 indicates that the sex-ratio among the sample households has 966 females per thousand males. It again reinforces that the sex-ratio (females per thousand males) are highest i.e. 1032 on the small size of households and the lowest 906 on the marginal size of households. The medium and large size of households have 1009 and 968 sex-ratio (females per thousand males) respectively. Thus it can be conducted that in the overall population of the sample households, the proportion of males are higher than that of females. However, in case of the small and large size of households, the proportions are reversed. In both the cases, the numbers of females are higher than that of males. Although this observation is difficult to explain yet, in the overall population, the dominance of males in number over females are common among the sample households.

Figure-1.4



Due to difference in the efficiency of males, females, children and old persons, the standard man days' have been worked out by attaching the proper co-efficient of efficiency, i.e. one man day (MD) has been treated equal to 1 Man day, one woman day (WD) has been treated equal to 0.75 man day (MD), one child day (CD) has been treated equal to one old person day (OD) and both are considered equal to 0.50 MD, one woman day (WD) has been treated equal to 0.75 man day (MD), one child day (CD) has been treated equal to one old person day (OD) and both are considered equal to 0.50 MD, i.e. $1WD=0.75MD$, $1CD=1OD=0.50 MD$. The standard man days has been worked out 842.50, 596.25, 289.50 and 84.25 on the marginal, small, medium and large size of households respectively. Among over all the holdings together the average standard man days came out 1812.50. The study also shows that per household standard man days has been worked out 4.49 among the sample households of which highest 5.10 per household man days for the small household and the lowest 4.01 per household man days for the marginal households. The large households has 4.21 per household man days, followed by the medium household which has 5.08 per household man days. Due to difference in the efficiency of males, females, children and old

persons, the 'standard consumer unit' have been worked out by attaching the proper co-efficient, i.e. in one consumer unit (CU) has been treated equal to 0.50 male child (MC) 0.50 female child (FC) in the 0-9 age group. Both are considered equal to $MC=FC=0.50$, one consumer unit (CU) been treated equal to young male (YM), is equal to one young female (YF) and both are considered equal to $YM=YF=0.75$ in the 9-15 age group. One consumer unit (CU) has been treated equal to 1.00 adult male (AM) and 0.80 adult female (AF) in the age group 15-59 $AM=1.00$, $AF=0.80$, one consumer unit (CU) been treated equal to old male (OM), is equal to one old female in the age group above 59 year above $OM=0.80$, $OF=0.70$. The standard consumer unit has been worked out 1011.95, 724.80, 351.65 and 101.80 on the marginal, small, medium and large size of households respectively. Among all the holdings

together the average standard consumer unit came out 2190.20. The study also shows that per household standard has consumer unit been worked out 5.42 among the sample households of which highest 6.19 per household for the consumer unit small household and the lowest 4.82 per household consumer unit for the marginal households. The large households has 5.09 per household followed by the medium household which has 6.17 per household consumer unit.

Figure-1.5

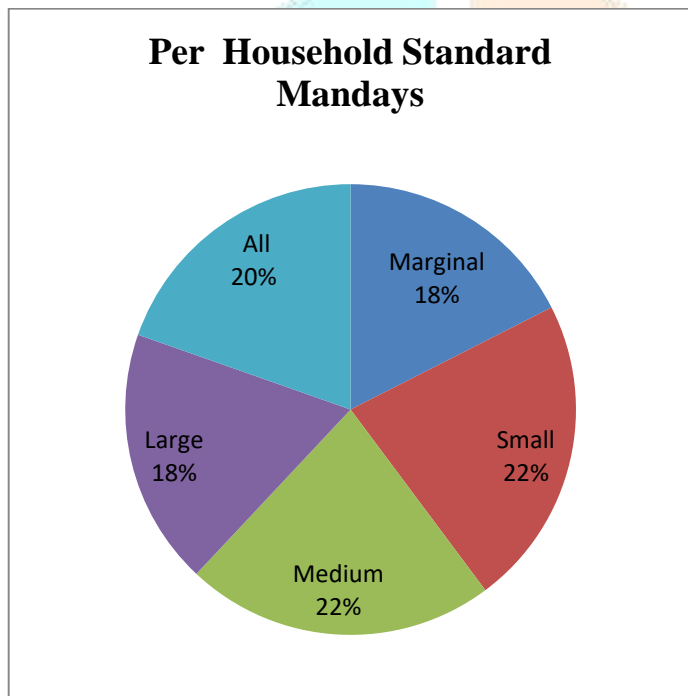
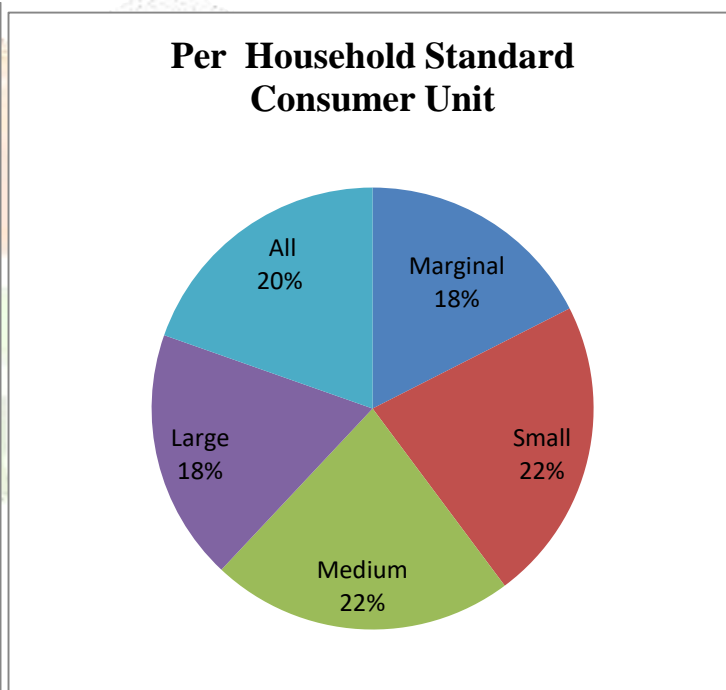


Figure-1.6



1.1.5 Average Family Size, Percentage of Family Work Force, Percentage Dependents among the Sample Households

Agriculture plays a significant role in overall socio-economic development. Therefore, fostering rapid, sustained and broad-based growth in agriculture remains key priority for the country. With the decreasing labour force in agriculture, increasing yield or productivity is the key to growth, which has to be accelerated. The average size of family, percentage of labour force and the percentage of dependents among the sample households has been presented in the Table-1.5. The average size of family has been worked out 5.82, 7.64, 7.51 and 6.20 per cent on the marginal, small, medium and large size of holdings respectively. The average size of family among over all the sample households together came out 6.60 as compared to the average size of family at the State level as a whole i.e. 4.66 according to 2011 census. Thus, as the farm size increases, almost the average size of family also increases. It shows that as the economic status of a household improves they become more social. The percentage of labour force has been worked out 66.12, 62.08, 66.12 and 66.94 per cent on the marginal, small, medium and large

size of holdings group respectively. Among over all the holdings together, this percentage came out 64.81 per cent. The percentage of dependents is the highest on the small size of holdings group (i.e. 37.92 per cent) as compared to the other class of holdings. Among all the holding groups together, this percentage of dependents came out 35.19. Thus, the percentage ratio of labour force shows almost a decreasing tendency with an increase in the size of holdings whereas, contrary to it, the percentage of dependents shows an increasing tendency with an increase in the size of holdings. The lowest percentage of the dependent is on the large size of holdings group mainly due to higher percentage of work force as compared to the small, medium and marginal size of holdings.

Table- 1.5

Average Family Size, Percentage of Family Work Force, Percentage Dependents among the Sample Households

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	All
1	Total Numbers of Sample Households	210	117	57	20	404
2	Total Numbers of Family Members	1222	894	428	124	2668
3	Average Size of Per-Family	5.82	7.64	7.51	6.20	6.60
4	Percentage of Family Work Force					
	Male	430 (35.19)	268 (29.98)	137 (32.01)	44 (35.48)	879 (32.95)
	Female	378 (30.93)	287 (32.10)	146 (34.11)	39 (31.45)	850 (31.86)
	Total	808 (66.12)	555 (62.08)	283 (66.12)	83 (66.94)	1729 (64.81)
5	Percentage of Dependents	414 (34.00)	339 (37.92)	145 (33.88)	41 (32.06)	939 (35.19)

Note: Figure in parenthesis indicates the percentage to total family members of each category

Figure-1.7

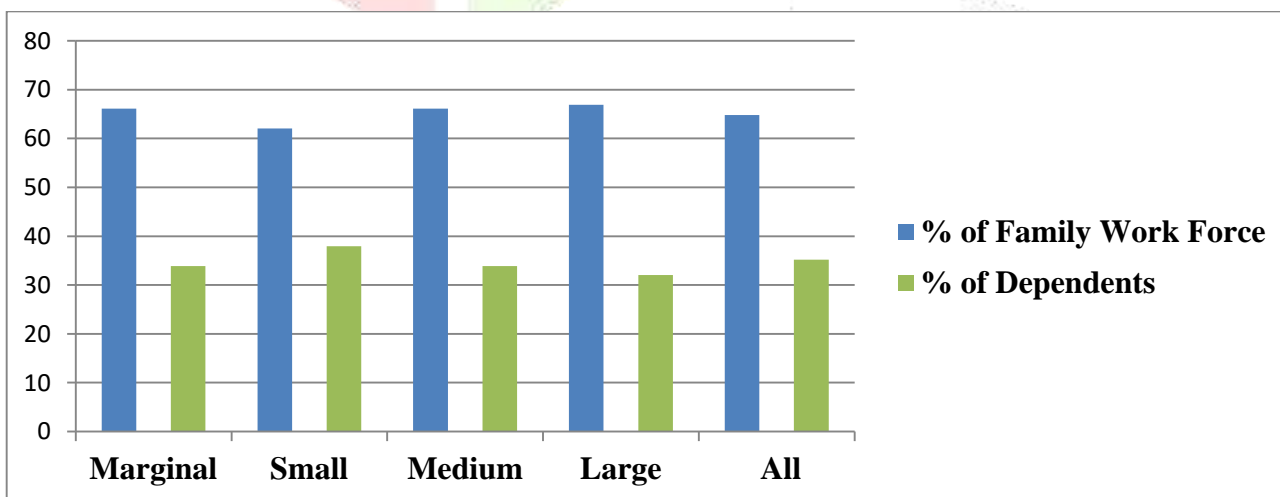
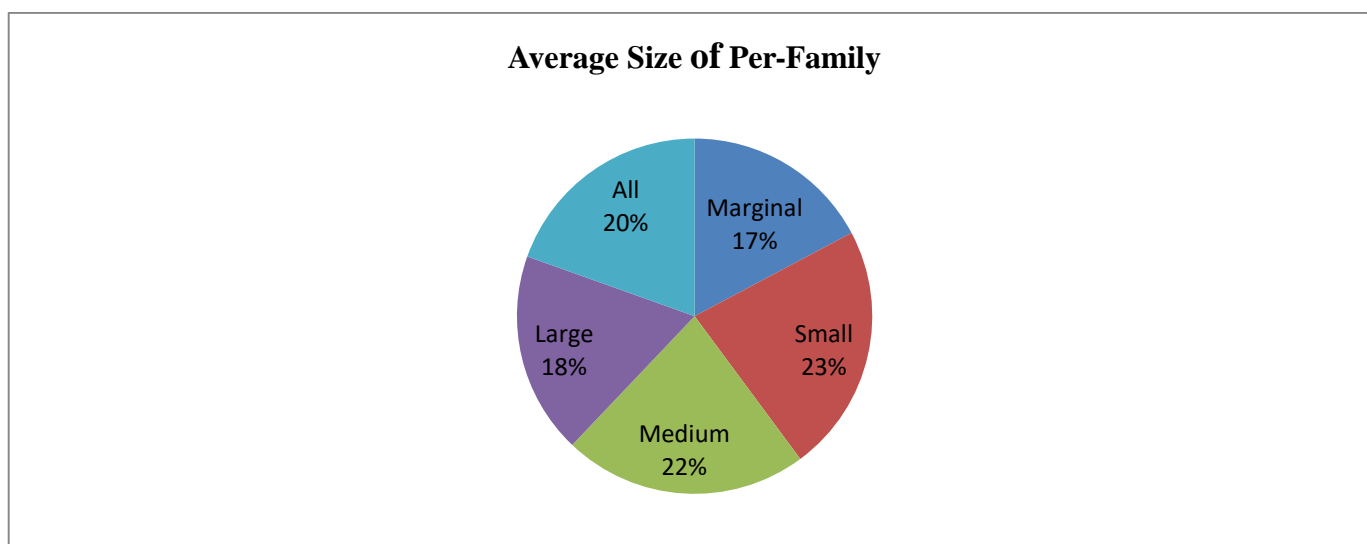


Figure-1.8



1.6 Educational Status and Literacy Rate among the Sample Household

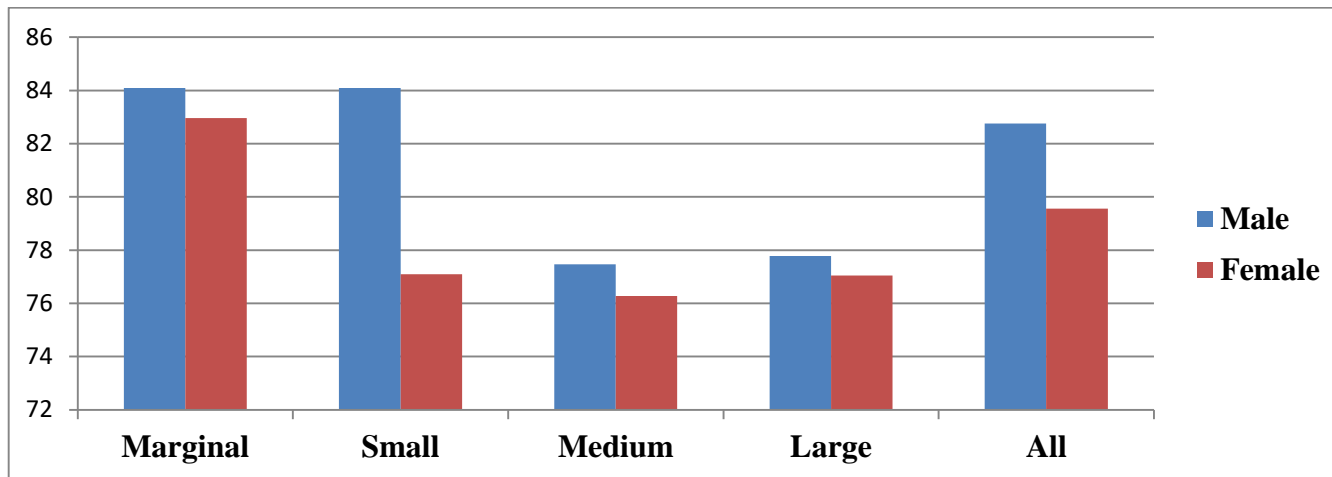
The development of nation is not measured through the building it has built, the roads it has laid down, the bridges it has constructed and the like but the human resources the nation has developed through well defined system of education. Education is the most crucial factor not only to equip the new generation with skills so essential for earning livelihood but also to create among themselves an awareness to social and environment realities, inculcates in them scientific temper, independence of mind and spirit which are of paramount importance for them to become responsible citizens. Education is the most important single factor for achieving rapid economic development and creating social order founded on social justice and equal opportunities. Education serves as the base to forge hands of common citizenship to harness energies of people and to develop natural and human resources. Education plays a vital role in socio-economic development of the people. The educational status and literacy rate among the sample: households has been presented in the diagram. The educational status and literacy rate among the sample. The educational status and literacy rate among the sample households has been presented in the diagram

A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language has been treated as literate. A person who can neither read or write or can only read but cannot write any language is treated as an illiterate. All children of age 6 years or less, even if going to school and have picked up reading and write, are treated as illiterates. The reveals that illiteracy is more among female population (i.e. 20.44 per cent) as comparison to male population which is 17.24 per cent. About 12.66 per cent women have, up to primary level education, 14.57 per cent have up to middle standard, 17.47 per cent have up to matric level and about 12.20 per cent could go up to the Senior Secondary level only. At the graduate, the bachelor of education, the post graduation and M. Phil level, the per cent is 10.68 per cent, 7.70 per cent, 3.13 per cent and 1.14 per cent and respectively which is very low and it shows that women education level yet needs to be improved in the and it shows that women education level yet needs to be improved in the area. Contrary to this, 12.82 per cent males have up to primary level education which is higher than female education, 13.41 per cent males have middle standard education, 18.13 per cent males have education up to matric, 13.26 per cent have education up to higher secondary level and 12.09 per cent have education up to graduation level, 8.77 per cent have bachelor of education level, 3.10 per cent up to the post graduation level and also 1.18 per cent up to the M. Phil level. The reveals that among the sample households the literacy rate is 81.18 per cent out of which 82.76 per cent are males and 79.56 per cent are females. The literacy percentage is highest on the marginal households which has 84.09 per cent male literates and 82.96 per cent female literates. The literacy percentage is lowest on the medium size of holdings which has 77.46 per cent males literates and 76.28 per cent females literates. Among the literacy rate of males is 84.09 per cent and 77.46 per cent on the

small and large size of holdings whereas it is 77.09 and 76.28 per cent among females on the small and medium size of holdings respectively. The highlights that the gap of literacy rate between male and female is gradually narrowing down. The State Government has accorded highest priority to girl education. With a view to bring all eligible children to the school system and also retain them in school, a variety of incentives such as school system and also retain them in school, a variety of incentives such as free writing and reading material, uniform to girl students belonging to weaker section of society, scholarship to SC/ST and other weaker section girls, free education to girls up to university level etc. have been made available which has helped to reduce the gap considerably.

Literacy Rate (Male and Female)

Figure-1.9



The highlights that the gap of literacy rate between male and female is gradually narrowing down. The State Government has accorded highest priority to girl education. With a view to bring all eligible children to the school system and also retain them in school, a variety of incentives such as school system and also retain them in school, a variety of incentives such as free writing and reading material, uniform to girl students belonging to weaker section of society, scholarship to SC/ST and other weaker section girls, free education to girls up to university level etc. have been made available which has helped to reduce the gap considerably.

Conclusion

Thus, it is concluded that the medium and large size of holdings have more arable land, use scientific farming, invest adequate on inputs, engage hired labourers and derive maximum income from the agriculture and allied activities mainly because of their higher source of income, higher capacity to invest as well as higher level of literacy whereas, the households falling on the smaller size of holding groups due to scanty, uneconomic size of holdings, meagre household income, illiteracy etc. generally supplement their meagre household income largely by way of employment in service, wage work, and also partly from animal husbandry activities. The findings of this study will help the extension system to redesign the activities for the transfer of technologies in cash crop on the production, productivity, marketing and socio-economic status of the growers. Due to their poor purchasing power, marginal and small farmers find it difficult to purchase inputs and farm implements for adoption of improved technologies. Farmers need to be encouraged to adopt high-value to low value crops, including bee-keeping in the study area.

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