

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Socio-economic status of the goat keeper in Arvi Tahsil of Wardha district

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**ABSTRACT :** The present investigation was undertaken to know the socio-economic status of goat keepers. A survey was carried out by selection of 120 goat keepers from ten villages of Arvi Tahsil of Wardha district. Goat keepers were categorized on the basis of flock size viz., very small (up to 10 goats), small (upto 25 goats) medium (up to 50 goats) and large (above 50 goats). The goat keepers were of middle aged, illiterate or educated up to High School level, having small size family and their main occupation was farming goat husbandry having small land holding or landless. Finding of this investigation indicated that maximum goat keepers were of middle age (31-50yrs), illiterate with small family size having farming and goat husbandry as their occupation and having small land holding or landless, with annual income of upto Rs. 30,000.

**Key words :** Goat, Goat keepers, Farming, Occupation

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### INTRODUCTION

Goat rearing is a subsidiary occupation in rural India. A large section of people are engaged in goat rearing, which belong to small and marginal farmers and poor landless laborers. Goat therefore has been described as a "Poor man's cow". India has highest population of goats (128 millions) in the world, but our average meat yield per goat is 10 kg. only as against 20 kg in Sri Lanka and Pakistan (FAO, 2005).

Economically goat is a cheap animal for rearing and suited to all categories of village community as goat rearing provides the regular source of additional income in the form of meat, milk, fibre, skin and manure. India ranks first for its genetic resources and numerical superiority of goats in the world.

Goats population of India was 128 millions and 10684 thousand of Maharashtra state (FAO, 2005) The total livestock population existing in Arvi Tahsil is 81361 comprising 56875 buffalo and cattle class, 361 sheep and 21704 goats, and 14000 poultry birds. Majority of cattle, buffaloes and goats are of non-descript type. Main purpose of livestock is to meet the farm power, milk, meat and manure (Source: District Statistical Report, 2007).

### RESEARCH METHODS

The data regarding Socio-economic status of the goats keepers was collected by taking observations by goat owners.

#### Information of Arvi Tahsil :

The total geographical area of Tahsil is 11,1008. ha out of which 58360 is under cultivation and remaining area comprised of grazing land or fallow land and forest. Arvi is on the latitude of 20.18 to 21.21N and longitude of 78.33 to 79.15E. The average rainfall of the Tahsil is 1062.8 mm. It falls under the dry and hot climate zone of the tropical region. During summer, the maximum ambient temperature reaches to 46°C and above while humidity ranges from 16 - 18 per cent. The weather during daytime is hot. Total geographic land of Tahsil was divided as forest-23.52 per cent, barren and uncultivable land -3.34 per cent, permanent pasture and grazing land -4.24 per cent, non-agriculture land-6.28 per cent, cultivable land-52.62 per cent, fallow-10.00 per cent (Source: District Statistical Report, 2007). There are mainly two cropping seasons i.e. *Kharif* and *Rabi* in cropping pattern. *Kharif* season crops like cotton, soybean, jowar, mung, udid, sesamum. In *Rabi* seasonal, crops like wheat, gram and groundnut and also sugercane, Termeric, capsicum crops are grown in this area.