

Accepted : October, 2010

## Structural and functional characteristics of livestock interest groups in Bidar district

G.T. GOPALA, K.C. VEERANNA, SHIVAKUMAR K. RADDER AND SUBHASH HANDAGE

### ABSTRACT

Livestock Interest Groups (LIGs) are the groups promoted by Department of Extension, Veterinary College, Bidar in similar lines with that of SHGs. All the LIGs selected for study were homogenous with respect to caste (only SC and ST), belonged to below poverty line (BPL) category, consisted members of young age group ranging from 25 -34 years, with 61.42 percent literates and majority (78.57%) with a medium family size of 4-7. Groups were conducting weekly meeting regularly with an attendance of 80-100 per cent.

**Key words :** Structural and functional characteristics, Livestock, Socio-economics

### INTRODUCTION

Self Help Group (SHG) is an important concept making rounds in the rural women circles. In India more than 70 percent of women SHGs have taken up livestock rearing as an income generating activity, which includes Dairy farming, Goat farming, Sheep farming, Rabbit farming and poultry farming. Livestock Interest Groups (LIGs) are the groups promoted by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension, Veterinary College Bidar, in similar guidelines to that of SHGs and integrated with goat rearing for the livelihood security of the members.

This goat rearing as an Income Generating Activity (IGA), is supported by and funded by DBT (Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi) funded project entitled "An action research for self-employment of SC/ST youth through goat rearing under stall feeding as a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Hyderabad-Karnataka region" .

This investigation was carried out with objectives of understanding the socio economic profile of the LIG members and structural and functional characteristic features of selected LIGs involved in goat rearing.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The primary data was collected through focused group

discussion and personal interview method with the help of a semi structured and pre-tested schedule. Six LIGs who had more than two years of experience in goat rearing practices were selected for the study. In the process three men LIGs and two women LIGs with a group strength of ten each and one women group with group strength of 20 were selected thus constituting a total of 70 respondents for the study. Bidar district was selected purposively for the present study because of the following reasons.

- Bidar district is one of the most backward districts in the Karnataka state and is having high level of rural poverty (about 50 per cent).
- Goat rearing is one of the major livestock rearing activities practiced by the majority of the rural households' especially landless agricultural labourers, and small and marginal farmers.
- Bidar district is having the highest number of SHGs and majority of them are involved in livestock rearing as an income generating activity.
- Eighteen livestock interest groups (LIGs) were functioning in Bidar district.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in the following sub heads :

G.T. Gopala, K.C. Veeranna, Shivakumar K. Radder and Subhash Handage (2010). Structural and functional characteristics of livestock interest groups in Bidar district. *Vet. Sci. Res. J.*, 1 (2) : 73-77