

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# Personal and socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers of Belagavi and Bagalkote district of Karnataka

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**SUMMARY :** The present study was conducted in Belagavi and Bagalkote district in north Karnataka during the year 2018-19 with the objectives to assess the personal and socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers. *Ex-post-facto* research design was undertaken for the present study. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to middle age category (63.33%), medium family size (53.33 %), medium family income (45.00 %), middle school education (33.33%), medium farming experience (46.66 %), high cosmopolitenes (40.83%), medium extension contact (50.00 %) and 72.50 per cent of respondents were cultivating maize in *Kharif* season along with the sugarcane.

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**KEY WORDS:**

Age, Annual income, Material possession, Farming experience, Mass media utilization, Cosmopolitenes, Extension contact

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Sugarcane is a conspicuous commercial crop of the world. This crop is grown in around seventy five nations, the primary nations are being Brazil, India, Cuba, Thailand and Mexico. The sugar industry plays a fundamental role in the agricultural economy of India. Today sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry remain as the supporting mainstays of Indian Economy. Furthermore, the sugar industry also supports the alcohol and paper industries with its by-products, like molasses and bagasse. For the promotion of animal husbandry in India, molasses derived dairy cattle feed takes an importance.

Sugarcane is the most prominent worldwide crop due to its strategic position and immense uses in the daily life of almost all nation as well as for industrial uses targeted at nutritional and economic sustenance. Sugarcane is regarded not merely as a sugar crop, as it progressively assumes the status of energy crop. About 7.5 per cent of Indian rural population and many workers are involved indirectly in sugarcane processing. However, the fact that sugarcane fetch the better price than the many other crops will also attract farmers to grow this crop. The present study was undertaken with the objective: To analyse the personal and socio-

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economic characteristics of sugarcane growers.

## RESOURCES AND METHODS

In the present investigation, *ex-post-facto* research design was used. The study was conducted in Belagavi and Bagalkot district of Karnataka during the year 2018-19. Belagavi and Bagalkot district has been purposively selected for the study because of the highest sugarcane crop in this area. In Belagavi district, two taluks *viz.*, Gokak and Athani were selected based on highest area and in Bagalkot district, *viz.*, Jamkhandi, Badami, were selected based on highest area. Three village from each taluk selected based on the highest area and production, from each village five respondents will be selected randomly. Thus, the total sample size will be 120.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussion have been summarized under following heads:

### Personal and socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers:

A cursory glance at Table 1 reveals that majority of

the respondents (63.33 %) belonged to middle age group, followed by 27.50 and 9.17 per cent of old age and young age groups, respectively. Comparatively, farmers of middle-aged groups will have fine hand of financial matters and can take autonomous choice to put their thoughts into practice. Middle-aged farmers group are passionate and have moderate farming knowledge and have high efficiency to work than older and younger respondents. They have more physical vigour than younger ones and more family obligations. The research is in the conformity with the findings of Sowmya (2009), who concluded that middle aged respondents are more prone to work when compared to the old farmers.

The data from the Table 2 reveals that 53.33 per cent were belonged to medium size family, followed by 25.00 and 21.67 per cent of small and large size family, respectively. Family size is significant incentive for sugarcane farmers to take further decisions and also if the size of family members rises, there is scope for sharing of information and ideas, division of work and there is high demand in the rural areas for labours due to their non-availability. If the family with more number of members can share the work readily and increase the income of the family. The results are supported by Naveen Kumar (2012) and Sharma *et al.* (2014).

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Young (< 30 years)	11	9.17
Middle (31 - 50 years)	76	63.33
Old (> 50 years)	33	27.50
Mean = 43.80	SD =8.58	

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Small family (< 5 Members)	30	25.00
Medium family (5 - 8 Members)	64	53.33
Big family (>8 Members)	26	21.67
Mean = 6.85	SD =2.74	

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<Rs. 92312)	19	15.83
Medium (Rs. 92312 – Rs. 2,95,188)	54	45.00
High (>Rs. 2,95,188)	47	39.17
Mean = 193750	SD = 202876.63	

The results presented in Table 3 indicate that, majority (45.00 %) of the sugarcane growers falls in medium income category. The probable reason, which could be attributed for varied income categories of respondents, might be due to the size of the land holding. The results are in same trend with the research of Nagesh (2006).

It can be confirmed from the Table 4 that majority (33.33%) of the farmers were studied upto middle school followed by high school (22.50 %), primary school (15.83 %), PUC (14.17 %), illiterate (9.17 %) and graduate (5.00 %). The expected reason for most of sugarcane farmers studied upto middle school might be due to absence of facilities for college education in nearby villages, medium family income, which forces them to move to taluk headquarters if at all they want to get college education. The reason could be illiterates may be lack of concern, lack of assistance from family members and poor economic status. Efforts are, therefore, required to educate the illiterates and drop-outs of schools through

adult education and functional village literacy programmes to raise the level of education. Similar trend was reported by Rajendra Prasad (2016).

It is clear from Table 5 that 43.33 per cent of respondents had small land holding (2.51 to 5.00 acres) followed by marginal land holding of 27.50 per cent, semi-medium farmers of 21.66 per cent, 5.83 per cent medium farmers and 1.68 per cent big farmers, respectively. The probable fact could be that the property of the ancestor was split into smaller and smaller fragments, those respondents with occupations other than that of agriculture could possibly have fewer acres of land holdings because they are not find enough time to devote to the labour intensive activity of agriculture. The research results were consistent with the findings of Sowmya (2009).

It is found from Table 6 that 46.66 per cent of the respondents belonged to medium category. While, 29.17 per cent and 24.17 per cent belonged to low and high categories of farming experience, respectively. The

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	11	09.17
Primary School	19	15.83
Middle School	40	33.33
High School	27	22.50
PUC	17	14.17
Graduate	6	5.00

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Marginal farmers (< 2.50 acres)	33	27.50
Small farmers (2.51 - 5.00 acres)	52	43.33
Semi-medium farmers (5.01 - 10.00 acres)	26	21.66
Medium farmers (10.01 - 25.00 acres)	7	5.83
Big farmers (>25.00 acres)	2	1.68
Mean = 4.63 SD = 3.96		

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<17.17)	35	29.17
Medium (17.17- 22.28)	56	46.66
High (>22.28)	29	24.17
Mean = 19.73 SD = 5.10		

probable fact that more information is available to medium-sized experienced farmers than others. Broadly speaking, farmers with more farming experience can interpret stuff readily and efficiently and can correctly take the adoption steps. The research results were consistent with the findings of Maraddi (2006).

The data from the Table 7 with respect to materials possessed by respondents, 70.00 per cent of respondents using pump sets, due to the low rainfall, sugarcane crop requires more irrigation so most of the farmers are using pump sets to irrigate the crop. In the household materials, 98.33 per cent of farmers possess motor cycle, because

of the frequent transport as well as its available in the low cost when compared to car etc. The results are in conformity with the findings of Jyoti (2012).

As high as 54.17 per cent of the sugarcane growers were found in medium level of mass media utilization. The above trend may be due to the fact that in a shorter period, mass media is an established medium for the fast dissemination of pertinent data to a numerous individuals. Mass media contact enhances sugarcane farmers capacity to obtain more information about a technology or innovation and in turn widens the farmer's mental horizon for accepting and adopting the methods. Mass

Sr. No.	Items included	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Agricultural implements</b>			
1.	Tractor drawn mould board plough	16	13.33
2.	Seed drill	5	04.16
3.	Harrow	8	06.67
4.	Seed cum fertilizer drill	2	01.66
5.	Cultivators	13	10.83
6.	Bullock cart	45	37.50
7.	Power tiller	19	15.83
8.	Knapsack Sprayer	10	08.33
9.	Power sprayer	71	50.83
10.	Tractor	34	28.33
11.	Thresher	11	09.16
12.	Pump sets	84	70.00
<b>Household materials</b>			
1.	Motor cycle	118	98.33
2.	Television	107	89.16

Note: Multiple responses

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<6.56)	38	31.67
Medium (6.56- 9.14)	51	42.50
High (>9.14)	31	25.83

Mean = 7.85 SD =2.57

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<6.96)	30	25.00
Medium (6.96- 9.94)	65	54.17
High (>9.94)	25	20.83

Mean = 8.18 SD =2.85

media offers data about effective sugarcane farmers' experiences through multiple channels such as radio, farm magazines, televisions, mobile phones etc. This strengthens the confidence of other farmers to undertake comparable operations or to attempt new innovations. The results are in conformity with the findings of Gowda *et al.* (2011).

As high as 78.33 per cent of the sugarcane growers were found in high to medium level of cosmopolitaness. The reason for medium to high cosmopolitaness of the farmers due to their socio-economic status was relatively good and they will frequently travel to neighbouring cities and towns to market their products. Hence, the cosmopolitaness level was in the range of high to medium. The research results were consistent with the findings

of Vijayakumar (2011).

It is clear from Table 11 that, 50.00 per cent of respondents belonged to medium extension contact category followed by high (34.17 %) and low (15.83 %) extension contact categories, respectively. Most farmers are likely to belong to the medium category because of their desire to overcome their issues with enterprise authorities as well as their involvement and excellent communication with extension personals. The research results were consistent with the findings of Vijay Kumar (2011).

It is clear from Table 12 that, 72.50 per cent of the respondents were growing the maize crop in *Kharif* season followed by cotton. The Karnataka government has fixed the supporting price for maize and water for

**Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to cosmopolitaness (n=120)**

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<0.85)	26	21.67
Medium (0.85– 01.82)	45	37.50
High (>01.82)	49	40.83
Mean= 1.33 SD =0.96		

**Table 11: Distribution of respondents according to extension contact (n=120)**

Category	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<1.84)	19	15.83
Medium (1.84-2.53)	60	50.00
High (>2.53)	41	34.17
Mean = 2.18 SD =0.69		

**Table 12: Distribution of respondents according to cropping pattern (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Season	Frequency	Percentage
	<i>Kharif</i>		
1.	Sugarcane	120	100.00
2.	Maize	87	72.50
3.	Cotton	14	11.66
4.	<i>Bajra</i>	13	10.83
5.	Tur	11	09.16
6.	Turmeric	8	06.66
<b>Rabi</b>			
1.	<i>Jowar</i>	40	33.33
2.	Bengal gram	36	30.00
<b>Summer</b>			
1.	Groundnut	45	37.50
2.	Onion	6	05.00

Note: Multiple responses

irrigation is readily available, as a consequence most of the respondents will preferred this crop. While, during the *Rabi* season, 33.33 per cent of respondents were growing *Jowar* it is the most important crop of north Karnataka and this can be cultivate in both dry and irrigated land followed by Bengal gram of 30.00 per cent. The possible reason can be the suitability of the season and good market price for these crops. Further in the summer season, 37.50 per cent of the farmers were cultivating groundnut and five per cent of respondents cultivating onion, the reason is due to its suitability to summer irrigation and comes up well without much infestations of pests and diseases. Further, it is one of the important oilseed crop in the region of Belagavi and Bagalkot district. Only five per cent of the respondents cultivated onion as a vegetable crop for their own consumption and bothered by the unstable market price. The research results were consistent with the findings of Yashwanth (2018).

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