

**Short Communication**

**Personal, social, economic and psychology characteristics of goat farmers and their relationship with the adoption of goat farming technology**

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Goat farming is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat therefore, has been described as a Poor Man's Cow. Taking into considerations these aspects, interest has emerged out to investigate goat farmer's adoption of improved goat farming. By using random sampling method from four tahsils, Parner, Shrigonda Newasa & Pathardi, twenty villages were selected and from each village five respondents were selected and total 120 respondents personally interviewed with the help of interview schedule. The present study indicates that a majority of the goat farmers were from middle age group. Most of them completed education up to secondary level, having medium size of family and had medium use of sources of information. A majority of them had no social participation, having medium size of flocks of goats, medium level of annual gross income, having medium size of land holding, medium level of scientific orientation and also medium level of knowledge about goat farming technology.

The present study also concluded that, with the increased in level of education, size of family, sources of information, social participation, flock size, annual gross income, size of land holding, scientific orientation, knowledge, their adoption level of improved goat farming technology also increased. However, with increase in age there was a decrease in goat farmers' level of adoption.

Goat farming is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat is a multifunctional animal and plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. Goat population in the world is about 126 million which represent 23.00 per cent of the country's live-stock population. They produce about 0.48 million tones of meat, 1.68 million tones of milk, 0.085 million tones of pashmina and 0.109 million kg. Skin in addition to 390 thousand metric tones of manure. The estimated value of different types of produce from goat is about Rs. 2612.00 million per year and it also generates about 4.2 per cent rural employment.

Goat therefore, has been described as a Poor Man's Cow. Taking into considerations these aspects, interest

has emerged out to investigate goat farmer's adoption of improved goat farming- technology and problems faced by them in goat farming. An investigation entitled "Adoption of Goat Farmers from Ahmednagar district was carried out during the year February, 2005 with following specific objectives.

1. To study the personal, social, economic and psychological characteristics of the farmers.
2. To study the relationship between selected characteristics of the farmers with adoption of goat farming technology followed by them.

Three stages random sampling technique was used for selecting the respondents of the study. In the first stage four tahsils i.e. Parner, Shrigonda, Newasa and Pathardi were selected. In the second and third stage villages and respondents were selected for the study respectively. From the selected village, a list of goat farmers was prepared with the help of Live-tock Development Officer and village functionaries' viz. Talathi and Gramsevak on the population of goats they possessed. A standard of farmers with maintaining a unit of minimum twenty doe and one buck was observed and five respondents from each village were selected. Hence, in all four tahsils, twenty villages and 120 goat farmers were covered under the study.

An interview schedule based on the objectives of the study was prepared for data collection and pre-tested prior to its finalization. After making required changes in the interview schedule then it was finalized for data collection. The information were collected by the researcher by conducting personal interview of all the goat keepers preferably at the site of their goat rearing.

The collected information were tabulated into primary and secondary tables. The findings are presented herewith as under in the following heads.

***Personal, Social, Economic and Psychological characteristics of the goat farmers :***

Information pertaining to the selected personal, social,

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economic and psychological characteristics of the goat farmer respondents were collected and analyzed. The

results are presented in Table 1.

A large proportion of the goat farmers (67.50 per

Table 1 : Distribution of the goat farmers by their personal, Social economic and Psychological characteristics.

S. No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
I	Personal Characteristics		
a)	Age		
1.	Young age (up to 32 years)	23	19.17
2.	Middle age (32 to 50 years)	84	70.00
3.	Older (50 and above years)	13	10.83
b)	Education		
	Illiterate	2	1.67
	Primary education	32	26.67
	Secondary education	63	52.50
	High education	13	10.83
	College education	10	8.33
c)	Family size		
	Up to 4 members	24	20.00
	5 to 9 members	81	67.50
	9and above members	15	12.50
II	Social Characteristics		
d)	Use of sources of information		
	Less use (up to 4scores)	30	25.00
	Medium use (5 to 9 scores)	73	60.83
	More use( above 9 scores)	17	14.17
e)	Social participation		
	No social participation	77	64.16
	Low( 1 scores)	37	30.84
	Medium (2 to 3scores)	4	3.34
	High (4 and above scores)	2	1.66
III	Economic characteristics		
f)	Flock size		
	1.Small flock size (up to 21 goats) 2.Medium flock size (22to 45 goats)	14	11.67
	3.Large flock size (46and above)	92	76.66
		14	10.00
g)	Annual income		
	1.Low (up to Rs.35000/-)	16	13.34
	2.Medium (Rs.36000- Rs 75000/-)	83	69.16
	3.High ( above Rs.75000/-)	21	17.50
h)	Size of Land holding		
	1.Small holding(up to 0.5 ha.)	25	20.83
	2.Medium (0.6 to 3.0 ha.)	86	71.67
	3.Large holding ( above3 ha.)	9	7.50
IV	Psychological Characteristics		
j)	Scientific orientation		
	1.Low scientific orientation (score18 to 23)	29	24.17
	2.Medium scientific orientation ( score18 to 23)	79	65.83
	3.High Scientific orientation score(Score above 23)	12	10.00
k.)	Knowledge		
	1.Low(Score up to 47)	28	23.33
	2. Medium(Score47-56)	80	66.67
	3.High (score above 56)	12	10.00

cent) were belonged to medium size family followed by those having large size of family (12.50 per cent).

Most of the goat farmers (60.83 per cent) had medium use of sources of information whereas 25.00 per cent and 14.17 per cent of them had less and more use of sources of information respectively.

A maximum proportion (64.16 per cent) of the goat farmers had no any social participation whereas, 30.84 per cent and 3.34 per cent of them had less and medium level of social participation respectively. While only 1.66 per cent of the goat farmers had high social participation.

From the present investigation, it was observed that most of the goat farmers (76.66 per cent) had medium flock size while 11.67 per cent and 11.67 per cent of them had small and large flock size respectively. The findings are in conformity with Shaikh et al. (2003)

It was observed that, most of the goat farmers (69.16 per cent) had medium level of annual gross income followed by 17.50 per cent and 13.34 per cent of them had high and low level of annual gross income respectively. The findings are in line with Bhosale (2000)

A majority of the goat farmers had medium size of land holding (71.67 per cent) while 20.83 per cent and 7.50 per cent of them had small and large size of land holding respectively.

A large number of goat farmers (65.83 per cent) were having medium level of

Scientific orientation whereas, 24.17 per cent had low level of scientific orientation. The 10.00 per cent of them had high level of scientific orientation.

A large number of goat farmers (66.67 per cent) had medium level of knowledge.

Only 10.00 per cent had high level of knowledge.

#### ***Relationship between adoption level of goat farmers and their personal, social economic and psychological characteristics :***

An attempt was made to know whether the characteristics of goat farmers had only relationship with their level of adoption of improved goat management practices. It was felt that the understanding about these aspects would help in identifying the goat farmers whose adoption still need to be enhanced by increasing their knowledge level about improved goat management practices through different methods and communication media.

To ascertain the relationship, co-efficient of correlation (r) was worked out. The data on this aspect are presented in Table- 2 and discussed in the subsequent pages.

#### ***a. Age and adoption :***

It was observed that relationship between the age

of goat farmers and their level of adoption of goat management technology was negatively significant ( $r = 0.2238$ ). The findings are inline with the findings of Bhosale(2000).

This may be due to the fact that young men are enthusiastic, energetic, creative and progressive in nature. The farmers who are older in nature are likely to be orthodox, conservative and traditional minded. In this study relatively more respondents were from middle age and young age group and therefore, they may be giving favorable responses to the adoption of new management practices in goat keeping. This may also be because the educated young people are not getting employment elsewhere. They does have alternative expect self business. Hence, most of the respondents might have aspect because most of them are educated than older one and knows better of goat rearing than older one.

#### ***b. Education and adoption :***

Relationship between education and adoption level of goat farmers was found to be positively significant ( $r = 0.1817$ ).

This means that, the higher the level of education, higher is the adoption level. Education helps in individual to acquire more knowledge, understand better and inclined to get correct information for use in goatry. Education makes man to believe in science and technology and thereby modernize his way of thinking and acting. This might be the reason for higher educated farmers having higher adoption.

#### ***c. Size of family and adoption :***

It was observed from the Table- 2 that, the family size had positive and significant relationship with adoption level ( $r = 0.2858$ ).

Number of member in a family with sound knowledge can provide more labour and managerial force for adoption of improved practices. Due to more literacy in a family may increase knowledge level and also adoption of improved technology by the family. This may be a reason of significant relationship.

#### ***d. Use of sources of information and adoption :***

As shown in the Table- 2 that, relationship between the extent of use of source of information of goat farmers and adoption is. found to be positive and significant ( $r = 0.262$ ).

Extent of use of sources of information is one of the important aspects for adoption of improved technology. It revealed that with increased use of sources of information by the goat farmers, there was a increase in their level of adoption.

**e. Social participation and adoption :**

The Table 2 revealed that, relationship between the social participation of goat farmers in the various village organizations of their locality and their level of adoption was found to be positive and significant ( $r = 0.1955$ ). Social participation provides an opportunity to farmers to see that, what other people do and thereby motivate to adopt the beneficial and improved technology adoption by other. That might be the reason for positive relationship between the social participation and adoption level.

**f. Flock size of goats and adoption**

From Table- 2, it was observed that, the relationship between flock size of goats of goat farmers and their level of adoption was found positive and significant ( $r =$

**h. Size land holding and adoption :**

From Table-2, it can be seen that, the relationship between size of the land holding and adoption level of various goat management technology was observed to be positively significant ( $r = 0.3052$ ).

It can be inferred that, farmers with large farm size have high level of adoption. Goat farmers with large holding may be having better income level. This might have lead to more adoption.

**i. Scientific orientation and adoption :**

It was observed from Table-2, that there was positively significant correlation ( $r = 0.4824$ ) between scientific orientation and, adoption of improved goat farming technology by the farmers

Table2: Relationship between selected independent and dependent variables of goat farmers.

S. No.	Independent Variables	Dependent variable Adoption correlation coefficient
1.	Age	-0.2238**
2.	Education	0.1817*
3.	Size of family	0.2858**
4.	Sources of information	0.262**
5.	Social participation	0.1955*
6.	Flock size	0.3523**
7.	Annual gross income	0.2731**
8.	Land holding	0.3052**
9.	Scientific Orientation	0.4824**
10.	Knowledge	0.3773**

\* Significant at 5 percent level of probability

\*\* Significant at 1 percent level of probability

3523).

It indicates that with increase in flocks' size the adoption level was also increased. Because farmers may try to take more care being more number of goats.

**g. Annual gross income and adoption :**

The Table-2 revealed that, the annual gross income of goat farmers exhibited positive and significant relationship with their adoption level of goat farming technology (0.2731).

The reason behind this might be that goat farmers with sound economic position be more capable to procure inputs needed for the adoption of improved technology of goat farming.

This indicates that, more the scientific orientation more was the adoption. It was thought that, farmers with better scientific outlook would adopt more technology and in the present study it was confirmed.

**j. Knowledge and adoption :**

It was observed from Table-2, that, there was positive and significant correlation ( $r = 0.3773$ ) between knowledge and adoption of improved goat farming technology by the farmers. These findings are in line with findings of Shirsat et al. (1993)

This indicates that more level of knowledge more was the adoption. It was thought that farmers with better knowledge would adopt more technology and in the

present study it was confirmed.

## CONCLUSIONS

The present study indicates that a majority of the goat farmers were from middle age group. Most of them completed education up to secondary level, having medium size of family and had medium use of sources of information. A majority of them had no social participation, having medium size of flocks of goats, medium level of annual gross income, having medium size of land holding, medium level of scientific orientation and also medium level of knowledge about goat farming technology.

The present study also concluded that, with the increased in level of education, size of family, sources of information, social participation, flock size, annual gross income, size of land holding, scientific orientation, knowledge, their adoption level of improved goat farming technology also increased. However, with increase in age there was a decrease in goat farmers' level of adoption.

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