

# Study of Socio-Personal Characteristics of Backyard Poultry Farmers of Bihar

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## **ABSTRACT**

Backyard poultry has been recognized as an effective tool for poverty alleviation especially in the rural areas. Since time immemorial backyard poultry farming has played an important role to meet the domestic as well as socio-cultural needs of the rural people. The present study was conducted in three purposively selected districts. Two blocks were selected out of which 50 respondents were randomly selected. Total 300 respondents were selected for the research study. Various socio-personal (age, family type, educational qualification) were the important factors which have contributed to the rearing of the backyard poultry by the poultry farmers. It was found that majority (52.33%) of the respondents were from middle age group followed by (33.00) young age group. So far family type is concerned it was found that majority (61.67%) of the respondents were from joint family. Further about (37.33%) of the respondents were educated up to high school level followed by (21.67%) up to primary school level, (19.67%) up to middle school level. These study help us to explore the rearing and societal adoption pattern of the backyard poultry farming which will help us to find the area and how we could put more emphasis for the successful practicing of backyard poultry farming.

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*Keywords: Backyard Poultry farmers, Socio-personal.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Poultry production in India has increased many folds in recent year. India ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in egg production and 7<sup>th</sup> in poultry meat production [1]. Poultry industry is contributing about Rs. 9000 cr. To the national GDP and providing employment to more than 5 million people either directly or indirectly.

Backyard poultry farming is low input venture and is characterized by rearing indigenous night shelter, scavenging system with little supplementary feeding, natural hatching of chicks, poor productivity of birds, local marketing and less health care practice.

Backyard poultry contributing (30.00%) to the national egg production is the most neglected one. It is well known that the majority (91.00%) of the population are landless and marginal farmers, carrying out their lives from poultry and other small ruminants. In Bihar per capita availability of egg is 11 egg/person/annum and of poultry meat is 2.08 kg/person/year. Thus Backyard poultry farming can help state to bridge the gap between demand and supply of egg and poultry meat as well.

The socio-personal characteristics of the farmers can play a pivotal role in poverty alleviation as well as their positive behavioral changes by enhancing their daily earnings. The present

investigation was carried out with the objective to study the socio-personal characteristics of the poultry farmers of Bihar.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

The present study was conducted in three selected district viz; Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Nalanda. Two blocks were selected and 50 respondents were randomly selected from each block, thus resulting in a total sample size of 300. An interview schedule was prepared to collect information from the respondents. To check its validity the interview schedule was pre-tested on 10 respondents randomly selected. The schedule was finalized after making necessary amendments in the light of pre testing experience. The data thus collected were coded for the precise conclusion.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

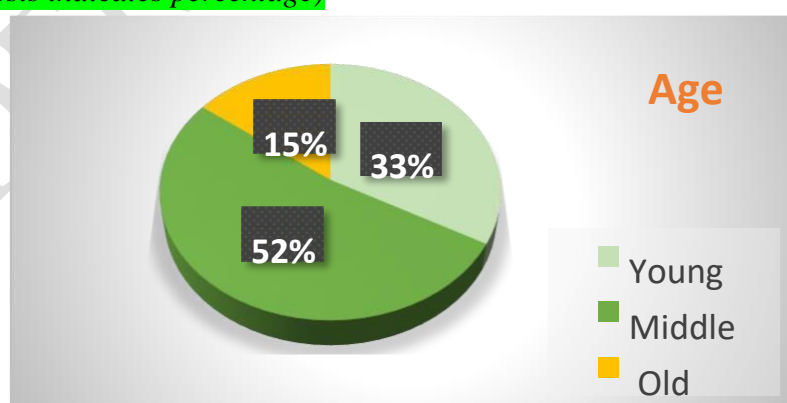
### 3.1. Age

Age of respondents is most important variables which determines the level of entrepreneurship. It helps to understanding of their views about adoption of any activities. Older age indicates level of maturity of individuals in that sense.

**Table 1. Farmers categorization according to their age(N=300)**

| Sl. No. | Age (years)   | Muzaffarpur (n = 100) | Darbhangha (n = 100) | Nalanda (n= 100) | Total (N =300) |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1       | Young (18-35) | 35 (35)*              | 29 (29)*             | 35 (35)*         | 99 (33.00)*    |
| 2       | Middle(36-55) | 44 (44)               | 60 (60)              | 53 (53)          | 157 (52.33)    |
| 3       | Old ( > 55)   | 21 (21)               | 11 (11)              | 12 (12)          | 44 (14.67)     |

\*(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage)



**Fig. 1. Farmers categorisation according to their age**

Table 1 reveals that the majority of the respondents (52.33%) falls into the middle age category followed by 33.00 per cent in young age category and 14.67 percent belonging to old age category. This might be due to the reason that middle age group people are in stage of

earning, have livelihood responsibility and are in immediate need of money, so they recognize BYPF as an instant cash profitable business and are directionally motivated for such improved practices, young respondents considers BYPF as attractive new venture and a future source of income and can decide it for doing in near future whereas old age group people are less interested may be due to their unwillingness, less energetic and less knowledge about the new venture. These findings are in agreement with Nanjesh[2], Razzaq et al[3], Deka and Thakur [4]and Bibhu[5], as they also found that the majority of the backyard poultry farmers belonged to middle age category.

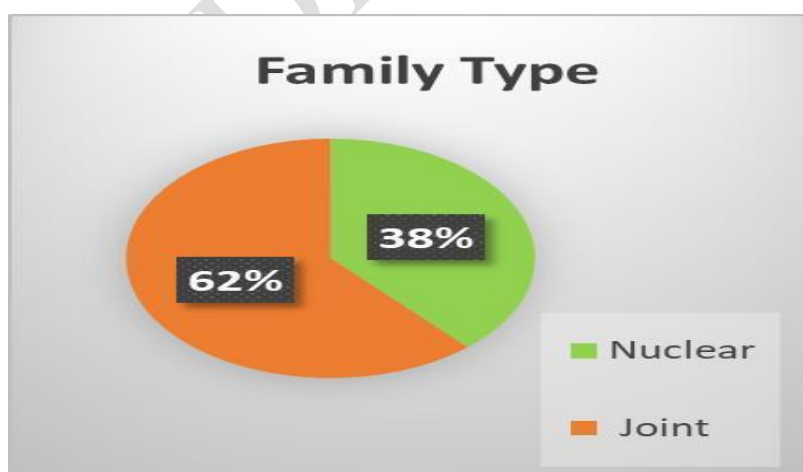
### 3.2. Family Type

The type of the family in which a person lives and gets socialized has immense importance in deciding his values, beliefs, and behaviour pattern which are likely to affects his or her attitudes towards a particular entrepreneurship. The family type plays its own role in giving the response of an individual and therefore it is thought important to understand the family type of the respondents.

**Table 2. Distribution of farmers according to their family type (N=300)**

| Sl. No. | Family type | Muzaffarpur<br>(n=100) | Darbhangha<br>(n=100) | Nalanda<br>(n=100) | Total<br>(N=300) |
|---------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1       | Nuclear     | 39 (39)*               | 42 (42)*              | 34 (34)*           | 115 (38.33)*     |
| 2       | Joint       | 61 (61)                | 58 (58)               | 66 (66)            | 185 (61.67)      |

\*(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage)



**Fig. 2. Distribution of farmers according to their family type**

The findings depicts that majority of the respondents about (61.67%) had joint family type and only 38.33 percent had nuclear family type. In joint family the women and children of household get sufficient time to take up BYPF as other household works were shared by other members of the family, as less time and labor demanding work. These findings shows that the trend of joint family increasing for practicing backyard poultry farming. Similar trends have been observed by Deka and Thakur [4], Pratap et al [6] and RajKumar et al [7] during their studies in BYPF in different part of India.

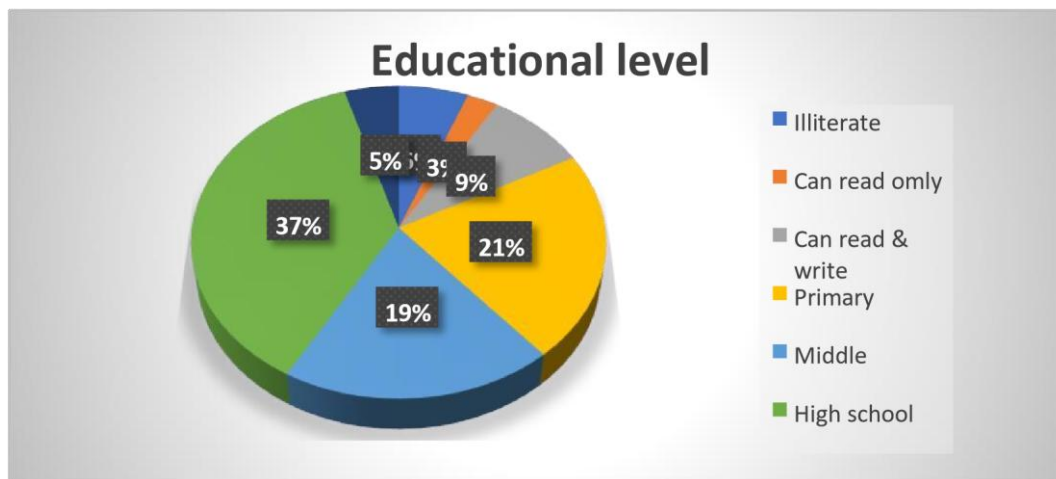
### 3.3. Educational qualification

Education is one of the most important characteristics that have direct effect on the individual's attitudes, their way of looking and understanding on any particular social phenomena. Different traits of entrepreneurship have significant positive relationship with the individual's education status. So, the response of any individual towards BYPF is likely to be determined by his educational status and therefore it become imperative to know the educational background of the respondents.

**Table 3. Educational qualification of the respondent farmers (N=300)**

| Sl. No. | Educational level | Muzaffarpur (n=100) | Darbhanga (n=100) | Nalanda (n=100) | Total (N=300) |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1       | Illiterate        | 04 (04)*            | 02 (02)*          | 02 (02)*        | 08 (2.67)*    |
| 2       | Can read only     | 15 (15)             | 01 (01)           | 02 (02)         | 18 (6.00)     |
| 3       | Can read & write  | 19 (19)             | 03 (03)           | 04 (04)         | 26 (8.66)     |
| 4       | Primary school    | 31 (31)             | 17 (17)           | 15 (15)         | 63 (21.67)    |
| 5       | Middle school     | 07 (07)             | 27 (27)           | 25 (25)         | 59 (19.67)    |
| 6       | High school       | 18 (18)             | 46 (46)           | 48 (48)         | 112 (37.33)   |
| 7       | Graduation        | 06 (06)             | 04 (04)           | 04 (04)         | 14 (4.67)     |

\*(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage)



**Fig. 3. Educational qualification of the respondent farmers**

The pooled data revealed that the majority of the respondents (37.33%) had education up to high school level followed by 21.67 percent respondents had education up to primary level, 19.67 percent of the respondents had education up to middle school level and only 4.67 percent of the respondents had education up to graduation level. It can be seen that maximum number of respondents were educated till high school education level. It depicts that BYPF can be done even with less knowledge and low educational level. So, transfer of technology for BYPF can be concentrated more to people belonging to primary to high school level of education. So, that it can be easily adopted by the community. The findings are in line with the observations of Razzaq et al[3], Bibhu[5], Pratap et al [6] and Rajkumar et al [7] as they also found that majority of the farmers had education up to high school level, during their studies on BYPF in different regions of India.

#### **4. CONCLUSION-**

The present study reveals socio-personal characteristics of backyard poultry farm. The study reveals that large percentage of respondents belonged to middle age category followed by young and old. This was might evident due to the reason that middle age group people are in stage of earning, have livelihood responsibility and are in immediate need of money, so they recognize backyard poultry farming as an instant cash profitable business and are directionally motivated for such improved practices. It was found that majority of the household were of joint family type which means in joint family women, children and older members get sufficient time to look after and practice backyard poultry farming. Further, as educational qualification was concern it was found that maximum number of respondents were educated till high school educational level. It depicts that backyard poultry farming can

be done even with less knowledge and low educational level. So, transfer of technology for backyard poultry farming can be concentrated more to people belonging to the above concerned following category. So that it can be easily adopted by the community and can be source of income generation and uplift the socio-economic status of the community.

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