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Research on Socio-Profile of Farmers of S.A.S. Nagar District, Punjab

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Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analysed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The socio-economic traits of farm households in Punjab's rural districts were the focus of the current study. For this objective, information was gathered from 150 farm homes from the villages of S.A.S. Nagar district, Punjab. The findings showed that the Sikh religion and General Castes comprised the majority of farm households. Most people were found to be in the 30 to 70 age range, which is the most economically active. In all farm-size categories, the sex ratio was in favour of the females. The proportion of farm households living in the joint type of family was positively associated with the farm size. Most of the persons of the marginal and small farm-size categories were illiterate and with relatively low level of education as compared to the semi-medium, medium, and large farm-size categories. The proportionate share of earners was the highest for the small farm-size category and the lowest for the semi-medium farm-size category. About 92 percent of sampled farmers owned pucca houses. The proportion of sampled farmers who owned good condition houses, bathrooms and toilets were related to the farm size. About 93% of farmers contact the local input dealers for any information needed for crop cultivation. 90 % of farmers had mobile connection. It was found that most of the farmers had an internet connection (66%) for a majority of sampled farmers in the rural areas of Punjab.

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Keywords: Agriculture; socio-profile; farmer; education.

1. INTRODUCTION

In every stage of an economy's development, agriculture is essential. The foundation of any nation's economy is its agriculture. Agriculture also offers employment opportunities to a relatively big percentage of the people in addition to providing food and raw materials [1].

Age, education level, income, family size, land holding size, type of house, social participation, source of information, occupational structure, and other essential amenities and infrastructure facilities are all taken into account when evaluating socio-economic status [2]. It is a method of examining how people or families fit into society by using economic and social factors that have been proved to influence people's health and well-being. The position of an individual or a family is how Chapin defined socioeconomic status (Chapin), [2,3]

Punjab is particularly proud of itself among the Indian States for its significant contributions to agricultural prosperity. The state's agricultural output greatly expanded during the Green Revolution, largely as a result of a fortuitous confluence of institutional and technological variables. With an average growth rate of 8.9%, Punjab is a progressive state in India. It has developed into a place where chances for business, industry, and employment are virtually endless [4]. The Punjab state now accounts for 13–14% of the nation's total production of food grains despite making up just 1.54 percent of the country's total land area. The state has acquired the moniker "granary of India" by providing 40 to 75 percent of the wheat and 35 to 40 percent of the rice to the central pool over the past 20 years. Around 20% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is accounted for by the agriculture sector, which is important to the country's economy [5]. Punjab's agriculture sector is still developing, hence there are many difficulties. The predominant wheat-rice production pattern gravely harms the state's two natural resource bases [6]. The state's economy is based on agricultural, therefore other crucial industries like agro-processing, transportation, trading, and storage are both directly and indirectly dependent on agriculture. Thus, the performance of the agriculture sector, which is the fifth sector, determines the extent, rate, and employment growth in other sectors as well as the total state economy [7,8].

North-eastern Punjab has the SAS Nagar district. Due to its close vicinity to Chandigarh's union territory, the district has developed swiftly, and this area is now quickly becoming into an important I.T. hub for northern India. In this research article, we will focus on five villages within this district: Shakrullapur, Rora, Bibipur, Batta and Theri.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study used a non-experimental descriptive research design. The independent variables are not changed by the researchers in non-experimental research. A descriptive research design places a lot of emphasis on examining the field study of a specific circumstance. A questionnaire was created to analyse the socio-demographics of the respondents, and research was then done using those responses. The state of Punjab is divided into 23 districts. The present study was carried out in five villages inside the SAS Nagar district in the northeast of Punjab State. In the current investigation, a multistage random sampling technique was used. Data collection methods included personal interviews. For the survey, 150 farmers at random were chosen from 5 villages-Shakrullapur, Rora, Bibipur, Batta and Theri of SAS Nagar district, Punjab, having geographical area of 221 ha, 196 ha, 163 ha, 210 ha and 126 ha, respectively. With the aid of a semi-structured interview schedule and the personal interview approach, data were gathered from the chosen respondents. Following the collection of the respondents' information, the data was categorised, quantified, and tabulated. Frequencies, percentages, averages, and standard deviation, among other appropriate statistical measures, were used to evaluate the data in order to create the relevant information that was consistent with the study's objectives. The respondents were questioned in their homes or in their workplaces, and their answers were immediately recorded.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results that were acquired and interpreted following the data collection, analysis, and tabulation in response to the study's research objectives are covered in this chapter. 150 respondents provided the information, which was then organised into the following headings:

3.1 Socio-Economic Profile of Farmers

The information showed that out of the data of the 150 farmers collected, the minimum age was 22 years, and the maximum age was 70 years. It was found that a considerable proportion of the farmers belonged to the 40-70 age group (48%) followed by 30-39 age group (35%) and 22-29 age group (17%).

3.2 Education Qualifications

The information showed that, 92% of the farmers were literate and 8% of the farmers were illiterate.

Table 1. Age categories

Sr N	Parameters (years)	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall %(N-150)
1.	**22-29**	5(17%)	2(8%)	5(14%)	6(20%)	7(23%)	(25)17%
2.	**30-39**	15(50%)	10(40%)	10(29%)	10(33%)	8(27%)	(53)35%
3.	**40-70**	10(33%)	13(52%)	20(57%)	14(47%)	15(50%)	(72)48%

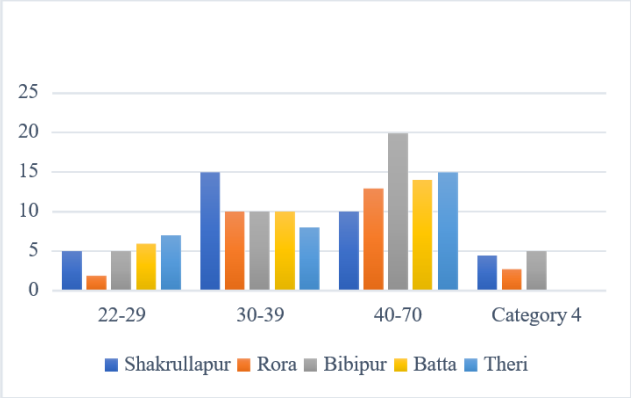

Fig. 1. Age categories

Table 2. Education qualifications

Sr. No.	Parameters	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall % (N-150)
1.	**Illiterate**	3(10%)	1(4%)	3(8%)	2(7%)	3(10%)	(12)8%
2.	**Primary**	5(17%)	5(20%)	7(20%)	6(20%)	6(20%)	(29)19%
3.	**Metric**	8(26%)	6(24%)	17(49%)	6(20%)	9(30%)	(46)31%
4.	**Higher Secondary**	9(30%)	8(32%)	6(17%)	10(33%)	9(30%)	(42)28%
5.	**Graduate**	5(17%)	5(20%)	2(6%)	6(20%)	3(10%)	(21)14%

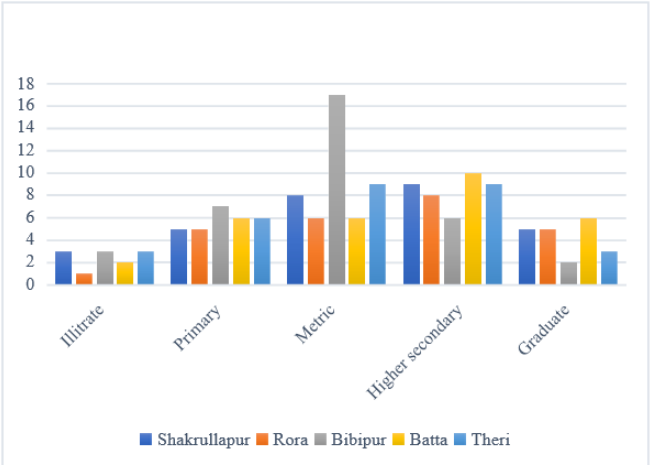

Fig. 2. Education qualification

3.3 Mobile Connection and Internet Facility Availability

The information showed that, 90 % of farmers had mobile phones. It was found that most of the farmers had an internet connection (66%), while the remaining 34% do not have internet access.

3.4 Family Size

The information showed that, during the survey, out of 150 farmers interacted, 60% of them had nuclear family while the remaining 40% farmers had joint family.

Table 3. Internet facility availability

Sr. No.	Internet facility availability	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall %(N-150)
1.	Yes	20(67%)	18(72%)	26(74%)	18(60%)	17(57%)	99(66%)
2.	No	10(33%)	7(28%)	9(26%)	12(40%)	13(43%)	51(34%)

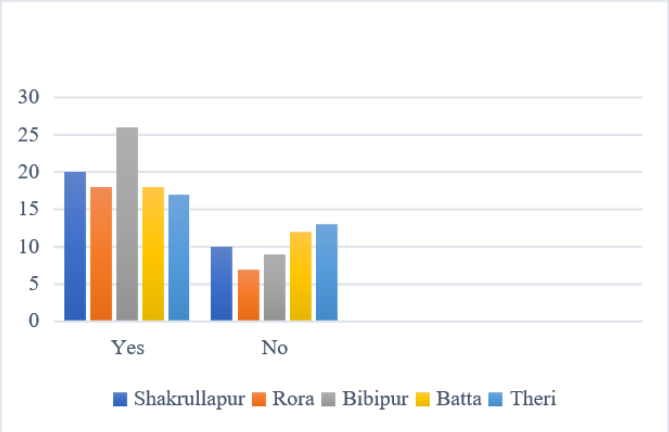

Fig. 3. Internet availability

Table 4. Family size

Sr.No.	Parameters	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall % (N-150)
1.	Nuclear	15(50%)	12(48%)	25(71%)	18(60%)	20(67%)	(90)60%
2.	Joint	15(50%)	13(52%)	10(29%)	12(40%)	10(33%)	(60)40%

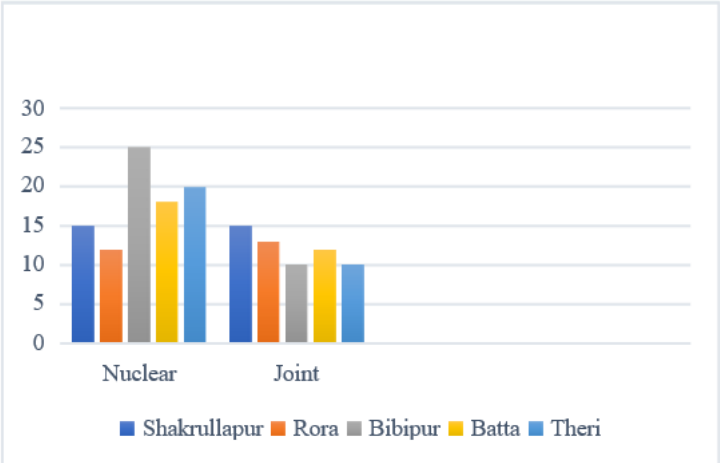

Fig. 4. Family size

3.5 Size of Land Holdings

It is the area that the farmers had. The information showed that 3% of farmers have land holdings in between 2-10 hectares, followed by 38% having land holding between 1-2 hectares, 12% farmers have less than 1 hectare of land and 7% farmers have 2-10 hectares of land.

3.6 Source of Information

The information showed that, input dealers act as the source of information for majority of farmers (93%), followed by friends/family (77%), Co-operative society (62%), Kisan mela (57%), while for the rest of the farmers the source of information is newspaper (44%) and KVK (35%).

3.7 Availability of Cards

The information showed that, most respondents have only mandatory documents (Aadhar card, Ration card) i.e., 100% and 89%. Only 13% of respondents have health cards and 7% of farmers have Kisan credit cards. None of the respondents have beneficial cards like soil health card, MGNREGA card etc.

Table 5. Size of land holdings

Sr. No	Parameters	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall %(N-150)
1.	**Marginal (<1hectares)**	3(10%)	1(4%)	7(20%)	2(7%)	5(17%)	(18)12%
2.	**Small (1-2hectares)**	10(33%)	8(32%)	16(46%)	11(36%)	12(40%)	(57)38%
3.	**Medium (2-10hectares)**	15(50%)	15(60%)	10(28%)	14(47%)	10(33%)	(64)43%
4.	**Large (>10hectares)**	2(7%)	1(4%)	2(6%)	3 (10%)	3(10%)	(11)7%

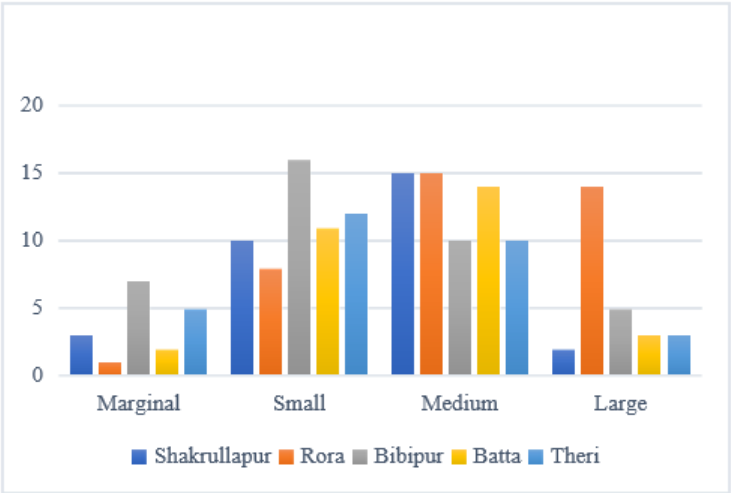

Fig. 5. Size of land holdings

Table 6. Source of information

Sr. No	Parameters	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall % (N-150)
1.	**Input dealer**	28(93%)	25(100%)	30(83%)	30(100%)	26(87%)	(139)93%
2.	**Friend/family**	44(80%)	13(50%)	23(67%)	10(33%)	26(87%)	(116)77%
3.	**Newspaper**	6(20%)	13(50%)	23(67%)	10(33%)	14(47%)	(66)44%
4.	**KVK**	8(27%)	18(36%)	9(26%)	8(27%)	10(33%)	(53)35%
5.	**Kisan mela**	12(40%)	19(75%)	18(50%)	20(67%)	17(57%)	(86)57%
6.	**Co-op. Society**	15(50%)	13(52%)	26(74%)	18(60%)	21(70%)	(93)62%

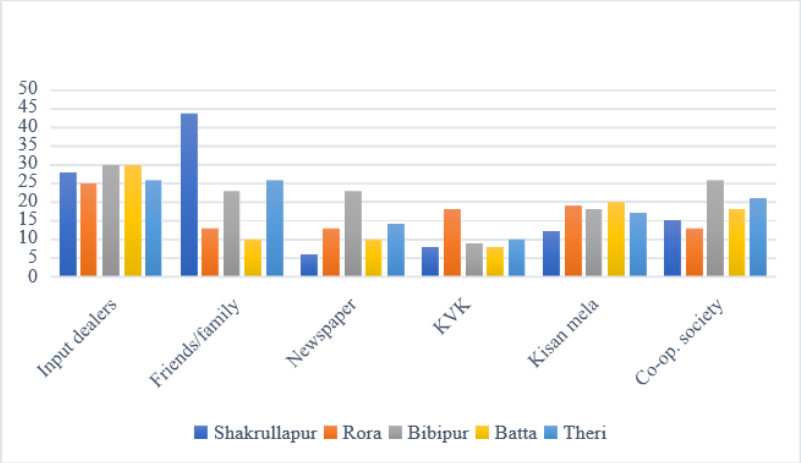

Fig. 6. Source of information

Table 7. Availability of cards

Sr. No.	Parameters	ShakrullaPur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall % (N-150)
1.	**Aadhar card**	30(100%)	25(100%)	35(100%)	30(100%)	30(100%)	(150)100%
2.	**Ration card**	25(83%)	22(88%)	30(86%)	28(93%)	28(93%)	(133)89%
3.	**Health card**	2(7%)	5(20%)	0	8(27%)	4(13%)	(19)13%
4.	**Kisan Credit card**	3(10%)	2(8%)	4(11%)	2(7%)	0	(11)7%

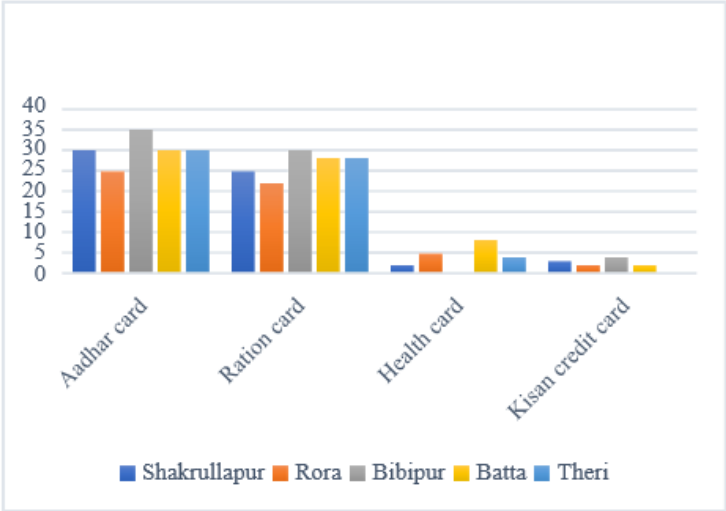

Fig. 7. Availability of cards

Table 8. Type of house

Sr. No	Parameters	Shakrullapur (n-30)	Rora (n-25)	Bibipur (n-35)	Batta (n-30)	Theri (n-30)	Overall % (N-150)
1.	**Pucca house**	26(87%)	25(100%)	32(91%)	30(100%)	25(83%)	(138)92%
2.	**Kacha house**	4(13%)	0	3(%)	0	5(17%)	(12)8%

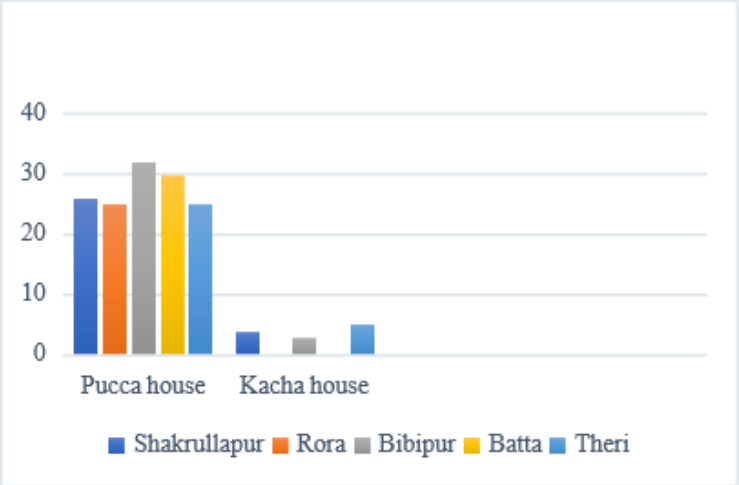

Fig. 8. Type of house

3.8 Type of House

The information showed that most of the farmers have pucca houses (92%), while the rest have kacha houses (8%).

4. CONCLUSION

The aspects that determine the farmer community's position in rural Punjab have been looked into in the current study. According to the study, 48 % of the respondents were mostly in the 40 to 70 age range. Regarding respondents' educational backgrounds, 31% of farmers had completed matriculation, compared to 8% of farmers who were illiterate. 60% of them were members of nuclear family, and the remaining 40% were members of joint families. 43% of respondents are farmers, who have land holdings between 2 and 10 hectares, followed by 38% of respondents who have land holdings between 1 and 2 hectares, 12% of respondents who have less than 1 hectare of land, and 7% of respondents who have land holdings between 2 and 10 hectares. The majority of farmers own mobile phones, and of those, 66% have live internet connections. The majority of farmers (93%), followed by friends and family (77%), co-operative societies (62%), and kisan mela (57%), get their information from input dealers. The remaining farmers get their information from newspapers (44%) and KVK (35%). Only 8% of farmers have kacha houses, compared to 92% of farmers with pucca houses. The primary source of data used in the study was gathered by the authors. The socio-economic standing of farmers is determined by several elements, particularly those with an agricultural foundation. The study concludes that factors such as the head of household's age, education, health, fertiliser, and information source have a significant impact on farmers' status.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of this manuscript.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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