

SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE FARMERS IN ISLAMPUR BLOCK,UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT,WEST BENGAL

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Abstract

The way of life as well as socio-economic condition of the marginal farmers are different in many ways from civilized and technologically advanced society. Marginal farmers of the study area usually depend on subsistence agriculture. In this regard an attempt has been made in this paper to understand the socio-economic condition of marginal farmers. The present paper is purely based on primary data collected from the study area. The study area has 101 villages out of which 5 villages are selected for survey of 30 families for stratified random sampling. It has been observed that most of the peoples of the study area are highly dependent on agricultural activities. It is also noticed that these peoples are socio-economically backward. There need a number of measures to the overall socio economic development of the farmers.

Keywords:

socio-economic condition,
marginal farmer, subsistence
agriculture, dependent

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Introduction :

Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education and occupation.

Socioeconomic status (SES) encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Poverty, specifically is not a single factor but rather is characterized by multiple physical and psychosocial stressors. Further, SES is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Thus, SES is relevant to all realms of behavioural and social science, including research, practice, education and advocacy.

Socioeconomic status (SES) is a composite measure of one's resources and prestige within a community (Krieger, Williams, & Moss, 1997). Resources include both material goods (e.g., owning a home) and assets (e.g., savings), whereas prestige refers to one's status within a social hierarchy and is typically determined by the classification of education and profession according to the esteem placed on each by society.

Research indicates that children from low SES households and communities develop academic skills slower than children from higher SES groups (Morgan, Farkas, Hillemeier, & Maczaga, 2009).

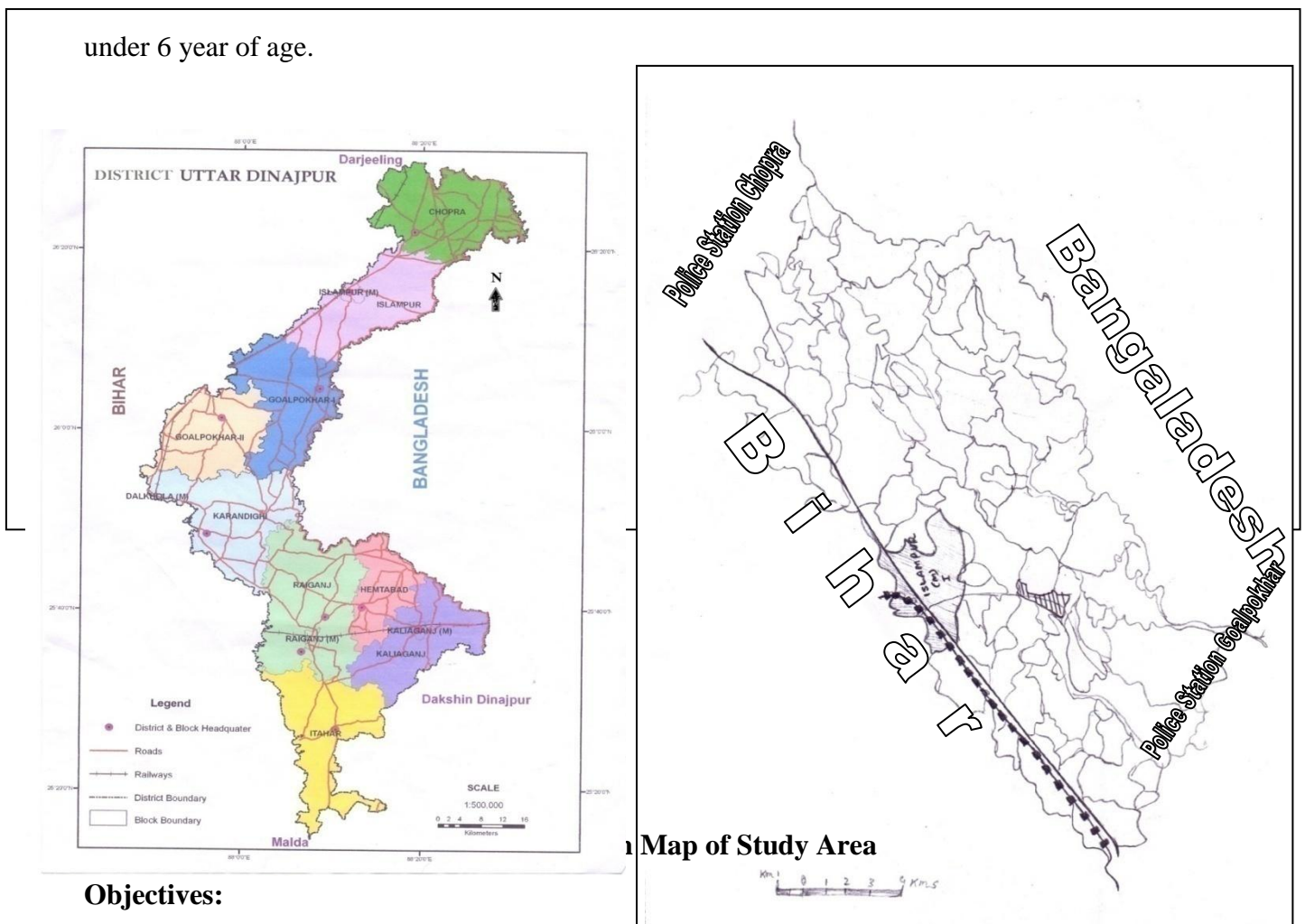
Study Area:

Islampur is a subdivision of the Uttar Dinajpur district in the state of West Bengal, India. It consists of Islampur municipality, Dalkhola municipality and five community development blocks. The five blocks contain 59 gram Panchayats and 101 villages. The subdivision has its headquarters at Islampur. Islampur is enclosed by Panchayats, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts of Bangladesh on the east, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar district of Bihar on the West, Darjeeling district and Jalpaiguri district on north and Malda district and Dakshin Dinajpur

district on the south. Islampur extends from 26⁰16'N to 26⁰27'N latitude and 88⁰12'E to 88⁰20'E longitudes. The total geographical area of Islampur is 331.20Km². As 2011 India census, Islampur had a population of 308,518. Males constitute 51.54% of the population and female

48.48% Islampur has an average Literacy rate of 69% (less than the national average of 74.04%). Male literacy is 59% and female literacy is 40.99% . In Islampur, 18.7% of the population is

under 6 year of age.



Objectives:

The present paper has attempted to find out the existing socio-economic conditions of the farmers with the help of selected indicators.

Data base and Methodology:

The study is purely based on the primary data which has been collected through schedules prepared for the purpose and information collected through interview method. As many as 30 households belonging to the study area were interviewed from different parts of rural areas. A stratified random sampling procedure has been adopted where 30 households from 5 villages were selected to gather information. This study is also relayed on a simple cartographic techniques to understand the socio-economic conditions of the farmers of the study area.

Results and Analysis:

Social infrastructure:

The social facilities like education, supply of drinking water, sanitation, nature and type of house etc. Play an important role in the socio-economic development of any area.

Table1 : Bijhokhor : Population

Total Family Members		
Total	Male	Female
181	96(53.04%)	85(46.96%)

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Table-1 deals with the summary of the selection of sample from the study area. 30 households have been surveyed comprising 181 members out of which 96 (53.04%) are males and 85 (46.96%) are females. In the study area male population exceeds the female population.

Table 2: Literacy

	Literates		Illiterates		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
No. of Household	55	43	41	42	181
%	57.29	50.59	42.71	49.49	

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Table 3 : Educational Status

Classes	1 to 4th	5th to 10th	Upto 11-12th	Graduate/ Post Graduate
Male	24	27	0	4
%	25	28.13	0	4.17
Female	15	26	2	0
%	17.65	30.59	2.35	0

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Fig. 2 shows that the literacy rate is only 54.14% in the study area is well below compared to the national level (74.04%). The literacy rate is slight higher (57.29%) among male population than female (50.59%). The table show that the illiteracy rate (49.41%) is higher among women than men (42.71%). The proportion of male and female which have received basic education upto class four is 25% and 17.65% respectively. Around 28.13% males and 30.59% females were educated upto class ten. Only 2.35% female are receiving education in higher secondary level and this proportion becomes Zero in case of male. More significantly only 4 persons of the study area are receiving education in graduation level and no woman ever received degree education.

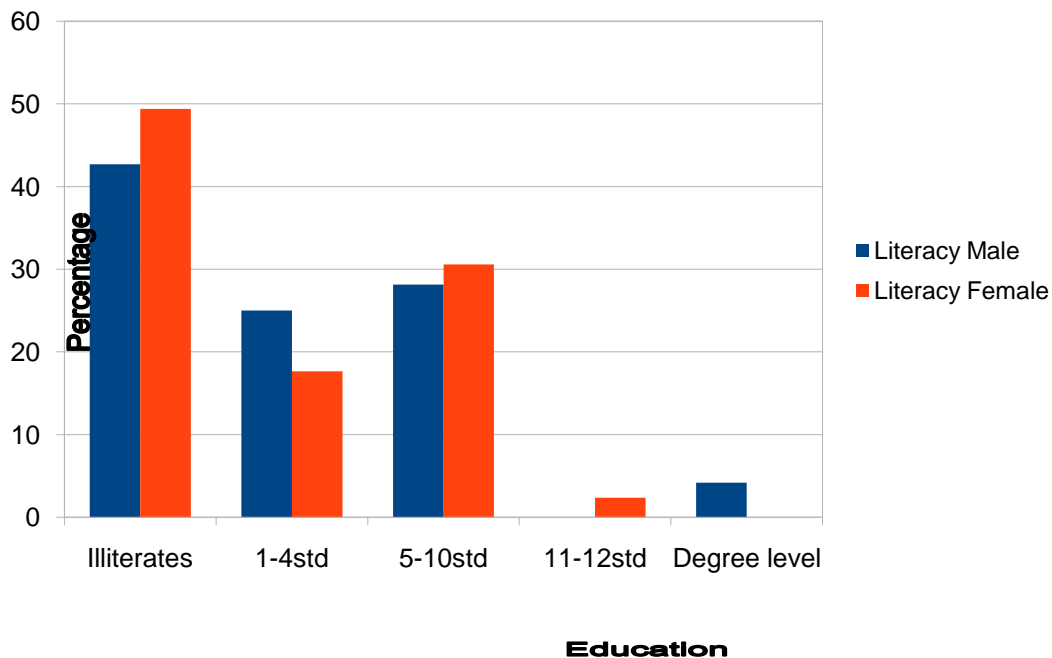


Fig. 2 : Educational Status

Table 4 : Sources of Water use

Types	Tap Water	Well	Tube well	Open Water
No. of Household	0	0	30	0
%	0	0	100	0

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Water is one of the most vital component for social and economic development. Figure 3 show that all the households i.e. (100%) use tube well for drinking water purpose.

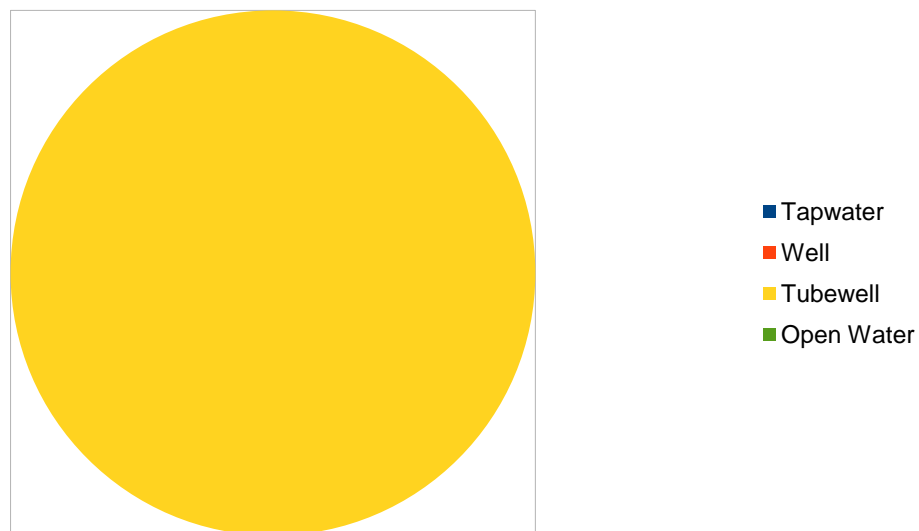


Fig. 3 : Drinking Water Facility

Table 5 : Sanitation Facility

Types	Toilet	Latrine	Bathroom	Kitchen
No. of Household	8	8	6	8
%	26.67	26.67	20	26.67

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Fig. 4 shows that the sanitation facility in the study area is well below from the satisfactory level. The households who access Toilet, Latrine, Bathroom and Kitchen facilities are only 26.67%, 26.67% 20.00% and 26.67% respectively.

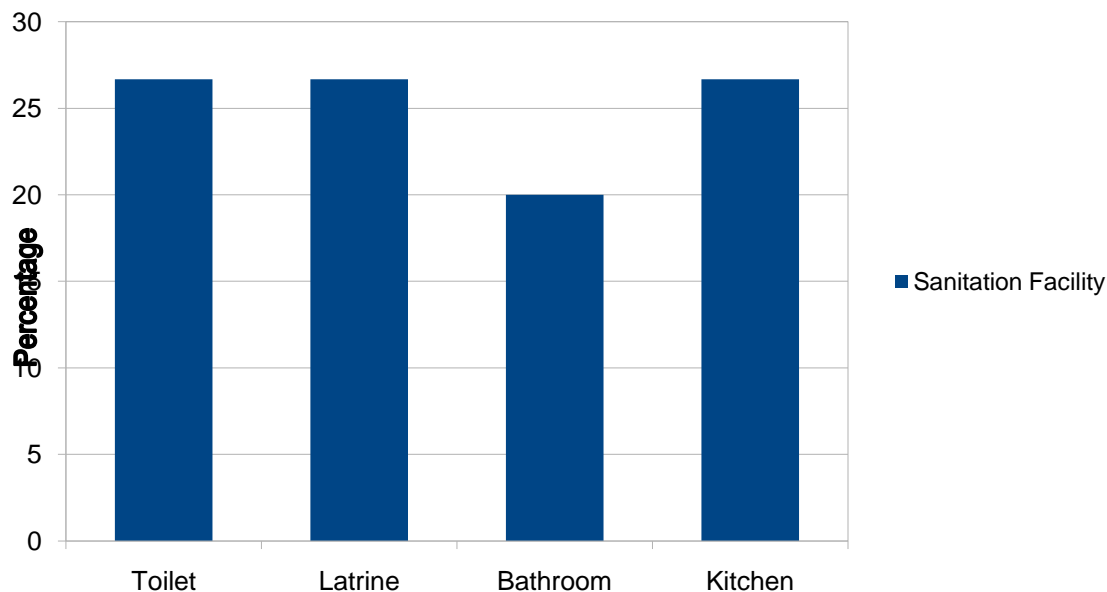


Fig. 4 : Sanitatin Facility

Table 6 : House Type

Types	Hut	Mud House	Concrete Slab House	Tins	Tiles	Asbestos
No. of Household	0	22	4	4	0	0
%	0	73.33	13.33	13.33	0	0

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Most of the people lives in mud houses (73.33%) and concrete slab houses are extremely rare in the study area (13.33%). Remaining 13.13% inhabitant lives in the houses made by tins.

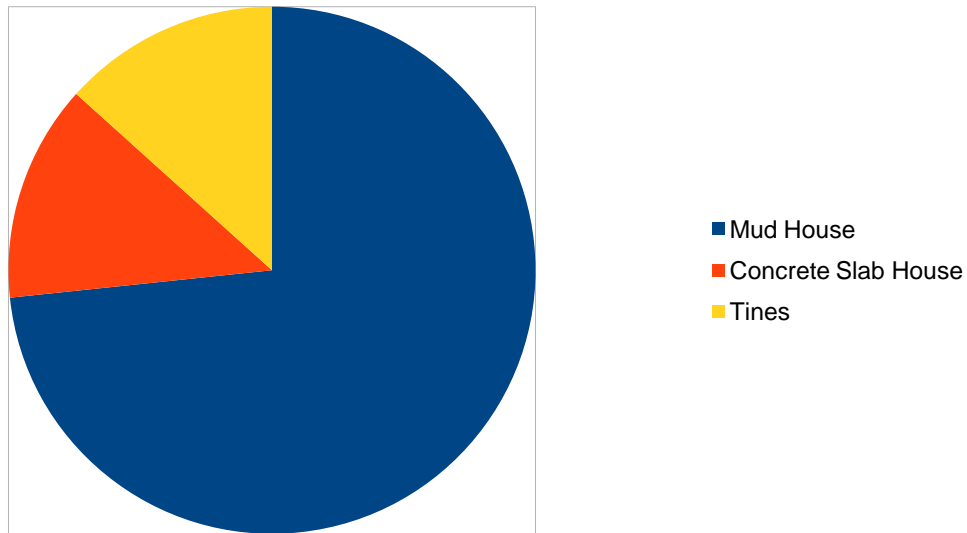


Fig. 5 : House Type

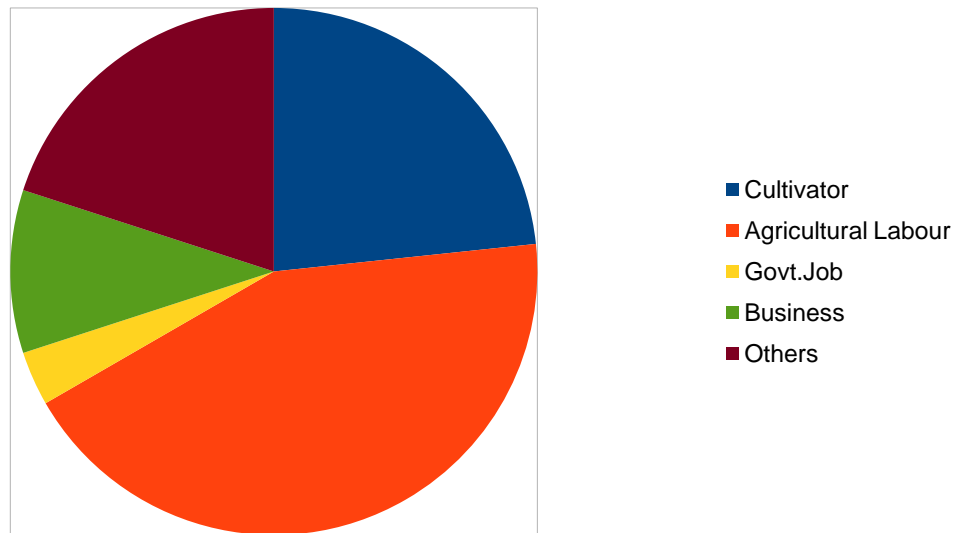
Economic Status:

Table 7 : Occupational Structure

Types	Cultivator	Agricultural Labour	Govt. Job	Business	Others
No. of Household	7	13	1	3	6
%	23.33	43.33	3.33	10	20

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Fig. 6 shows that 43.33% of the inhabitants earn their livelihood from agricultural wage and 23.33% of farmers farming in their own land. Remaining 10% of the habitants engaged in business and only 3.33% of the population engaged in Govt. Job.

**Fig. 6 : Occupational Structure****Table 8 : Annual Income (Per Year)**

Amount in Rs.	20,000-30,000	30,000-40,000	40,000-50,000	More than 50,000
No. of Household	0	6	12	12
%	0	20	40	40

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Most of the families of the study area having the annual income more than Rs.40,000 annually. 20 percent of the family have annual income of Rs.30,000-40,000, 40 percent of the family had better income of Rs. 40,000-50,000 annually and remaining 40 percent of the family have better earning of Rs. 50,000-1,00,000 annually.

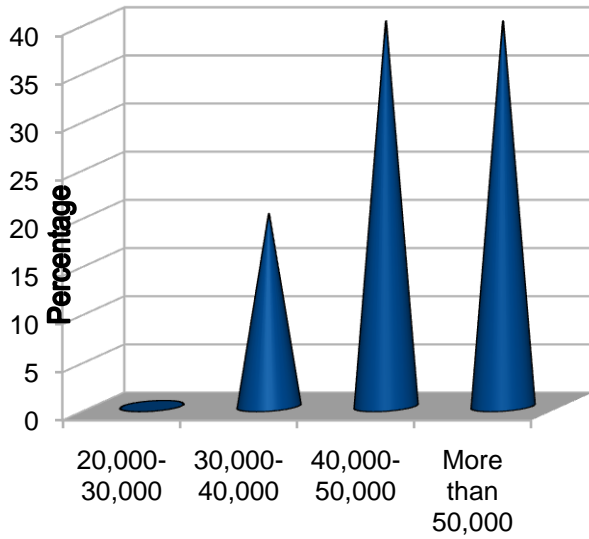


Fig. 7 : Annual Income (Per Year)

Table 9 : Economic Condition

Types	APL	BPL
No. of Household	12	18
%	40	60

Source : Field Survey (2016)

The economic condition of the farmers shows that they are still poor. 60 percent families live below the poverty line. Most of them depend on primary occupation and income earning from this occupation is very less and not sufficient for their livelihood.

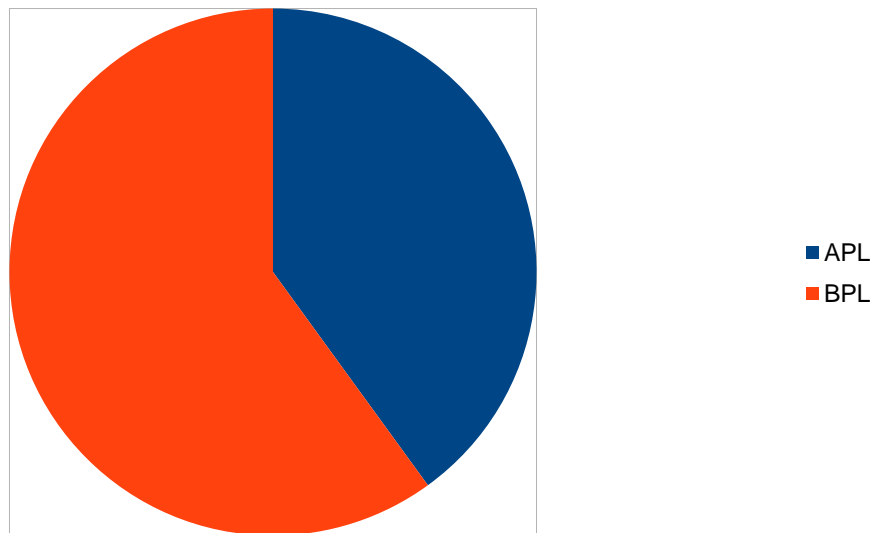


Fig. 8 : Economic Condition

Table 10 : Land Holding

Types	Land less	Having Land (1-3 Bigha)
No. of Household	22	8
%	73.33	26.67

Source : Field Survey (2016)

The study of land holding of the families indicates that a very few families have their own land (26.67%). Remaining 73.33% families are landless. In fact they are working as agricultural labourer.

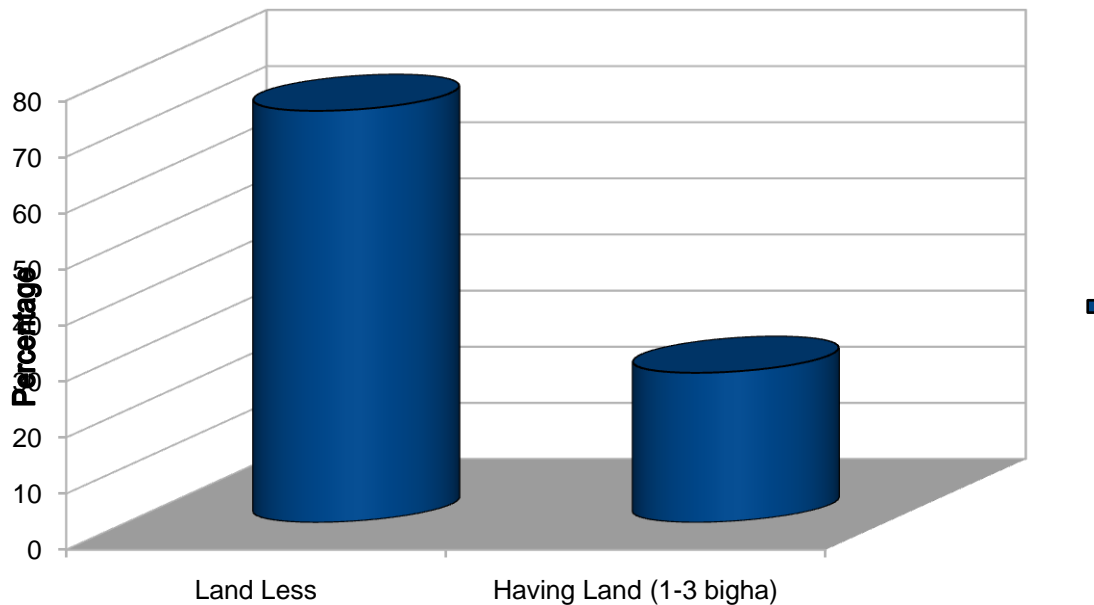
**Fig. 9 : Land Holding**

Table 11 : Extent of Irrigation

Types	Irrigated	Non-Irrigated
No. of Household	4	26
%	13.33	86.67

Source : Field Survey (2016)

The extent of irrigation too is extremely low as less than 14 percent land is irrigation.

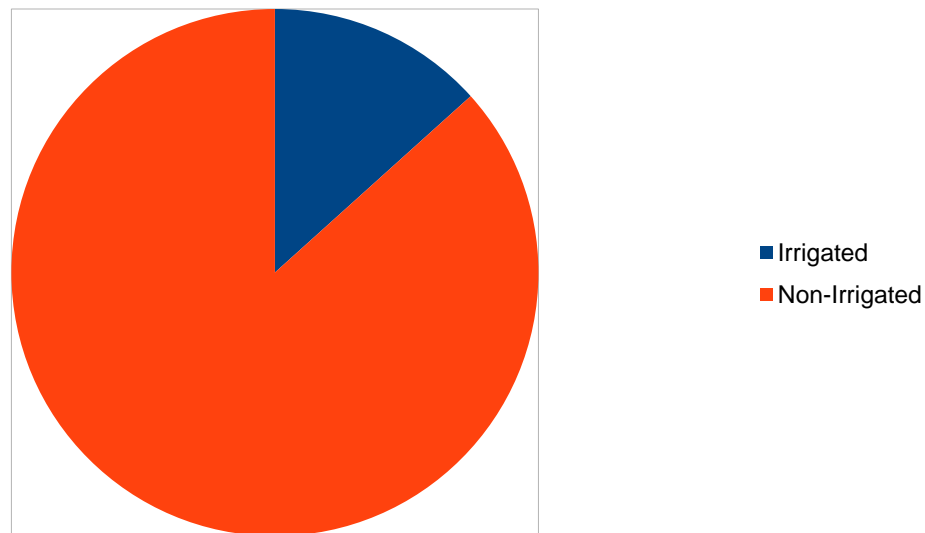


Fig. 10 : Extent of Irrigation

Access Of Power Of Consumable Durables:

Table 12 : Access to Power and Consumable Durables

Types	Electricity	Kerosene	Gas	Firewood
No. of Household	26	4	1	29
%	86.67	13.33	3.33	96.67

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Power supply to the households however is satisfactory level. The 86.67 percent households has access the electricity. Only 13.33 percent use kerosene.

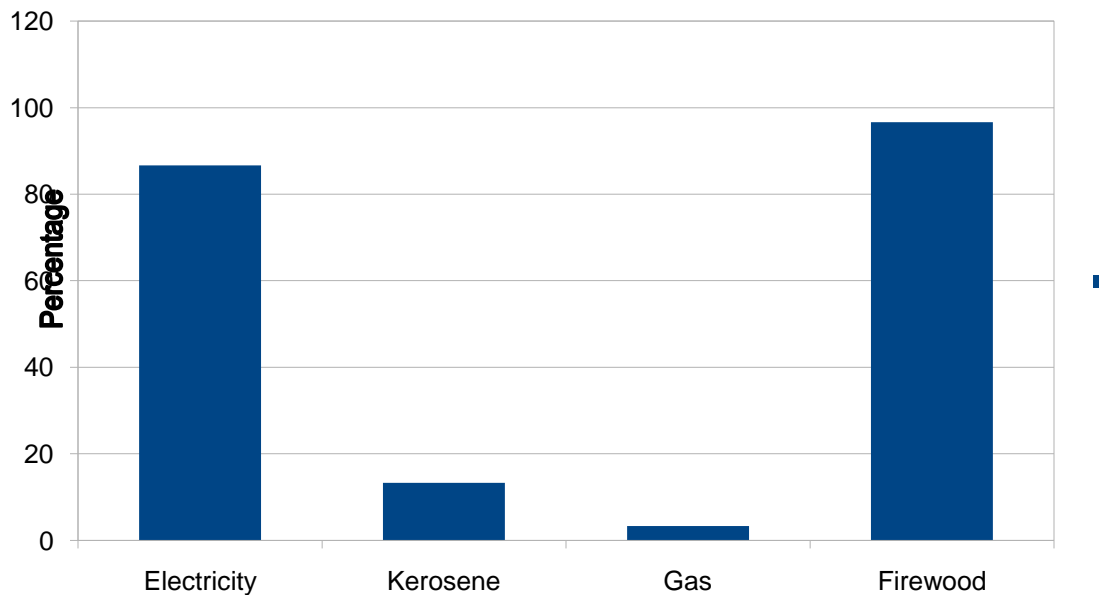


Fig. 11 : Proportion of households enjoying power supply

Table 13 : Proportion of Household owning consumable Durables

Types	Radio	T.V	Fan	Mobile	Bicycle	Motorcycle
No. of Household	0	10	25	30	8	5
%	0	33.33	83.33	100	26.21	16.67

Source : Field Survey (2016)

Fig. 12 represents the consumable modern items. Accordingly 33.33 percent families had TV, 83.33 percent families had fan, 100 percent families had mobile phone, 26.21 percent families had bicycle and 16.67 percent families had motorcycle respectively.

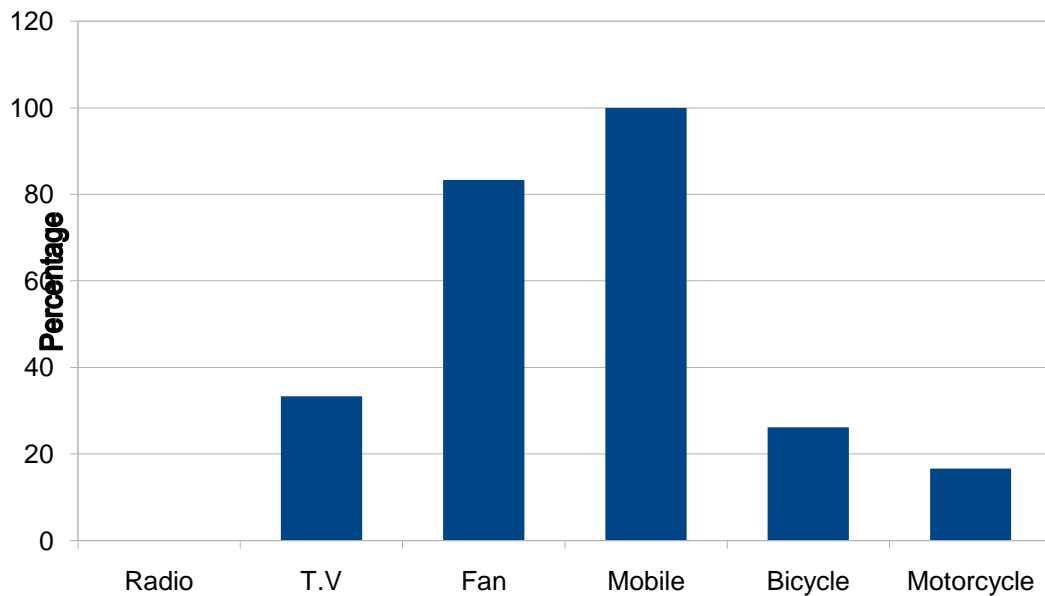


Fig. 12 : Proportion of households with ownership of vehicles

Conclusion:

From the above discussion it may be concluded as that the inhabitants of the study area continue to be poor and have to depend on agricultural sector for their survival. Educational status of the study area is very unsatisfactory with a large degree of illiteracy. Very few numbers of the inhabitants are educated in higher educational level. Through the electrification of the said area is quite satisfactory but the sanitation facility is very poor. The main occupation of the inhabitants is agricultural labour and hence their economic condition is poor. Almost 60 percent of the inhabitants live below the poverty line. A very few number of farmers have their own land. Due to such a poor socioeconomic condition they are not capable to access the modern facilities. There need a number of measure to the overall socioeconomic development of the farmers.

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