



Socio-Economic Characteristics of Gram Panchayat Members at Hanumanganj Block of Ballia District of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT: *Introduction of Panchayat Raj was hailed as one of the most important political innovations in Independent India. It was also considered as a revolutionary step. Panchayat Raj is a system of local self-government wherein the people take upon themselves the responsibility for development. The Gram Panchayat has occupied an important place in taking people's political, economic, social, patriotic aspirations and emotions to the government in order to build a strongest nation ever. The study was based on both Primary and Secondary data. Descriptive research design has been used in the present study. The study revealed that majority of respondents were middle age people, having education up to junior high school and mostly dependent on farming for their income. A large sum of the respondents had very high annual income while few of the respondents had low annual income. It is concluded that the majority of the respondents belonged to the middle socio-economic status. Social participation of Gram Panchayat members were significant in Gram Panchayat activities. Majority of respondents daily use newspaper as a means of mass media exposure.*

Keywords:- *Panchayati Raj, Gram Panchayat, Descriptive Research Design.*

INTRODUCTION

The Institution of Panchayats in India dates back to ancient history when it performed the role of a *village government*. During British regime, these Panchayats were relegated a subservient position as the foreign rulers set up local self-governments on the pattern of their own country. *Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation*, conceived village Panchayats as a potential instrument for the socio-economic and *political transformation* of the rural society and cultivation of



democratic way of life at the *grass-root level*. Accordingly, the directive principles of state policy in our Indian Constitution enjoin the State to take steps to organize village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. Pursuant to this Constitutional provisions many States enacted suitable legislation for setting up village Panchayats, while others amended the already existing law with a view to promoting quicker development of Panchayats and giving them a larger role than before. The community development projects, started by the Government of India on October 2, 1952, imparted a momentum to the movement of Panchayats. In 1958 *Balwant Rai Mehta Committee* recommended a three-tier Panchayat Raj system: Gram Panchayat at the lowest level, that is, the village; the Panchayat Samiti at the *Community Development Block Level*; and the Zila Parishad at the District level. These recommendations were endorsed by the *National Development Council* and consequently the Government of India's policy was based on these recommendations. The Constitutional base for PR was required because State Governments were not enthusiastic about the creation of PR bodies and having to share power with them. In fact, some States have taken power back from PR bodies. Status and dignity are essential to make these bodies viable and responsive institutions, and this requires Constitutional support. In India's Constitution, local self-government and Panchayati Raj was a State subject, and the Central Government could not pass any legislation concerning them. Hence, the *73rd Constitutional Amendment Act* has been passed in 1993. The changes made by the *73rd and 74th Amendments* in the Constitution are innovative and have given a new dimension to the system of governance at the local level in the country. (Bhatt, 2019)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Hanumanganj block of Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. 21 villages from Hanumanganj block were selected by Random sampling. Hanumanganj block and 126 respondents (6 respondents from each village) were selected for study. The study was based



on both Primary and Secondary data. Descriptive research design has been used in the present study. The data was collected from respondents by using the pre structured interview schedule. Data analysis is done through frequency and percentage distribution using statistical tools.

For calculating percentage, frequency was multiplied by 100 and divided by total number of Respondents.

$$P=X/N\times 100$$

Where,

P= Percentage

X= Frequency of the Respondents

N= Total number of Respondents

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

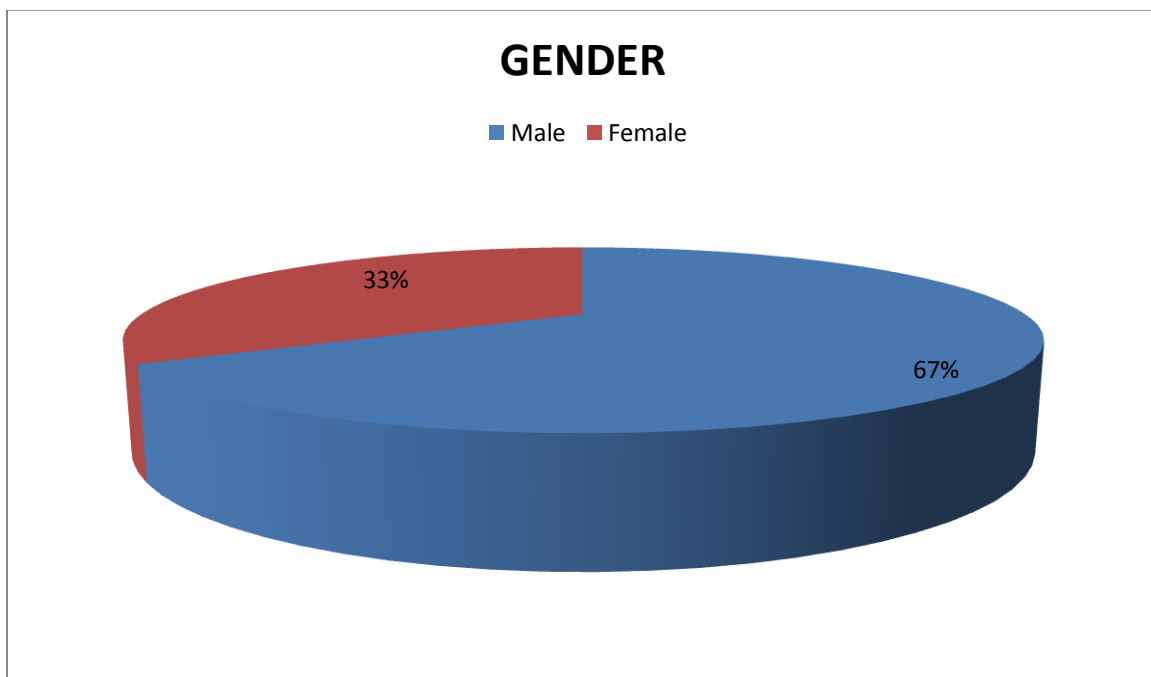
1. Gender

Table 1:-Distribution of the respondents based on gender

S. No	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	84	66.67
2	Female	42	33.33
	Total	126	100.00



Figure 1:- Distribution of the respondents based on gender



The result of the study presented in this chapter with facts observed during investigation and presented through table and pie chart. From the data furnished in table 1, it is concluded that majority of respondents were Male i.e. 66.67% and 33.33% respondents were Female. It is concluded that male respondents were more engaged in Gram Panchayat Activities as compared to female respondents.

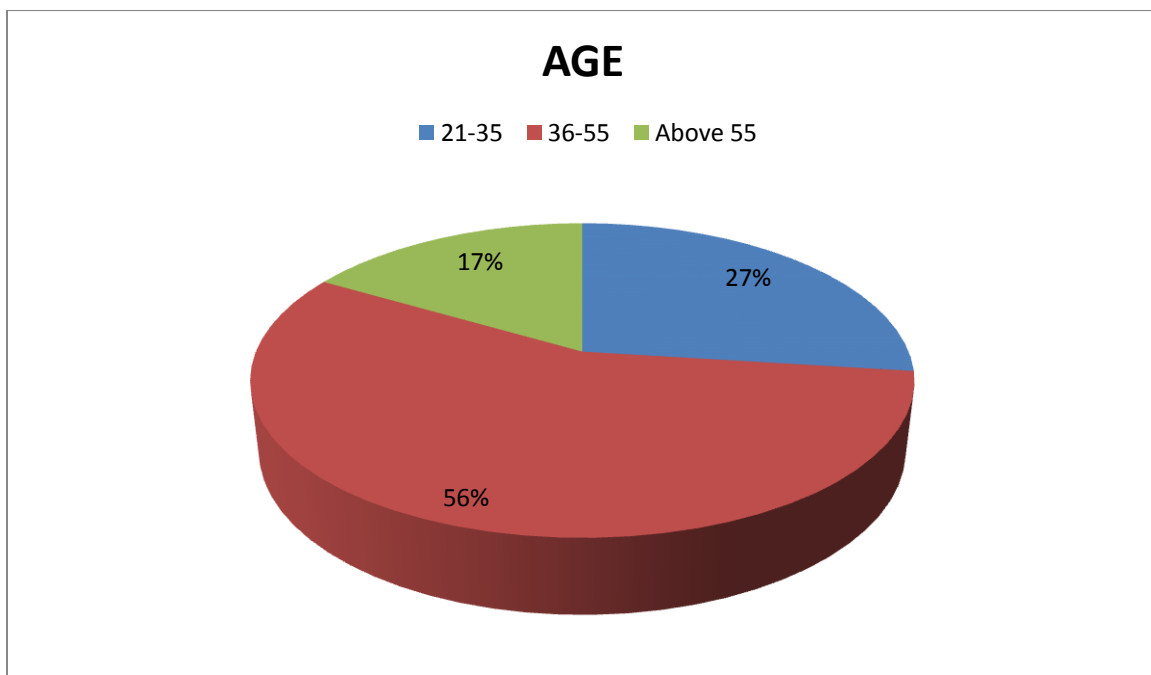


2. Age

Table 2:- Distribution of the respondents based on age

S. No	Age in years	Frequency	Percentage
1	21-35	34	26.98
2	36-55	71	56.34
3	Above 55	21	16.67
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 2:- Distribution of the respondents based on age



From the data mentioned in table 2 and pie chart shows that 26.98% respondents were of adult age between 21 to 35 years while 56.34% of the respondents are of middle age i.e. 36-55 years



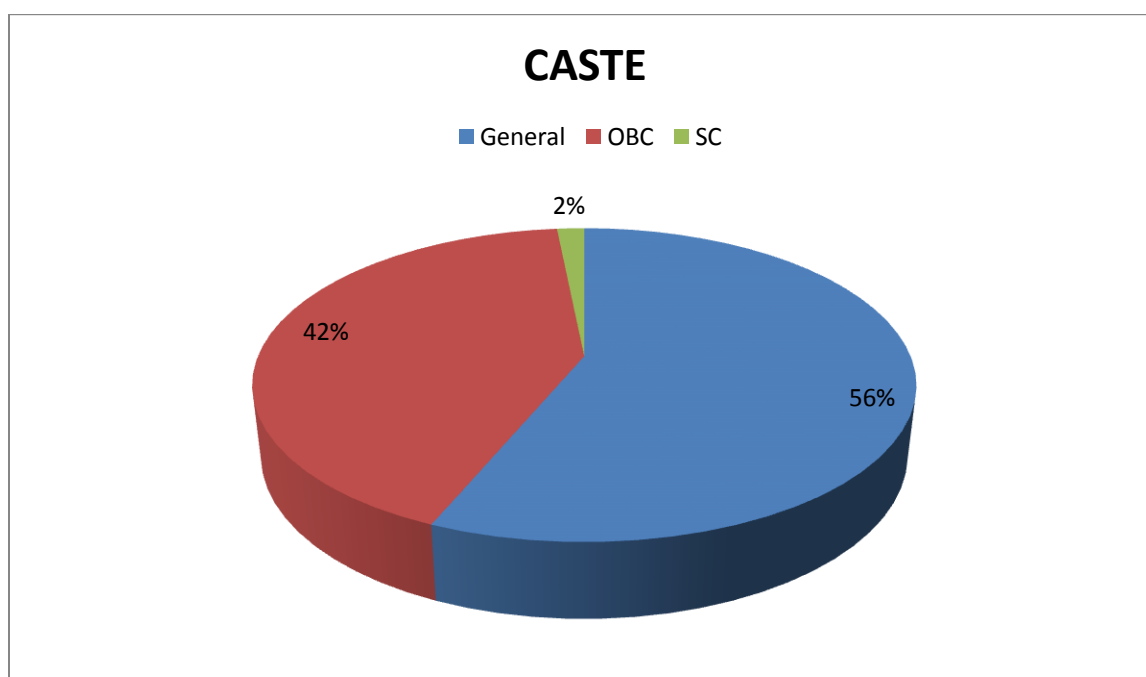
and 16.67% of the respondents were of above 55. Similar findings is also reported by **Bhagwat *et al.*, in 2010.**

3. Caste

Table 3:- Distribution of the respondents based on caste

S. No	Caste	Frequency	Percentage
1	General	71	56.34
2	OBC	53	42.06
3	SC	02	1.58
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 3:- Distribution of the respondents based on caste





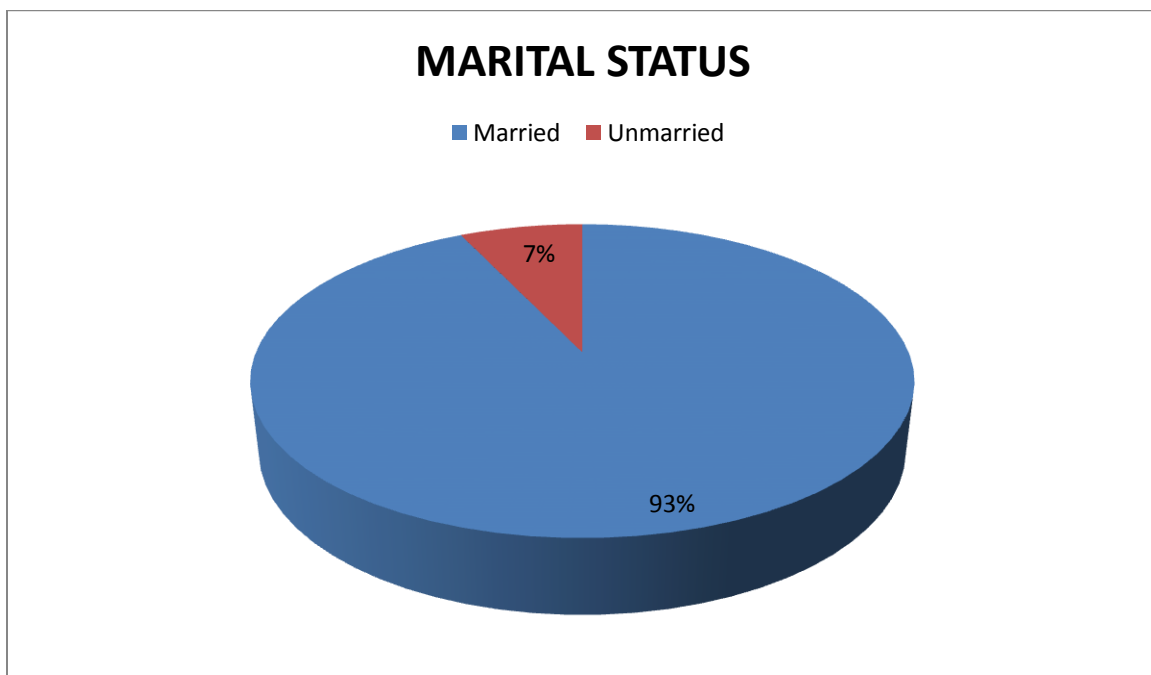
From the data mentioned in table 3 and pie chart it is concluded that majority of respondents 56.34% belongs to General caste while 42.06% respondents belongs to Other Backward Class, rest 1.58% respondents belongs to scheduled caste.

4. Marital status

Table 4:- Distribution of the respondents based on marital status

S. No.	Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	117	92.85
2	Unmarried	09	7.15
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 4:- Distribution of the respondents based on marital status





Data furnished in table 4 and pie chart shows that 92.85% respondents were married and 7.15% respondents were found unmarried. Among some unmarried respondents there were few female respondents who are at earlier age or their family is looking for groom. While in case of male respondents they were not married because they had younger sisters so firstly, they wanted to marry them before their marriage.

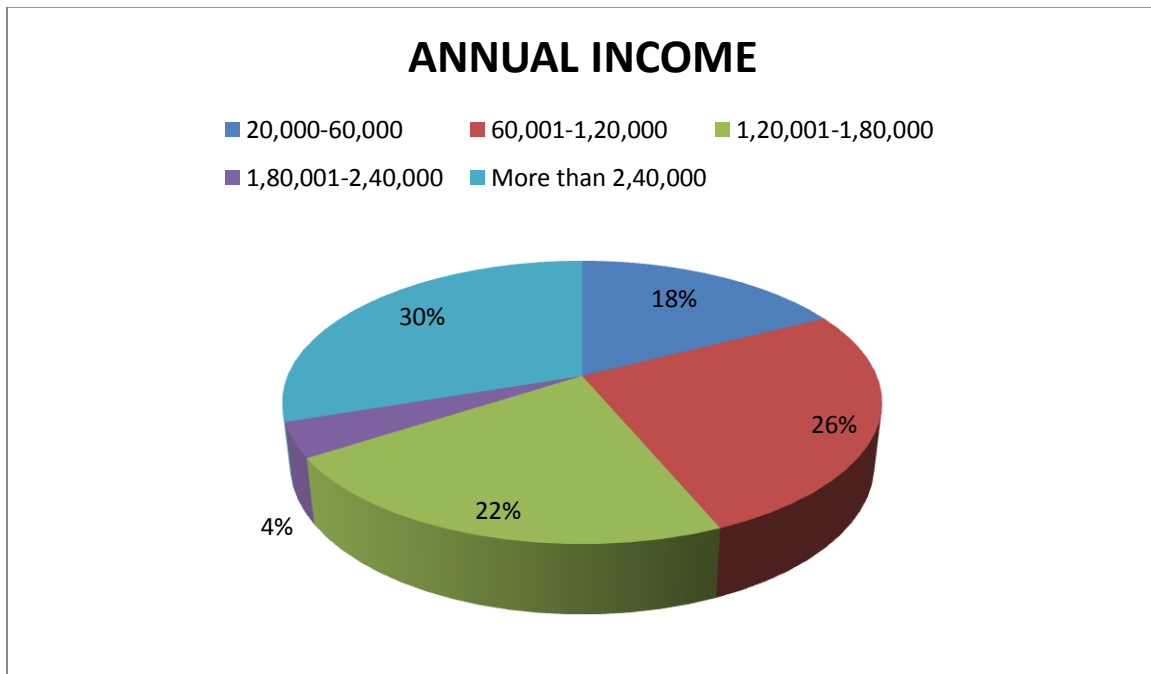
5. Annual income

Table 5:- Distribution of the respondents based on the Annual Income

S. No	Annual income(in Rs)	Frequency	Percentage
1	20,000-60,000	22	17.46
2	60,001-1,20,000	33	26.19
3	1,20,001-1,80,000	28	22.22
4	1,80,001-2,40,000	05	03.96
5	More than 2,40,000	38	30.15
	Total	126	100.00



Figure 5:- Distribution of the respondents based on the Annual Income



From the data furnished in table 5 and pie chart it is concluded that majority of respondents i.e. 30.15% were having more than 2,40,000 Rupees of Annual income, followed by 26.19% respondents having annual income in between 60,001-1,20,000 and 22.22% respondents were having annual income in between 1,20,001-1,80,000. 17.46% respondents were having annual income in between 20,000-60,000 followed by 03.96% respondents were having annual income in between 1,80,001-2,40,000.

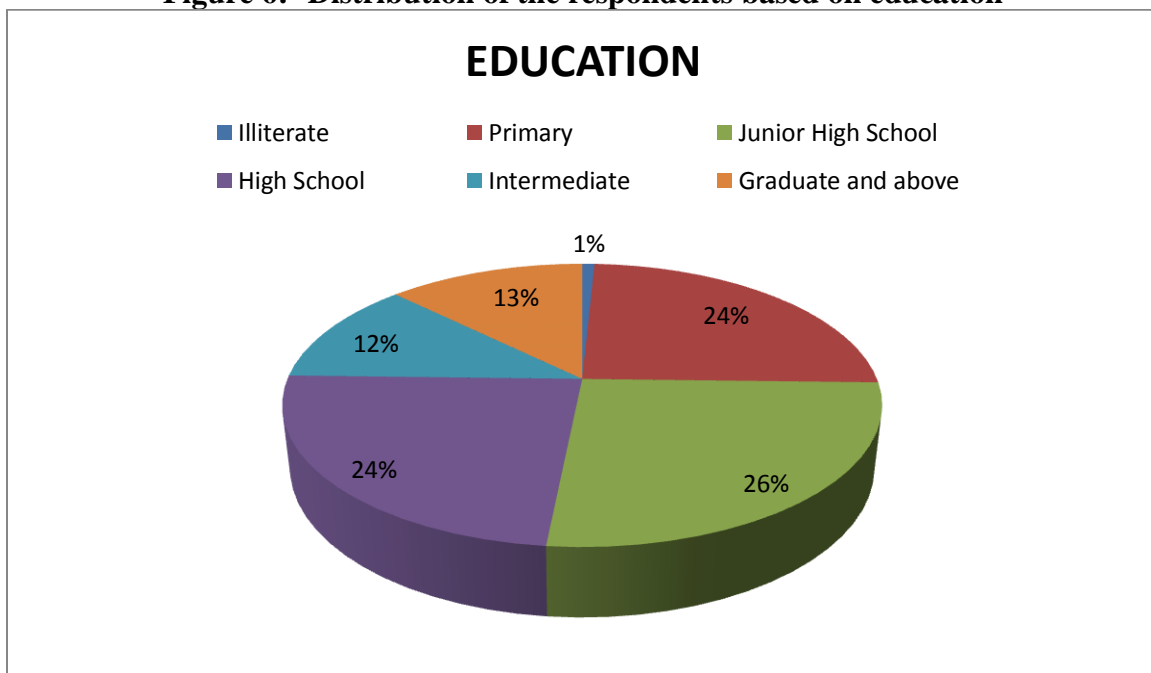


6. Education

Table 6:- Distribution of the respondents based on education

S. No	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	01	0.79
2	Primary	31	24.60
3	Junior High School	33	26.19
4	High School	30	23.80
5	Intermediate	15	11.90
6	Graduate and above	16	12.69
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 6:- Distribution of the respondents based on education





The table 6 and pie chart shows that 0.79% respondents were illiterate, 24.60% were primary educated, and 26.19% has completed their junior high school education while 23.80% have completed their High school, 11.90% respondents were of Intermediate education and 12.69% of respondents were graduate and above educational qualification. Education level has also changed remarkably because of modernization in these area. The above figures show that though the illiteracy level amongst the respondents is very low, but still most of the respondents were primary and secondary educated. Few of them were also engaged in private coaching and teaching facilities.

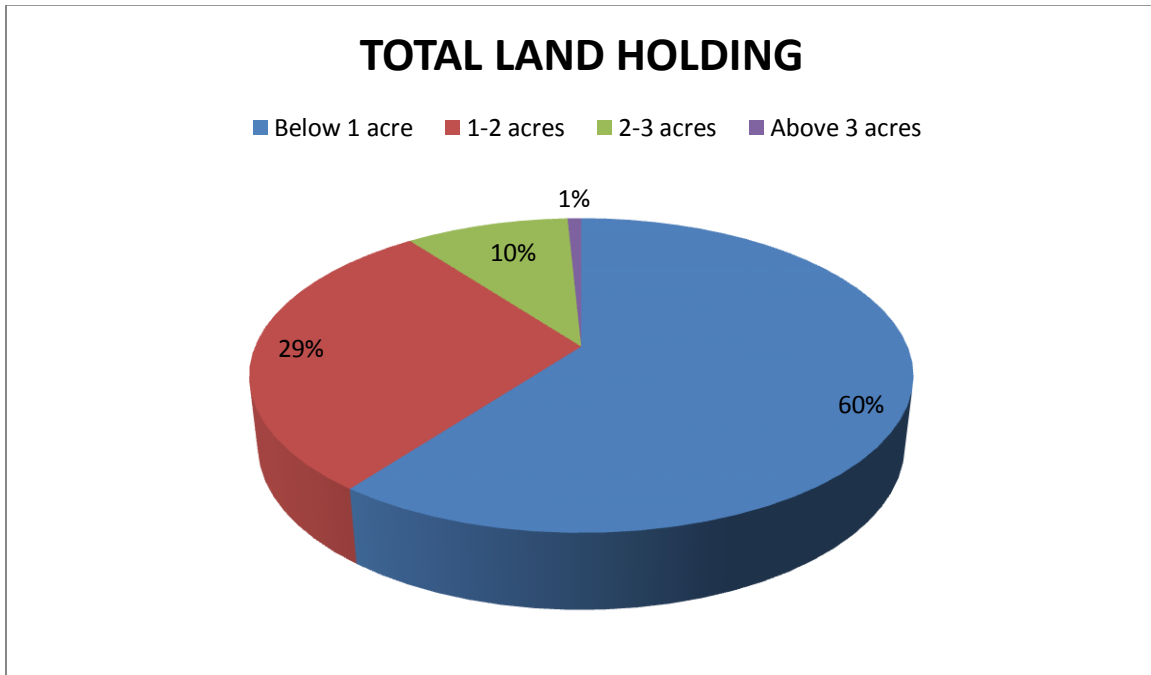
7. Total Land Holdings

Table 7:- Distribution of total land holdings of the respondents

S. No	Total Land holding	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 1 acre	76	60.31
2	1-2 acres	37	29.36
3	2-3 acres	12	09.52
4	Above 3 acres	01	0.79
	Total	126	100.00



Figure 7:- Distribution of total land holdings of the respondents



From the data furnished in table 7 and pie chart it is concluded that majority of respondents i.e. 60.31% were having below 1 acre of land, while 29.36% respondents were having 1-2 acres of land and 9.52% respondents were having 2-3 acres of land and 0.79% of respondents were having above 3 acres of land.

8. Occupation

Table 8:- Distribution of the respondents based on occupation

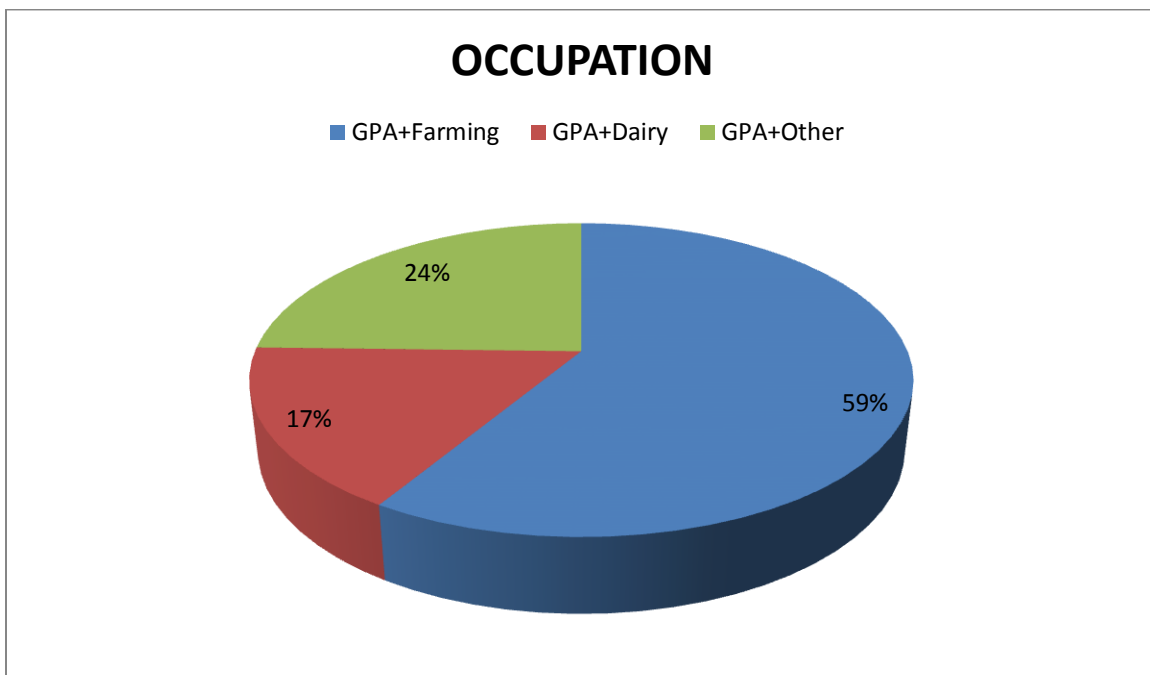
S.No	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	GPA+Farming	74	58.73
2	GPA+Dairy	21	16.67



3	GPA+Other	31`	24.60
	Total	126	100.00

GPA- Gram Panchayat Activities

Figure 8:- Distribution of the respondents based on occupation



From the data furnished in table 8 and pie chart it is found that majority of respondents i.e. 58.73% were collectively engaged in Gram Panchayat Activities and farming and 16.67% respondents were collectively engaged in Gram Panchayat Activities and dairy, rest 24.60% respondents were collectively engaged in Gram Panchayat Activities and others activities. Since the respondents were Gram Panchayat Members so the main occupation of respondents were Gram Panchayat Activities.

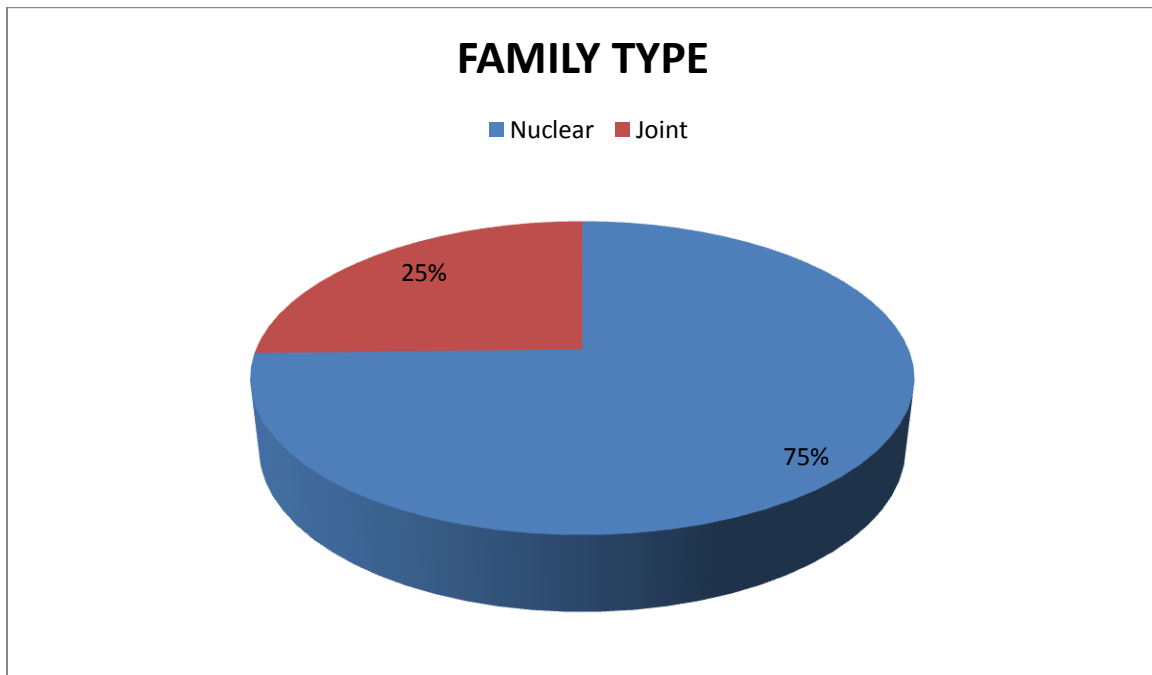


9. Family type

Table 9:- Distribution of the respondents based on family type

S. No	Family type	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nuclear	94	74.60
2	Joint	32	25.40
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 9:- Distribution of the respondents based on family type



The table 9 and pie chart shows that 74.60% respondents had nuclear family and other 25.40% respondents had joint family.

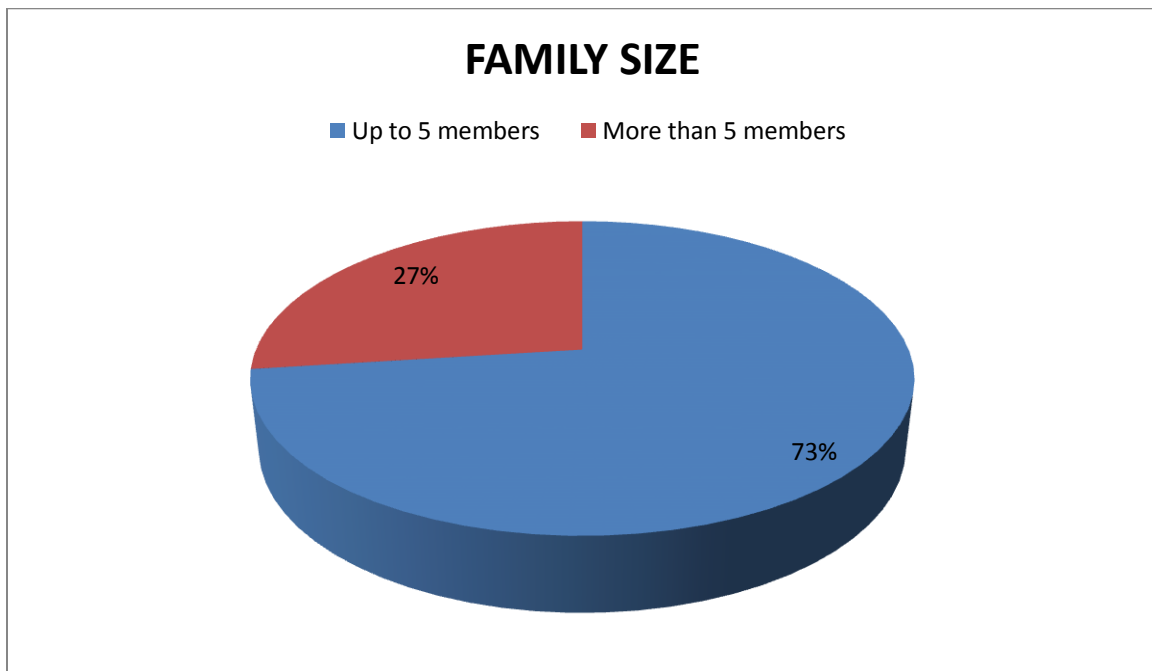


10. Family size

Table 10:- Distribution of the respondents based on the size of family

S. No	Family size	Frequency	Percentage
1	Up to 5 members	92	73.01
2	More than 5 members	34	26.99
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 10:- Distribution of the respondents based on the size of family



The table 10 and pie chart shows that 73.01% respondents had up to 5 members in their family and other 26.99% respondents had more than 5 members in their family.

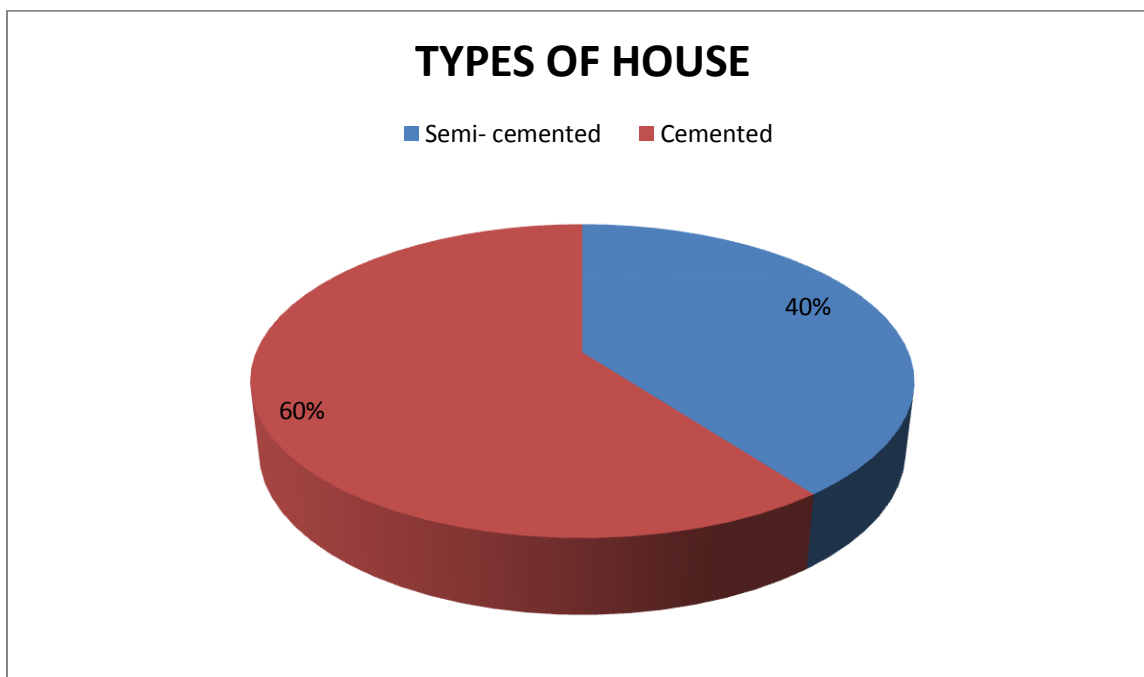


11. Types of house

Table 11:- Distribution of the respondents based on type of House

S. No	Type of house	Frequency	Percentage
1	Semi -cemented	50	39.68
2	Cemented	76	60.32
	Total	126	100.00

Figure 11:- Distribution of the respondents based on type of House



The results of the Housing Pattern of respondents were found during the study presented in table 11 and pie chart shows that 60.32% of the respondent had cemented house painted by multiple colours, while 39.68% of respondents had semi cemented house.



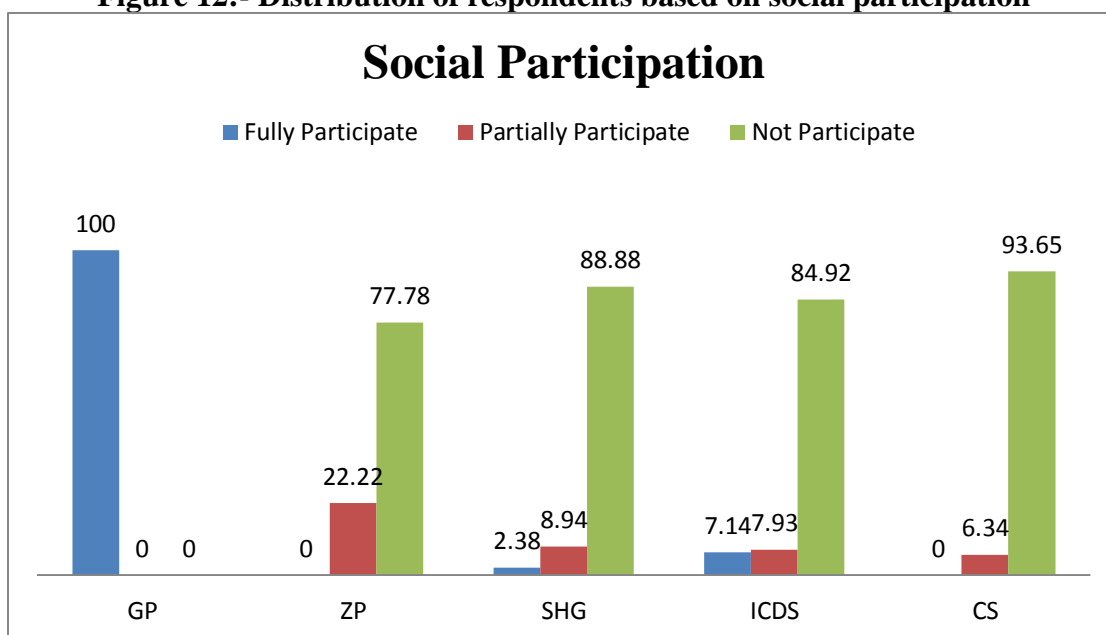
12. Social Participation

Table 12:- Distribution of respondents based on social participation

S.No.	Organization	Membership	Participation					
			Fully Participate		Partially Participate		Not Participate	
			F	P	F	P	F	P
1	GP	Temporary	126	100	00	00	00	00
2	ZP	Temporary	00	00	28	22.22	98	77.78
3	SHG	Temporary	03	2.38	11	8.94	112	88.88
4	ICDS	Temporary	09	7.14	10	7.93	107	84.92
5	CS	Temporary	00	00	08	6.34	118	93.65

GP- Gram Panchayat, ZP- Zila Panchayat, SHG- Self Help Group, ICDS- Integrated community Development Scheme, CS- Cooperative society
F- Frequency, P- Percentage

Figure 12:- Distribution of respondents based on social participation





From the data furnished in table 12 and graph it is found that the participation of all respondents in each organization was temporary out of which 100% respondents were fully participated in Gram Panchayat, and none of them were fully participated in Zila Panchayat, 22.22% of respondents partially participated in Zila Panchayat and 77.78% of respondents not participated in Zila Panchayat. 2.38% of respondents were fully participated in Self Help Group(SHG), 8.94% of respondents partially participated in SHG, while 88.88% of respondents were not participated in SHG. 7.14% of respondents were fully participated in Integrated community Development Scheme (ICDS), 7.93% of respondents were partially participated in ICDS, while 84.92% of respondents were not participated in ICDS. None of the respondents were fully participated in cooperative societies (CS), while 6.34% of respondents were partially participated in CS and 93.65% of respondents were not participated in CS.

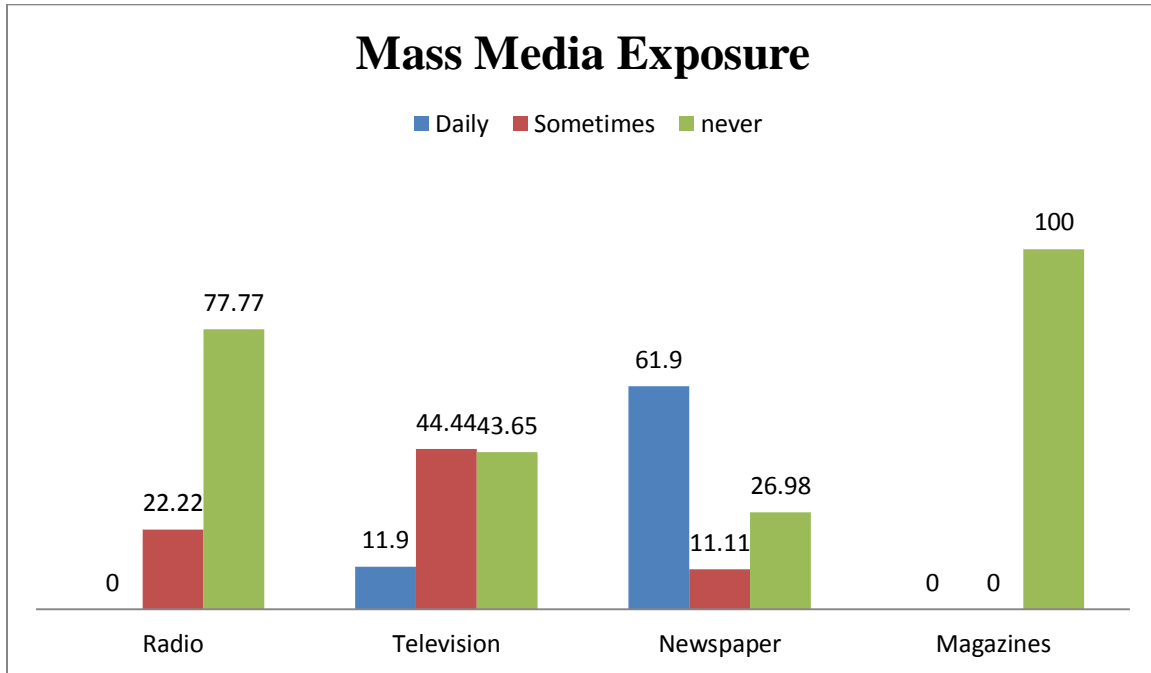
13. Mass Media Exposure

Table 13:- Distribution of respondents based on mass media exposure

S. No.	Mass media exposure	Listening/Viewing/Reading behavior					
		Daily		Sometimes		Never	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Radio	00	00	28	22.22	98	77.77
2	Television	15	11.90	56	44.44	55	43.65
3	Newspaper	78	61.90	14	11.11	34	26.98
4	Magazines	00	00	00	00	126	100.00



Figure 13:- Distribution of respondents based on mass media exposure



From the data mentioned in table 13 and graph it is found that none of the respondents were daily using radio as a means of mass media exposure, while 22.22% of respondents were sometimes using radio as a means of mass media exposure and 77.77% of respondents were never using radio as a means of mass media exposure. 11.90% of respondents were daily using television as a means of mass media exposure while 44.44% of respondents were sometimes using television as a means of mass media exposure and 43.65% of respondents were never using television as a means of mass media exposure. 61.90% of respondents were daily using newspaper as a means of mass media exposure while 11.11% of respondents sometimes using newspaper as a means of mass media exposure and 26.98% of respondents never using newspaper as a means of mass media exposure. None of respondents were neither daily nor sometimes using magazines as a means of mass media exposure.



14. Leadership Ability

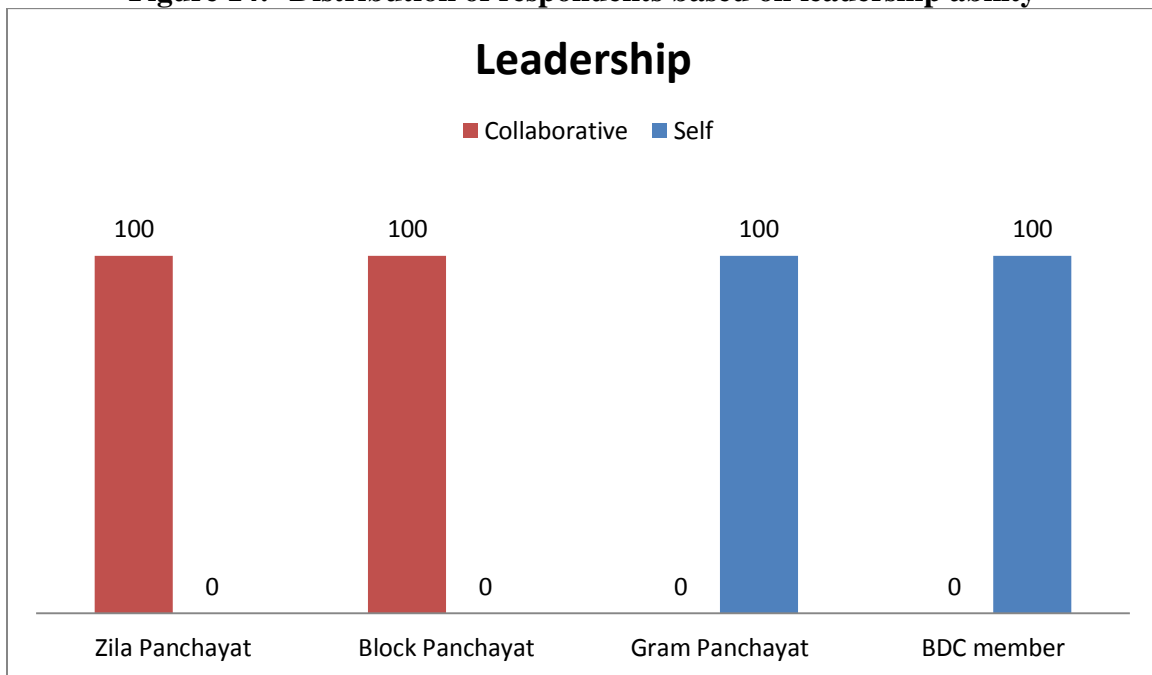
Table 14:- Distribution of respondents based on leadership ability

S. No.	Activity/Institution	Leadership			
		Self		Collaborative	
		F	P	F	P
1	ZP	00	00	126	100.00
2	BP	00	00	126	100.00
3	GP	126	100.00	00	00
4	BDC member	126	100.00	00	00

ZP- Zila Panchayat, BP- Block Panchayat, GP- Gram Panchayat, BDC- Block Development Council

F- Frequency, P- Percentage

Figure 14:- Distribution of respondents based on leadership ability





From the data furnished in table 14, and graph it is concluded that 100% of respondents participated in collaborative leadership in case of Zila Panchayat, while none of them were participated in self leadership in case of Zila Panchayat. In case of Block Panchayat, none of the respondents were participated in self leadership while 100% of respondents were participated in collaborative leadership in case of Block Panchayat. 100% of respondents were participated in self leadership while none of them were participated in collaborative leadership in terms of Gram Panchayat. In case of BDC members 100% of respondents were participated in self leadership while none of them were participated in collaborative leadership.

GRAM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS ENGAGED IN FARMING

Out of 126 respondents (GPM) total 74 respondents (GPM) were engaged in farming

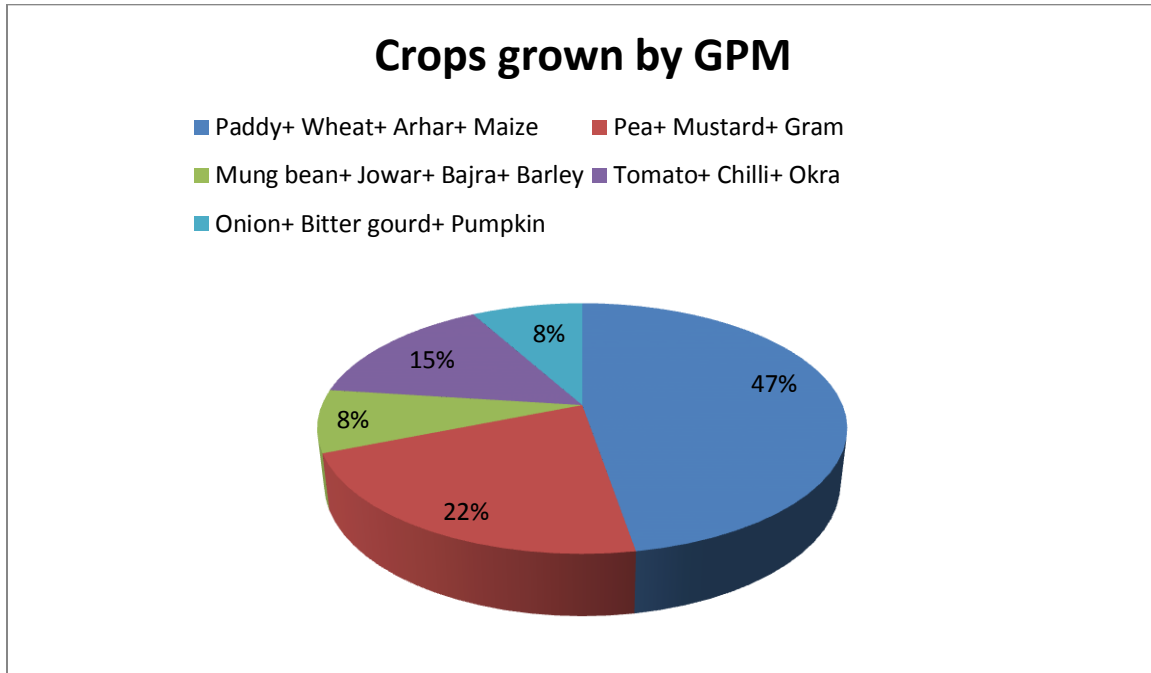
15. Crops grown by GPM

Table 15:- Distribution of crops grown by Gram Panchayat Members

S.No.	Crops	Frequency	Percentage
1	Paddy+Wheat+Arhar+Maize	35	47.29
2	Pea+Mustard+Gram	16	21.62
3	Mung bean+Jowar+Bajra+Barley	06	8.10
4	Tomato+Chilli+Okra	11	14.86
5	Onion+Bitter gourd+Pumpkin	06	8.10
	Total	74	100.00



Figure 15:- Distribution of crops grown by Gram Panchayat Members



From the data furnished in table 15 and pie chart it is found that majority of respondents i.e. 47.29% were engaged in farming of crops such as Paddy, Wheat, Arhar and Maize. 21.62% of respondents were engaged in farming of crops such as Pea, Mustard and Gram. 14.86% of respondents were engaged in vegetable farming such as Tomato, chili and Okra. 8.10% of respondents were engaged in farming of Mung bean, Jowar, bajra and Barley. Rest 8.10% of respondents were engaged in farming of vegetable crops such as Onion, Bitter gourd and Pumpkin.

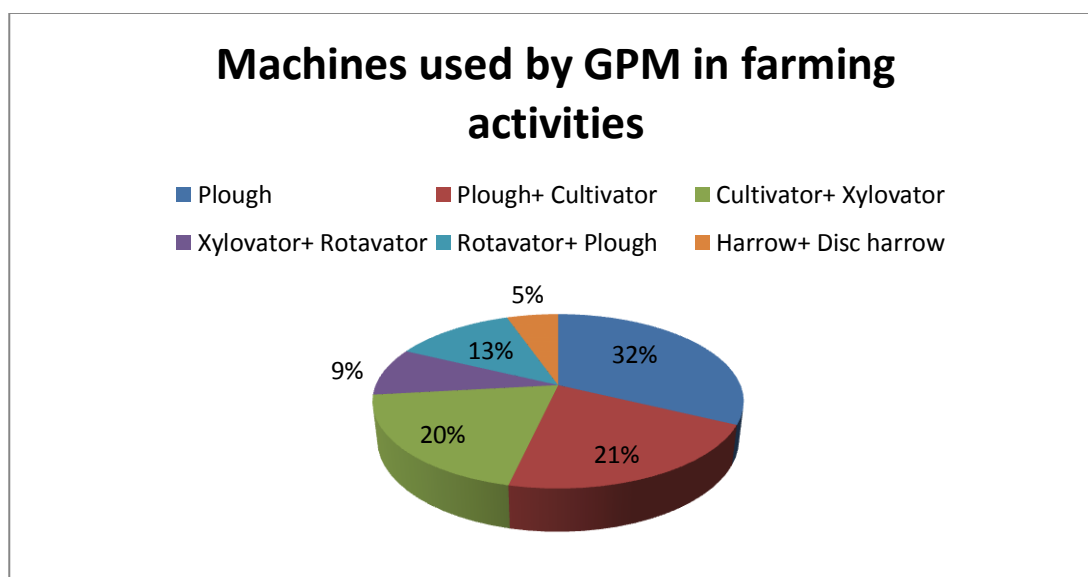


16. Machines used by GPM

Table 16:- Distribution of machines used by Gram Panchayat Members for farming activities

S.No.	Machines used for faming activities	Frequency	Percentage
1	Plough	18	24.32
2	Plough+Cultivator	12	16.21
3	Cultivator+Xylovator	11	14.86
4	Xylovator+Rotavator	05	6.75
5	Rotavator+Plough	07	9.45
6	Harrow+Disc harrow	03	4.05
7	Plough+Harrow	12	16.21
8	Plough+Hoe	06	8.10
	Total	74	100.00

Figure 16:- Distribution of machines used by Gram Panchayat Members for farming activities





From the data mentioned in table 16 and pie chart it is concluded that majority i.e. 24.32% of respondents were using Plough as farming machine while 16.21% of respondents were using Plough and Cultivator collectively as farming machines. 16.21% of respondents were using Plough and Harrow collectively as farming machines followed by 14.86% of respondents were using Cultivator and Xylovator collectively as farming machines. 9.45% of respondents were using Rotavator and Plough collectively as farming machines. 8.10% of respondents were using Plough and Hoe as farming machines. 6.75% of respondents were using Xylovator and Rotavator collectively as farming machines. Rest 4.05% of respondents were using Harrow and Disc harrow collectively as farming machines.

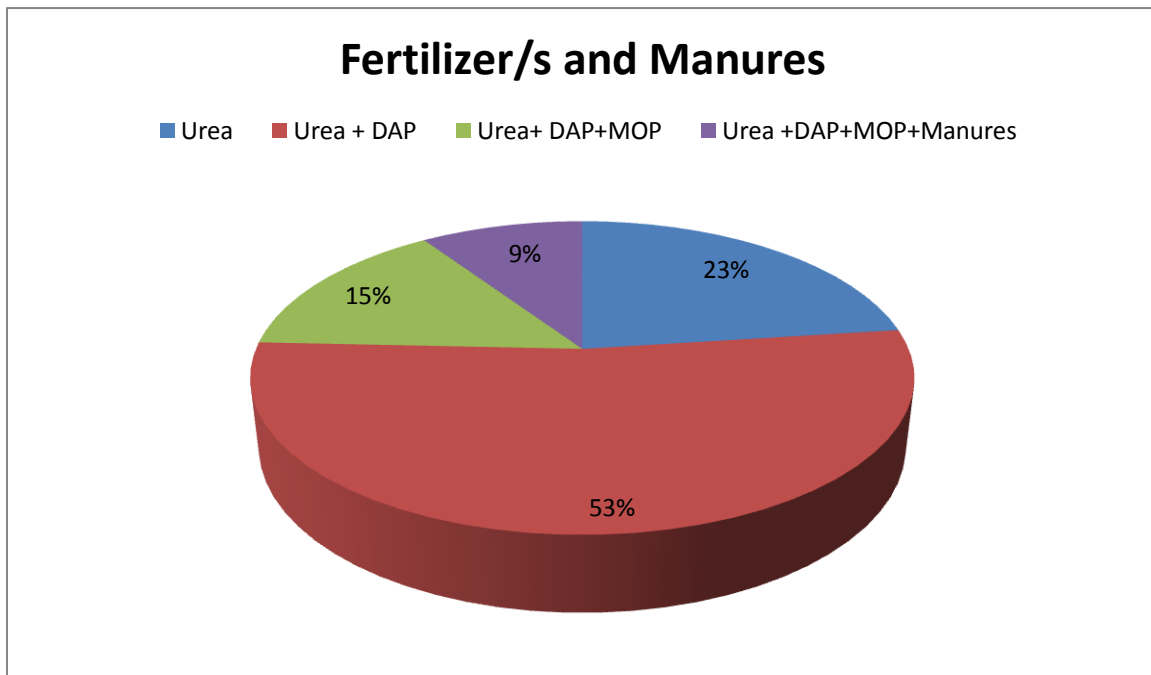
17. Fertilizers/manures used by GPM

Table 17:- Distribution of fertilizers/manures used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities

S.No.	Fertilizer/s and Manure	Frequency	Percentage
1	Urea	17	22.97
2	Urea+DAP	39	52.70
3	Urea+DAP+MOP	11	14.86
4	Urea+DAP+MOP+Manures	07	09.45
	Total	74	100.00



Figure 17:- Distribution of fertilizers/manures used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities



From the data furnished in table 17 and pie chart it is concluded that majority of respondents i.e. 52.70% were using Urea and DAP as fertilizers for crop production while 22.97% of respondents were using only Urea as fertilizer for crop production. 14.86% of respondents were using Urea, DAP and MOP as fertilizers for crop production while rest 9.45% of respondents were using Urea, DAP, MOP, and Manures as fertilizers and manures for crop production.

18. Seeds used by GPM

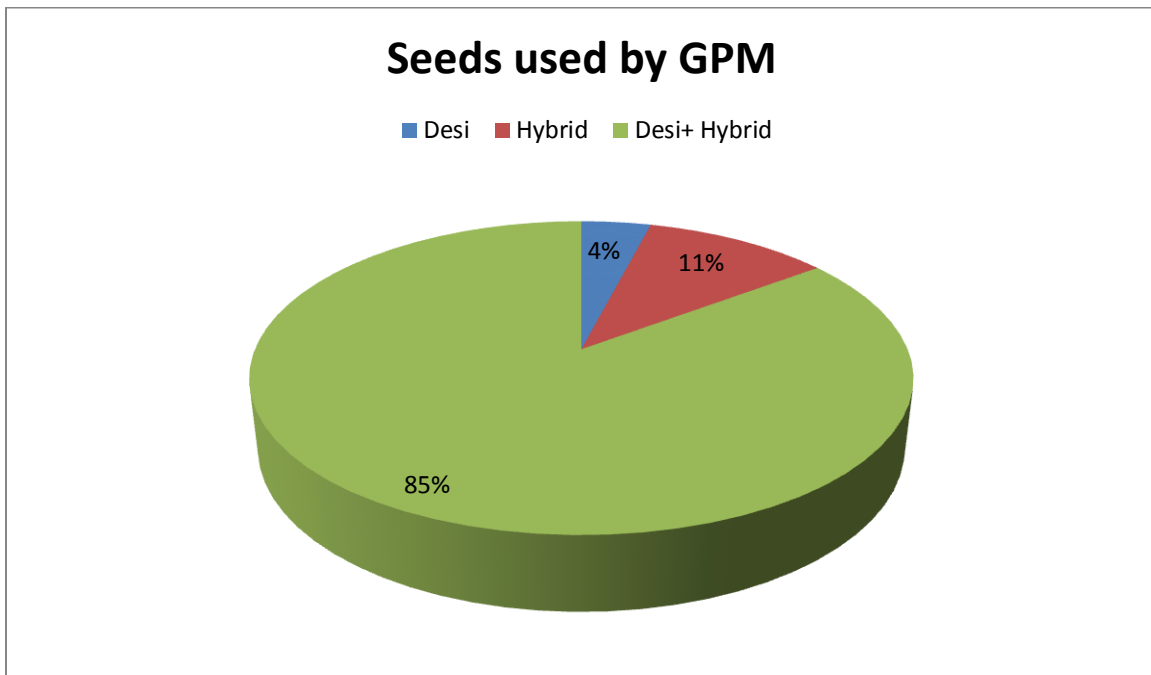
Table 18:- Distribution of seeds used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities

S.No.	Seeds	Frequency	Percentage
1	Desi	03	4.05
2	Hybrid	08	10.81



3	Desi+Hybrid	63	85.13
	Total	74	100.00

Figure 18:- Distribution of seeds used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities



From the data furnished in table 18 and pie chart it is found that majority of respondents i.e. 85.13% were using both Desi and Hybrid seeds for crop production while 10.81% of respondents were using only Hybrid seeds for crop production and 4.05% of respondents were using only Desi seeds for crop production.

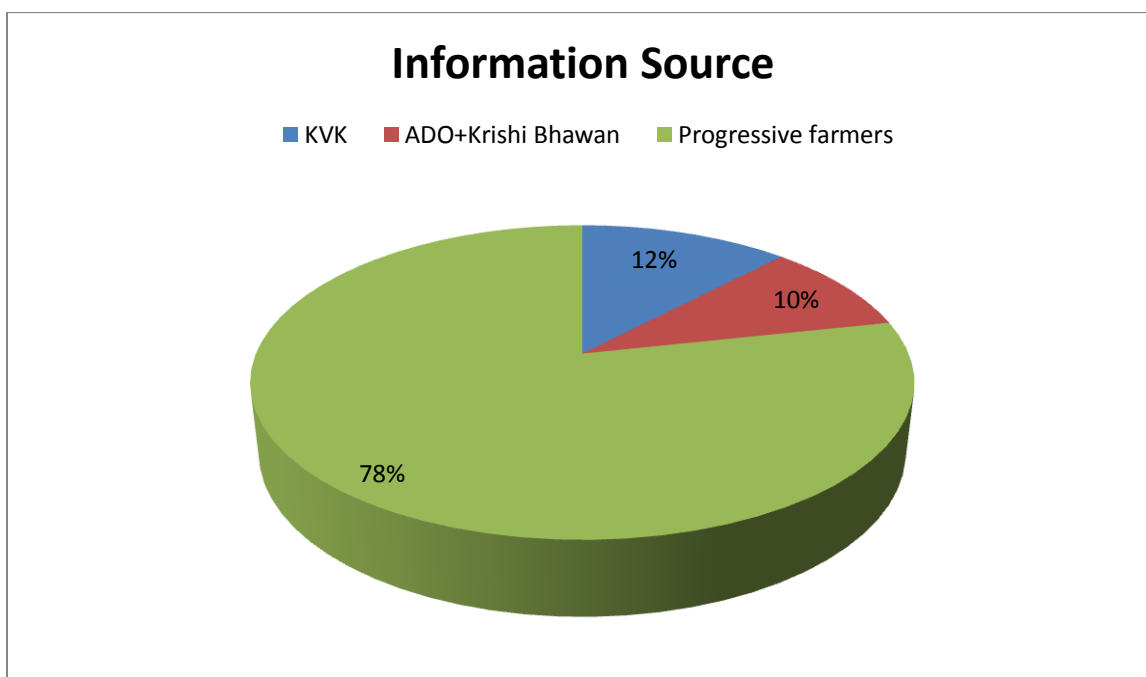


19. Information source

Table 19:- Distribution of source of information used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities

S.No.	Information source	Frequency	Percentage
1	KVK	09	12.16
2	ADO+ Krishi Bhawan	07	09.45
3	Progressive farmers	58	78.37
	Total	74	100.00

Figure 19:- Distribution of source of information used by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities



From the data furnished in table 19 and pie chart it is concluded that majority i.e. 78.37% of respondents seek information from progressive farmers while 12.16% of respondents seek



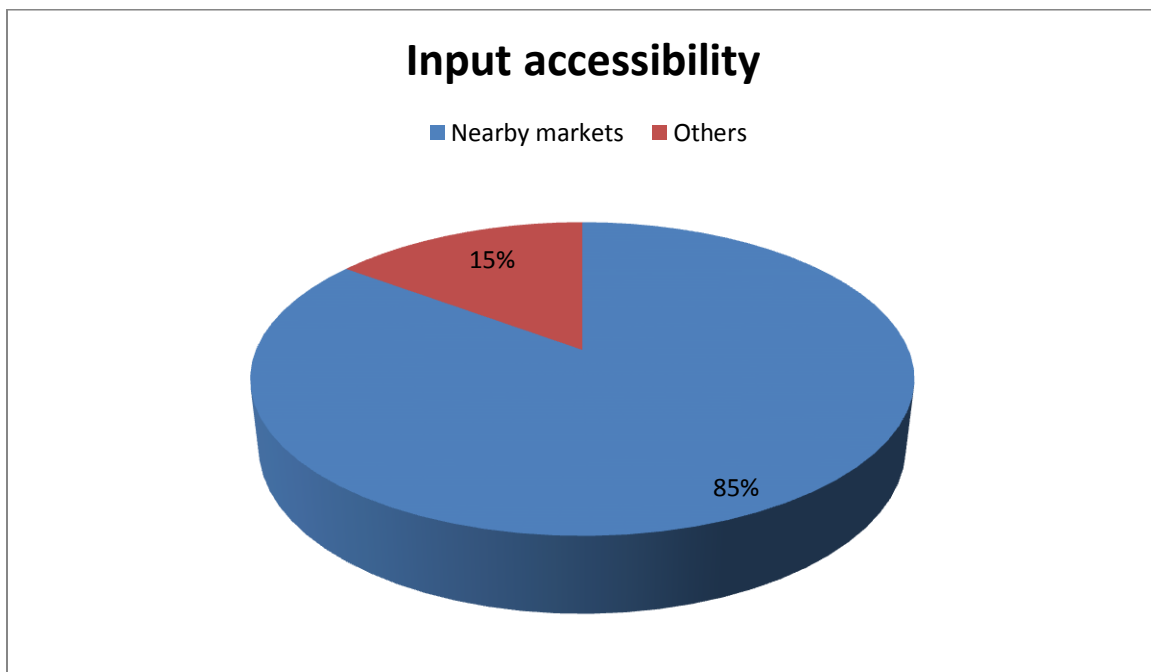
information from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), rest 9.45% of respondents seek information from both Agriculture Development Office (ADO) and Krishi Bhawan.

20. Agricultural input accessibility:

Table 20:- Distribution of agricultural input accessibility adopted by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities

S. No.	Input accessibility	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nearby markets	63	85.13
2	Others	11	14.87
	Total	74	100.00

Figure 20:- Distribution of agricultural input accessibility adopted by Gram Panchayat Members in farming activities





From the data furnished in table 20 and pie chart it is concluded that majority of respondents i.e. 85.13% were getting agricultural input from nearby markets while rest 14.87% of respondents were getting agricultural input from other sources such as online, wholesale, agri store etc.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore concluded that majority of respondents i.e. 66.67% were male, 56.34% of respondents belonged to the age group of 36-55 years of age. 56.34% of respondents belonged to General caste category, 92.85% of respondents were married. Majority of respondents i.e. 30.15% have annual income of more than 2,40,000. 26.19% of respondents have educational qualification of Junior High School. 60.31% of respondents were having total land holding of below 1 acre. 58.73% of respondents were having occupation of Gram Panchayat Activities (GPA) and farming. 74.60% of respondents were having nuclear family. 73.01% of respondents were having family size of up to 5 members. 60.32% of respondents were having cemented house. 100% of respondents were fully participated in Gram Panchayat activities. 77.77% of respondents never use Radio as a means of mass media exposure, 61.90% of respondents daily use newspaper as a means of mass media exposure. 100% of respondents participate in collaborative leadership in case of Zilla Panchayat & Block Panchayat while 100% of respondents participate in self leadership in case of Gram Panchayat & BDC members. Majority i.e. 47.29% of respondents engaged in Paddy, Wheat, Arhar & Maize cultivation followed by 21.62% of respondents engaged in Pea, Mustard & Gram cultivation. 24.32% of respondents were using plough for crop cultivation followed by 16.21% of respondents were using both plough and cultivator. Majority i.e. 52.70% of respondents were using both Urea & DAP followed by 22.97% of respondents were using only Urea. 85.13% of respondents were using both Desi & Hybrid seeds. 78.37% of respondents seek information from progressive farmers. Majority i.e. 85.13% of respondents were getting agricultural input from nearby markets. Majority of respondents were middle age people, having education up to junior high school and mostly dependent on farming for their income. A large sum of the respondents had very high annual income while few of the respondents had low annual income.



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