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INTRODUCTION

Population of India is increasing alarmingly and according to 2011 Census the population level reached at 121.02 crores (GoI, 2011). Increase in population has caused more sub-division of landholdings, which has further increased the number of marginal and small farmers. The benefits of new agricultural technology in agriculture are mainly confined to the farmers with larger holdings and those with smaller holdings still continue to have traditional methods of cultivation, because they are unable to make heavy investment for better irrigation facilities, seeds, fertilizers and machinery. It is evident that the benefits of Green Revolution have not been reaped equally by all the farmers, the marginal

and small farmers left to their plight of having almost the same level of living. This has pushed them into more poverty and indebtedness.

Misra (1961) conducted a study to analyse the distribution of income among farmers in Orissa. The sample consisted of 240 farm families from 50 villages in Puri district. As many as 26.7 per cent of the families were landless, 10 per cent owned less than one acre, about 32 per cent had 1 to 3 acres, and about 14 per cent had 3 to 5 acres and rest of the families owned above 5 acres. The study revealed that the crop incomes of majority of the families were low as their landholdings were very small. The study also revealed that the poverty of the people in these areas was quite visible. The causes of the poverty were the low man-land ratio, lack of facilities for double and multiple cropping and lack of subsidiary

occupations.

Gupta (1963) conducted a study in 36 villages of Budaun district in Uttar Pradesh. As many as 320 families were selected and grouped under five categories, viz. up to 1, 1 to 2.5, 2.5 to 5, 5 to 10 and 10 acres and above size groups. The study relates to the year 1959. It revealed that cereals and pulses occupy the most important place in the diet of agricultural families in Budaun district. Consumption of pulses in all the size-groups of holdings was high, but consumption of superior food grains increases with the increase in the size of holdings. The average calorie intake of families in different size-groups varies from 2,151 in up to one acre group to 3,011 in more than ten acres size-groups. There seems to be a direct relationship between the farm-size and the calorie intake of the families. The study also revealed that there are more variations in

POVERTY STATUS AMONG THE FARMERS IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

As early as 1938, the Indian Congress constituted a national Planning Committee headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, which had declared that the social objective should be "to ensure an adequate standard of living for the masses." The concept of poverty is multidimensional i.e. income poverty and non-income poverty. It covers not only levels of income and consumption, but also health and education etc.

consumption of sugar, milk, oil, ghee and vegetables of the different size-groups.

Chowdhary (1970) made an attempt to examine disparity in income in context of HYV. The author concluded that the new agricultural technology widens the income inequality among the different sections of farming population and provides proportionately large benefits to the big farmers as compared to the small farmers, because small farmers are slow to accept the new technology. This is due to lack of credit, availability of inputs, control over irrigation input and so on, on the part of the small farmers compared with large farmers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE DESIGN

Among the districts of the Maharashtra State, Solapur district is known as the most chronic drought prone district. Therefore, Solapur district is selected for the present study to examine the process of technological changes that has been taking place in agriculture and its impact on agriculture. Agriculture in this district is an important economic activity. The prospect of agriculture is connected very much with timely and adequate occurrence of rainfall. The land use pattern showed that of the total geographical areas nearly 75% area was brought under cultivation. Thus, district has relatively higher proportion of the net sown area as compared to the state (58%). Moreover, the soil and climatic conditions in the district are such that it has both inferior cropping pattern, dominated by low value crops and relatively low yield in respect of most of the important crops. Of the total areas under cultivation, nearly 50% area occupied by jowar and followed by other cereals and pulses. Ultimately it shows the existence of peasant farming. Farmers in such low rainfall area get reluctant to adopt new technique in the production process due to uncertainty of returns associated with new techniques of production. The cropping pattern therefore is adjusted to the climatic condition and to a great extent to their own food habits and consumption pattern. Moreover, in such areas the magnitude of adoption of new crops and new techniques depend upon the speed with which they could be integrated and assimilated within the existing system.

SAMPLE DESIGN

Availability of irrigation facilities not only enables the farmers to make use of modern inputs such as chemical fertilizer, high yield varieties etc. but also helps to raise the cropping intensity in agriculture thereby raising the level of output. In fact, both level and quality of irrigation are important in determining the efficiency of agriculture through technological change. High irrigation base promotes growth prospect of agriculture. Hence, on the basis of the level of irrigation facility, talukas of the district were classified into two categories such as 1) High irrigated talukas, 2) low irrigated talukas. From each category, one taluka has been selected. Malshiras taluka is selected as high irrigated taluka having maximum area under irrigation (51.47%). Madha taluka is selected as low irrigated taluka having low irrigated area (24.09%). Hence, these talukas viz. Malshiras and Madha have been selected for intensive study at farm level analysis. This diversity in the irrigation base in these two talukas highlights the magnitude of adoption of new agricultural techniques being used in agriculture.

At the second stage, 10 villages were selected from these two talukas viz. 5 villages from Malshiras taluka and 5 villages from Madha taluka. Moreover, 20 farmers were selected randomly from the each village based on the appropriate representation of the social status of the farmers. Hence, study covered 100 farmers from 5 villages of Malshiras taluka and 100 farmers from 5 villages of Madha taluka. Thus, total numbers of sample farmers from these two talukas were 200. Moreover, at farm level, main crops being produced in these villages in these talukas and their coverage under high yielding varieties were selected for the micro level analysis. Moreover, fieldwork was carried out in these two talukas in 2001-2002 to collect primary statistical information on the relevant variables. For this purpose, scheduled method was used. The primary data was collected in the year of 2009.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the educational status of the framers in Solapur district.
2. To study the amenities available with the farmers in solapur district with respect to new techniques of production.
3. To Study the level of expenditure on consumption, education & Health of the farmers with respect to new techniques of production.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

After conducting a study in solapur district we found the following results regarding the level and status of poverty among the farmers in solapur district.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE FARMERS

The agricultural productivity is directly related with the technology adoption needs no emphasis. The technology adoption by the individual farmers and its diffusion on a large scale influenced by the education of the individuals. The level of farm production is significantly found higher on farms where the decision maker is literate than where the decision maker is illiterate. Thus, education creates positive impact on farm production. Thereby raise the economic condition of farmers, which in turn encourage the education among the members of the family. Table 6.1 shows the classification of farmers by the status of education.

Table 1
Classification of the farmers by the education status

Education level	Malshiras	Madha	Total
Illiterate	19	22	41 (20.5)
Primary (1 st to 4 th std.)	25	21	46 (23.0)
Secondary (5 th to 10 th std)	40	36	76 (38.0)
Higher secondary (11 th to 12 th std.)	10	11	21 (10.5)
Graduate (13 th to 15 th std.)	4	6	10 (5.0)
Post graduate (M. A., M. Sc., M. Com.)	2	4	6 (3.0)
Total	100	100	200

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork.

Note: Figures in parenthesis shows percentage to total

It was observed from table 1 that in Malshiras taluka, 81 farmers were educated (literate) and 19 farmers were uneducated (illiterate). 40 farmers had secondary education. Moreover, 25 farmers had a primary education. Nearly 4 farmers had graduation. Moreover, two farmers had a post graduate education level. Thus it reflects the fact that majority of the farmers were educated. While in case of Madha taluka, it was observed that out of 100 sample farmers, 22 farmers were illiterate and 78 farmers were literate. From the literate farmers, 36 farmers had secondary education, followed by the 21 farmers with a primary education level. While only 6 farmers had a graduate level education and four farmers had post graduate education level. Thus, analysis of Malshiras and Madha taluka taken together showed that in the sample areas of these two talukas six farmers (3 percent) had post graduate education and 41 farmers (20.5 percent) were illiterate and 76 (79.5 percent) farmers had secondary education and 46 farmers had primary education. Thus, it showed that majority of the

farmers in these two taluka were educated at varying level. However, there were larger numbers of farmers who were illiterate in Madha taluka as compared to Malshiras taluka.

FAMILY SIZE

There are three types of families in Malshiras and Madha taluka such as (1) small family (upto 4 members), (2) medium family (5 to 10 members) and (3) big family (11 and above members). Table 2 showed the size of family in Malshiras and Madha taluka. In Malshiras taluka there were 62 families having members between 5 to 10. Moreover, 19 families were small families as well as big families. Thus, of the total majority of farmers were in the category of medium family. While in Madha taluka, most of the families (69) were the medium sized families. Moreover, 22 families were the small families.

Table 2
Size of Family in Malshiras and Madha taluka

Family size	Malshiras	Madha	Total	Percentage
Small family (upto 4 members)	19	22	41	20.5
Medium family (5 to 10 members)	62	69	131	65.5
Big family (11 & above)	19	9	28	14.0
Total	100	100	200	100.00

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork.

In addition, there were nine farmers in the category of big families. Taken together the position of Malshiras and Madha talukas showed that majority of farmers were concentrated in the category of medium family, (65.5 percent) followed by small family (20.5 percent) and big family (14.0 percent).

Family Dependency

Moreover, an attempt is made to examine the position of family dependency. How many family members depend on the head of the family is considered as family dependency. Table 3 showed the family dependency in Malshiras and Madha taluka. It revealed from the table 6.6 that in Malshiras average dependency was 11 members in case of big farmers followed by marginal farmers (5), medium (6), small (4).

Table 3
Family dependency in Malshiras and Madha taluka

Category	Malshiras		Madha		Total	
	Dependent	Percentage	Dependent	Percentage	Dependent	Percentage
Marginal	147 (5)	21.64	121 (5)	23.04	268 (5)	22.25
Small	113 (4)	16.64	102 (4)	19.42	215 (4)	17.85
Medium	138 (6)	20.32	157 (6)	29.90	295 (6)	24.50
Big	281 (11)	41.38	145 (6)	27.61	426 (8)	35.38
Total	679 (7)	100.00	525 (6)	100.00	1204 (6)	100.00

Source : Compiled from the Fieldwork.

Note: Figures in parenthesis shows the dependency of each farmer.

The overall average dependent members of all categories were seven in Malshiras taluka. In case of Madha taluka, it was observed that average dependency of all categories and big and medium farmers was six, followed by marginal (5), and small (4). Moreover, the overall position of Malshiras and Madha taluka taken together showed that average dependency was 6 for all categories. Category wise break up showed that average number of dependent members of big farmer was 8, then followed medium farmers (6), and marginal farmers (5) and small farmers (4).

HOUSING STATUS

Having own house is the major infrastructural facility for farmer. Moreover, the type of house shows the status of the farmer. Table 4 shows the housing status of the farmers in Malshiras and Madha taluka. According to this table in Malshiras taluka most of the farmers (44 percent) had a pacca houses while before the adoption of new agricultural technology only 7 farmers had pacca houses. Moreover, there were 19 farmers having RCC type of house while before adoption of the new technology not a single farmer had RCC type of house. However, in Madha taluka, there were 49 farmers having a pacca houses and the 10 farmers had RCC type of house. Before the adoption of new agricultural technology majority of the farmers had a kaccha houses and not a single farmer had a RCC type house. Thus, it reflected the fact that as consequence of the adoption of new agriculture technology economic condition of the farmers has been improved thereby they could raise the status of the house. Moreover, overall analysis indicted that there was improvement in both talukas taken together. Of the total farmers 46.5 percent households had pacca housed and 39 percent households had kaccha houses and 14.5 percent household were built RCC types of houses.

Table 4
Housing Status of the Farmers

House type	Malshiras			Madha			Total		
	Before NAT	After NAT	% change	Before NAT	After NAT	% change	Before NAT	After NAT	% change
RCC	0	19 (19.0)	-	0	10 (10.0)	-	0	9 (14.5)	-
Pacca	7 (7.0)	44 (44.0)	528.57	16 (16.0)	49 (49.0)	206.25	23 (11.5)	93 (46.5)	304.34
Kaccha	93 (93.0)	37 (37.0)	-60.21	84 (84.0)	41 (41.0)	-51.19	177 (88.5)	78 (39.0)	-55.93
Total	100	100	-	100	100	-	200	200	-

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork.

Note: Figures in parenthesis shows percentage to total.

Because of the adoption of new agricultural technology in Malshiras taluka and Madha taluka also, most of the farmers had a pacca or RCC type houses. However, this change showed more progressively in Malshiras taluka than the Madha taluka.

DRINKING WATER AVAILABILITY

Water is the life of human being, so it should be made available adequately and continuously to the people for the drinking purpose. Table 5 showed classification of farmers by the status of the availability of drinking water in Malshiras and Madha talukas. In Malshiras taluka, 62 farmers had adequate water availability. It means they had their own drinking water sources while another 38 percent of the farmers were depend on a gram panchayats drinking water sources. In case of Madha taluka 30 farmers had a adequate drinking water availability and remaining 70 farmers had not adequate drinking water availability. Malshiras and Madha talukas taken together showed that 46

percent farmers had adequate drinking water and 54 percent farmers did not get adequate water for drinking purpose.

Table 5
Drinking Water Availability

(Number of farmers)

Drinking water	Malshiras	Madha	Total
Adequate	62	30	92 (46.0)
Not adequate	38	70	108 (54.0)
Total	100	100	200

Note: Figures in parenthesis shows percentage to total.

In Malshiras taluka, most of farmers had adequate drinking water facilities as compared to Madha taluka. Thus, as a result of improvement in economic condition, farmers in Malshiras taluka had made their owned arrangement of drinking water.

Electricity

Table 6.11 shows the availability of domestic electricity for the farmers of Malshiras and Madha taluka. It was observed from the table 6.11 that there were 81 farmers in Malshiras taluka who had domestic electricity and 19 farmers did not have domestic electricity. While in Madha taluka 39 farmers had not the domestic electricity whereas 61 farmers were using domestic electricity. Thus, of the total farmers in both talukas, 71 percent farmers were using domestic electricity and 29.0 percent did not use electricity.

Table 6
Domestic electricity availability

(No. of farmers)

Electricity	Malshiras	Madha	Total
Availability	81	61	142 (71.0)
Non availability	19	39	58 (29.0)
Total	100	100	200

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork.

Note: Figure in parenthesis shows percentage to total.

Expenditure on Education, Consumption and Family Health

In this section, an attempt is made to examine expenditure pattern of farmers in the sample areas of Malshiras and Madha talukas. Moreover, expenditure made on education, Consumption and Health indicate the standard of living of the farmer. Due to the adoption of new agricultural technology the economic condition of farmers get improved thereby spend more on such indicator.

Table 7
Average Expenditure on Education, Consumption and Health

(in Rs.)

Farmers categories	Period	Educatio n	Consumptio n	Family Health
Marginal	Before NAT	880	5785	1001
	After NAT	1740	11340	2064
	% change	97.72	96.02	106.19
Small	Before NAT	796	5249.60	955
	After NAT	3048	10148	1996
	% change	282.91	93.30	109.00
Medium	Before NAT	1833	5884	1700
	After NAT	4528	13636	3684
	% change	147.02	131.74	116.70
Big	Before NAT	2634	8121.60	2492
	After NAT	11318	22197.6	10600
	% change	329.68	173.31	325.35
Total	Before NAT	1535.75	6260.05	1537
	After NAT	5158.50	14330.4	4586
	% change	235.89	128.91	198.37

Source: Compiled from the Fieldwork

It was observed from table 7 that, the farmers of Malshiras and Madha taluka were spending Rs. 14330.40 on consumption, Rs. 5158.50 on education, Rs. 4586 on family health. While they had been spending less amount on these items before the adoption of new agricultural technology. Among the different categories, big farmers were spending more on consumption (Rs. 22197.60), education (Rs. 11318) and family health (Rs.10600) as compared to other categories farmers. While the marginal farmers had spent less on education (Rs.1740). Thus, it showed that expenditure has been increased on these items due to adoption of new technology in agriculture.

Thus, it was observed that, before and after adoption of new agricultural technology period the expenditure on education, family health and on consumption increased significantly. The big farmer's expenditure on all these items increase at higher rate as compared to all the farm categories. However, it was observed that the marginal farmers expenditure on education and on family health increased slowly as compared to other categories. Thus, it can be concluded that, in Malshiras and Madha taluka the expenditure on education, consumption, and on family health increased during the period of the adoption of new agricultural technology.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

It was showed that in Malshiras large numbers of farmers were educated at varying level. However, there was large number of farmers who were illiterate in Madha taluka as compared to Malshiras taluka. In Malshiras and Madha talukas, majority of farmers had in medium family (5 to 10 family members), while the big families having 11 and above family members, were more in Malshiras taluka as compared to Madha taluka. It was observed that, because of the adoption of new agricultural technology in Malshiras and Madha taluka, most of the farmers had a pacca or RCC type houses. This change showed more progressively in Malshiras taluka than the Madha taluka. It was also observed

that, in Malshiras taluka, most of the farmers had adequate drinking water facilities as compared to Madha taluka. Because of improvement in economic condition of farmers in Malshiras taluka, they made their own arrangement of drinking water. In Malshiras and Madha taluka, most of the farmers were using domestic electricity, but the proportion was higher in Malshiras taluka than the Madha taluka. It was observed that, the expenditure on education, consumption and on family health was higher in Malshiras taluka as compared to Madha taluka.

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