



## “SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE MUSLIM FARMERS: A CASE STUDY OF AUOJ VILLAGE OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT”

**Dr. Santosh N. Kadam**

**Dept of Business Economics, S.B.P. College, Mandrup,  
Ta-S.Solapur (Solapur) Maharashtra.**

### ABSTRACT :

*Minorities and ethnicity possess political, social and economic vitality, which is less, recognized that causes problems of peace, security and Government Stability. Presence of minorities is not an issue in itself. India is in the crux of minorities' problems with a secular political and constitutional face, but veiled to hide the real, original face of Hinduism. It, at a time, is contrasting with the self? Caste system of Hindus, where the dalit are fed-up of it and trying to trap the bandages of caste, but no opportunity and out-let is available to them however they have one option to change the religion and get rid of Hindu bondage.*

**KEYWORDS :** *Minorities and ethnicity possess', social and economic vitality.*

### INTRODUCTION

Indian agriculture in the age of globalization plays an important role in economic development of India. Near about 22 percent of national income contributed from agriculture. While the socio-economic condition of the farmers is not found much more improved as in what proportion we expect. From long days the land holding is the dominancy of few religions or castes in Indian economy. There is very less proportion of land holding with the Muslim community in India. When we think on socio-economic condition of the Muslims automatically find face of its traditional occupations. The Sachar committee has reported this thing to the government. Muslims are more deprived in terms of land holding across India. The proportion of income derived from agriculture and allied activities among the Muslims is much lower than the Hindus. Yet we have not examined the farmer's face of the Muslim communities and what is its socio-economic and political condition/status in the recent years. So this is our prime object of the proposed study.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In most parts of rural India, Muslims tend to be associated with relatively low status occupations, and have, on an average, less land holdings than other communities, particularly 'upper' caste Hindus. For the purposes of this survey, respondents were selected from rural areas.

Auoj village is selected for the study from south Solapur taluk of Solapur district. The selected village



for the study is having maximum Muslim community population (i.e. 40%) compare to all the villages of the Solapur district. Another one feature is, all the Muslim households of the selected village is having agriculture as a primary occupation. From the village 50 Muslim farmers were selected on the basis of farm size i.e. marginal, small, medium and big size of farm. From each size class 5% of the farmers were selected for interview. Because of the very low number of marginal farmers all the farmers of the village from marginal farm category

were selected for the study. The total selection of the farmers is given in following table.

Farm size	Selected Farmers	Percentage
Marginal(below 2.5 acre)	8	16
Small (2.5 to 5 acre)	18	36
Medium (5 to 10 acre)	12	24
Big (Above 10 acre)	12	24
Total	50	100

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To study the profile of study area.
2. To study the cropping pattern, production pattern and yield of various crops.
3. To find out the economic condition of the farmers.
4. To examine the social condition/status of the farmers.
5. To examine the political status of the farmers.

**HYPOTHESIS:**

1. Economic condition of the Muslim farmers is very poor.
2. Socially all the Muslim farmers are lag behind.
3. Muslim farmers have not much more scope in politics.

**PROFILE OF THE SOLAPUR DISTRICT:**

Among the districts of the Maharashtra State, Solapur district is known as the most chronic drought prone district. 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.

**PROFILE OF THE SOUTH SOLAPUR TALUKA:**

Among the talukas of Solapur district South Solapur taluka having only 34 % irrigation of the gross cropped area. The river of Bhima and Sina were flowing within the talukas boundary. But it not much more benefited to all the villages of the taluka because of its geographical location. The land use pattern showed that of the total geographical area nearly 67% area was brought under cultivation, where the net shown area is 55 %. Moreover the talukas cropping pattern is dominated by low value crops but in the belt of Bhima-Sina River it is dominated by cash crops like sugarcane.

**RESULTS OF THE STUDY:**

As per said objectives of our study we presented the results in the parts of economic condition, social condition and political condition of the Muslim farmers in the village of Auoj.

**Economic Condition of the Muslim Farmers:**

**Land Holding:**

Land holding means the actual land operated by the farmers in a period.

**Table 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Land Holding by the Muslim Farmers**

(In acres)			
Land	Acres	Percentage	Average Land
Irrigated	167.5	35.63	3.35
Non Irrigated	155	32.97	3.1
Fallow Land	147.5	31.38	2.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9.4</b>

Table 1 gives the average size of land holding by the muslim farmers in the study area. It shows that the average size of land holding in Auoj village is 9.4 acres of land. While the percentage of fallow land to the average land holding was 31.38. The irrigated areas percentage to the average land holding was only 35.63.

**Cropping Pattern:**

The important crops cultivated in the village were Jowar, bajra, wheat, maize, tur, gram and sugarcane. The table 2 shows the cropping pattern of the Muslim farmer of Auoj village. The cropping pattern of Auoj village was dominated by cash crops. The area under thses crops was 57.33 percent. The foodgrain crops occupied nearly 42.16 percent area of the Auoj village. Moreover of the total area under cash crops sugarcane crop occupied 87.25 percent area. Among cereals jowar, wheat and maize were important crops in the Auoj village. The pulses occupied only 11.01percent of foodgrian area and nearly 4.64 percent of gross cropped area. As a result of higher irrigation facilities sugarcane remained the dominant crop of the village.

**Table 2**  
**Cropping Pattern of Muslim Farmers of Auoj Village**

(In acres)		
Crops	Area	Percentage
Jawar	50	17.86
bajra	1.25	0.44
wheat	42.5	15.18
maize	7.5	2.67
other	0	0
tur	8.75	3.12
gram	4.25	1.51
Other (sunflower)	3.75	1.33
<b>Food grains</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>42.16</b>
sugarcane	141.25	50.46
groundnut	0	0
papai	0	0
banana	3.12	1.11
pomogranate	0	0
grape	0	0
vegitable	0	0
onion	0	0
other cash crops (cocoon)	6.25	2.23
other crops (grass)	11.25	4.01
<b>Cash crops</b>	<b>161.87</b>	<b>57.83</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>279.87</b>	<b>100</b>

However jowar, bajara, wheat, maize, tur, gram and banana were also being cultivated in the village.

**PRODUCTION PATTERN:**

An analysis of crop production in the Auoj village shows that production of the principle crops e.g. jowar, wheat, maize and sugarcane was higher (Table 3) compared to other crops. Of the total cereals production of wheat was commanding and next came jowar. These two crops together comprised 72.78 percent of the food grains production of the Auoj village. Beside wheat and jowar maize also produced and it shared 12.72 percent of the food grain

**Table 3**  
**Production Pattern of Muslim Farmers of Auoj Village**

Crops	Production	Percentage
Jawar	122.5	34.62898
bajra	0	0
wheat	135	38.16254
maize	45	12.72085
other	0	0
tur	18.75	5.300353
gram	7.5	2.120141
other	25	7.067138
<b>Food grains (in quintal)</b>	<b>353.75</b>	<b>100</b>
Sugarcane (in Tons)	3325	99.88
groundnut	0	
papai	0	
banana	0	
pomegranate	0	
grape	0	
vegetables	0	
onion	0	
other cash crops (cocoon) in Tons	3.75	.22
<b>Total cash crops</b>	<b>3328.75</b>	<b>100</b>

production. Pulses were relatively less important sharing 9.65 percent of total food grains production of the village. Only tur production contributed to more than half of the pulses production. Among the non food crops the production of sugarcane is dominant with 99.88 percent.

**CROP YIELD:**

After having discussed the production pattern, it is important to examine the yield level of various crops. Table 4 shows the yield of principal crops in the Auoj village. It was observed from the table that the yield of cash crops was 20.56 toons per acre. While among all the crops sugarcane has occupied first rank with 23.53 tones yield per acre and then come the maize (6 quintal) and wheat (3.17 quintal). The food grain yield in the village was 2.99

**Table 4**  
**Yield of Various Crops in Auoj Village**

Crops	Yield
Jawar	2.45
bajra	0
wheat	3.17
maize	6

other	-
tur	2.14
gram	1.76
other	2
<b>foodgrains</b>	<b>2.99</b>
Sugarcane (in toons)	23.53
groundnut	-
papai	-
banana	0
pomegranate	-
grape	-
vegetables	-
onion	-
other cash crop (cocoon) in tones	0.6
<b>Total cash crop</b>	<b>20.56</b>

quintals per acre. Among the cereals crops yield of maize crop was higher (i.e.3.17 quintals) and yield of jowar was lower (i.e.2.45 quintal).

**Farm Income:**

Table 5 shows the income of the Muslim farmers of Auoj village. The total farm income of the all the sample farmers was Rs. 4368625. Moreover the average farm income of the

**Table 5**  
**Farm Income of the Muslim Farmers**  
**(at current prices)**

Type of Income	Income in Rs.
Total Farm Income	4368625
Average Farm Income	87372.5
Per Capita Farm Income	11201.6

Muslim farmers in Auoj village was Rs.87372.5. While when we consider the important role of family members of the farmers in agricultural development, then it is necessary to calculate the per capita farm income. With this reference it was found that the per capita farm income of the Muslim farmers was Rs.11201.6. Moreover an unforgettable thing was 25 percent of the Muslim farmers were not having an income from its agricultural source and 15 percent of the farmers were having the agricultural income below 15000 Rs.

**Income from Livestock:**

The subsidiary source of income for the Muslim farmers is the income from livestock.

**Table 6**  
**Income from Livestock**

Animals	Number of Farmers	income	Average income	per animal income
bullock	15	0	0	0
cow	28	156750	3135	5598.21
buffalo	60	109250	2185	1820.83
goat	20	25000	500	1250
Total	123	291000	5820	2365.85

Table 6 shows that the average income for each farmer from livestock was Rs.5820. While the per animal income to all the Muslim farmers was Rs.2365.85 in the Auoj village. Among the animals cow is giving more average income (i.e.Rs.3135) than the other livestock's followed by buffalo (i.e. Rs. 2185).

**Muslim Farmers Indebtedness:**

The indebtedness was measured as loans outstanding as at the time of survey.

**Table 7**  
**Muslim Farmers Indebtedness**

Channels	Frequency	Percentage to 50	Amount	Percentage	Average Loan	Per Head Loan
National Bank	20	40	9937500	40.85303	198750	25480.77
Co-operative bank	38	76	7212500	29.65057	144250	18493.59
Money Lender	32	64	6800000	27.95478	136000	17435.9
Friend	3	6	375000	1.541624	7500	961.5385
Total	93		24325000	100	486500	62371.79

Table 7 explains the various channels of loan to the Muslim famers and the amount of loan taken by them. The proportion of indebted Muslim farmers was found to be 100 per cent in the Auoj village. From the table it was observed that the average loan for the Muslim farmers of the Auoj village was Rs.486500. Out of the total loan with the nearly 28 percent of the loan amount by 64 percent of the Muslim farmers of total samples was borrowed from the money lenders. Moreover per head indebtedness on the family of the Muslim farmers was Rs.62371.79 in Auoj village. It was also observed that only 48.64 percent of the Muslim farmers were using the loan for what purpose they have taken. While 51.37 percent of the Muslim farmers were not using the loan for said purpose for what they had indeed. The 55 percent of the farmers were using their loan for other than said purpose i.e. marriage of daughter or son and children's education.

**Use of Labour:**

The use of hired and family labours in Auoj village by Muslim farmers is given in table 8. Of the total hired labourers in agriculture 41.19 percent were the male labours and 58.65 percent were female labourers in terms of working days. The use of male labour was increased because of the non use of mechanized inputs.

**Table 8**  
**Use of Labour**

Category	Percent to Category	Percent to Total	(In Working Days)
			Annually Per acre Working days
<b>Family Labour</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>51.73</b>	<b>65.11</b>
Male	67.64	58.8	44.04
Female	32.35	41.34	21.06
<b>Hire Labour</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.26</b>	<b>60.73</b>
Male	50.79	41.19	30.85
Female	49.2	58.65	29.88
<b>Total Labour</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>125.8</b>
Male	49.51	100	74.89
Female	40.48	100	50.95

On the other hand the use of family labour was found more than the hired labours it shows the higher proportion of disguised unemployment in Auoj village. Annually working days on per acre was 125.8 days in the village. Moreover family labours working days were found more (i.e.65.11) than the hired labours working days (i.e.60.73) annually.

**Social Condition/Status of the Muslim Farmers:**

Muslim farmers are most backward educationally; the Poverty, unemployment and illiteracy are rampant among them. In this regard the housing status, availability of drinking water, instruments for entertainment purpose, availability of transport facility etc. are factors were examined here.

**Age wise Classification of the Muslim Farmers:**

Table 9 shows the age wise classification of the Muslim farmers. From the table it reveals

**Table 9**  
**Agewise classification of the farmers**

age group	frequency	%
25-45	25	50
45-60	10	20
above 60	15	30
Total	50	100

that the 50 percent of the farmers was in the age group of 25 to 45 years, and 30 percent of the farmers from above 60 years age group. While only 20 percent of the farmers was from the age group of 45 to 60 years.

**Farmers Educational Level:**

Muslims of India had truncated status poor in education and they are lagging behind in Socio-Economic and political walk of Society. Educational backwardness of Muslims in India should be understood in the wider context of their overall socio-economic and political marginalization. Table 10 gives the data on education level of the Muslim farmers of the Auoj village.

**Table 10**  
**Education Level**

Education	Frequency	%
Illiterate	3	6
Primary	7	14
Secondary	25	50
Higher secondary	10	20
Graduate	3	6
Post Graduate	2	4
Total	50	100

From the above table it reflects that the 50 percent of the Muslim farmers were having the secondary level education followed by 20 percent farmers with higher secondary level education. While graduate and post graduate level educated Muslim farmers was only 6 and 4 percent respectively and also 6 percent of the Muslim farmers was illiterate.

**EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE FAMILY:**

Muslims are the most backward community educationally. Thus the literacy rate among Muslims is lower than all the religious communities in India. Another important factor which can be noticed among the Muslims is that their percentage in higher education is very low. Table 11 identifies the educational level of the Muslim farmer's family in Auoj village.

**Table 11**  
**Educational Level of the Family**

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
below 6 yrs	67	19.70
illiterate	58	17.05
primary	48	14.11
secondary	95	27.94
Higher Secondary	40	11.76
graduate	22	6.47
P.G.	10	2.94
Total	340	100

The 27.94 percent of the family members of the Muslim farmers were having secondary level education followed by illiterate family members with 17.05 percent. Moreover only 6.47 percent and 2.94 percent of the family members were having graduation and post graduation level education respectively in the family of Muslim farmers.

**Size of Family:**

Population census shows that Muslim population is on the rise in India. It has its political and economic impact. Table 12 gives the information about the size of family of the Muslim Farmers. The average size of the Muslim farmer's family was 7.8 members. While among that 20 percent of the farmers were having more than 10 members in their family.

**Table 12**  
**Size of Family**

Population Group	Frequency	Percentage
Below 4 members	7	14
5 to 10 members	33	66
Above 10 members	10	20
Total	50	100
Total Family Members	340	-
Average Family members	6.8	-

Moreover 66 percent of the Muslim farmers had 5 to 10 members in their family. Despite the fact that, only 14 percent of the Muslim farmers had below 4 members in their family.

**Housing Status:**

Having own house is the major infrastructural facility for any farmer. More over the type of house shows the status of the farmer. Table 13 shows the housing status of the Muslim Farmers in Auoj village.

**Table 13**  
**Housing Status**

Type of House	Frequency	Percentage
RCC	5	10
Pacca	27	54
Kaccha	18	36
Total	50	100

According to above table most of the Muslim farmers (54 percent) had a pacca houses. Moreover there were 10 percent farmers having RCC type house in the village. Although today also 36 percent of the Muslim farmers were living in the Kaccha houses.

**Source for Drinking Water:**

Water is the life of human being, so it should be made available adequate, pure and continuously to the people for the drinking purpose. Table 14 showed the classification of the farmers on the basis available source of drinking water to the Muslim farmers.

**Table 14**  
**Source for Drinking Water**

Source	Frequency	Percentage
Hand pump	0	0
well	0	0
River	8	16
Pub.	42	84
Total	50	100

The public water supply with purification to Muslim farmers of Auoj village is available to 84 percent of the farmers. While from the river source 16 percent of the farmers were getting drinking water. In the village of Auoj Government of India has implemented the scheme of "Drinking Water Supply with Purification under Jalsawrajya" because of this most of the farmers who live at village place they all were getting the benefit of the pure water supply.

**Entertainment Facilities:**

The availability of entertainment facilities reflects the economic condition of the society. As the income level of the people increases, entertainment facility also increases. Table 15 represents the availability of entertainment facilities with the Muslim farmers in Auoj village.

**Table 15**  
**Entertainment Facilities with the Farmers**

Facility	Frequency	Percentage
Nothing	28	56
Television	2	4
Radio	13	26
Tape recorder	0	0
Other	0	0
Television + Tape Recorder	7	14
Total	50	100

Of the total Muslim farmers 56 percent of the farmers did not have any entertainment facility at their home, while 26 percent of the Muslim farmers had the radio. Moreover 18 percent of the Muslim farmers had a television facility at their home.

**Own Transport Facility:**

In the process of agricultural development, transport facilities play a major role; better availability of transport facility leads to getting better economic gains for the farmers. Table 16 presents the position of own transport availability for the farmers in Auoj village.

**Table 16**  
**Availability of Own Transport Facility**

Vehicle	Frequency	Percentage
No vehicle	5	10
Cycle	25	50
Two wheeler	18	36
Four wheeler (car)	2	4
Total	50	100

In Auoj village 50 percent of the farmers were having their own cycle for transport purpose subsequently 36 percent of the farmers were having a two wheeler for the same purpose. Moreover 10 percent of the farmers were not having any type of own transport facility. While only 4 percent of the famers were having four wheeler (i.e. Car).

**Availability of Domestic Electricity:**

Table17 shows the availability of domestic electricity for the farmers of Auoj villagae.

**Table 17**  
**Availability of Domestic Electricity**

Facility	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	54
No	23	46
Total	50	100

It was observed that from the above table, there were 54 percent of the farmers in the village who have not the availability of domestic electricity, while only 46 percent of the Muslim farmers had an availability of domestic electricity.

**CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:**

Muslims are amongst the most marginalized communities in India in terms of economic and educational indices and also in terms of political empowerment. In the Present study we observed that the average size of land holding with the Muslim farmers in Auoj village was 9.4 acres. Out of which 32.97 percent and 31.38 percent of the land was non irrigated and fallow land respectively. Regarding the cropping pattern it was found that most of the Muslim farmers were not cultivating the cash crops excluding sugarcane. Except this thing the cropping pattern was dominant with food grain crops. Among the cash crops the production of sugarcane was almost higher. While wheat was the dominant crop among the food crops followed by jowar. But about the yield of various crops in the village maize crops had a highest rank compare to other crops followed by wheat. About the farm income we observed that the average income of the Muslim farmers in the village was Rs. 87372.5 per year and the Per Capita Income of the family of Muslim farmer was Rs.11201.6 per year. But there was 25 percent of the farmers who had no income from agricultural source per year even they cultivating the crops in farm. Moreover about the income from livestock we found Rs. 2365.85 was the average income, among that the income from cow was highest compare to other livestock with farmers. We have measured the indebtedness of the Muslim farmers and we come to the result that the average loan outstanding with the farmers was Rs.486500; among that the part of non institutional loan was nearly 30 percent. Hired labours had no more scope in the village because most of the Muslim farmers were working with own house labour.

The educational status of the Muslim farmers was found very poor, where only few farmers had a degree of higher education in the village. But 50 percent of the farmers found in the age group of 25 to 45 years. The average size of the Muslim farmer’s family was observed 6.8 members. About the Housing status of the Muslim farmers it was observed that 35 percent of the farmers had not the pacca house but 10 percent of the farmers had a RCC type house in the village. Most of the farmers had a radio for their entertainment purpose and the cycle for transportation purpose than the other types of the respective category. While yet the 45 percent of the Muslim farmers had not electricity facility at their own house in the Auoj village.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

After observing some findings suggestions are necessary to be put for the further policy implication and development of the Muslim farmers of the study area.

- For to improve the agricultural productivity of land provide special subsidies and loan quota for the Muslim farmers.
- Government should give the debt relief or loan with subsidies interest rates.
- Government should provide the quota for children’s education of the Muslim farmers in various educational institutions.
- The government should allot funds to the minorities in the poverty alleviation schemes in proportion to their population among the below poverty line population.

- There should be specific quota for the Muslims in all the government schemes like housing, education etc., in proportion to their population.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Alam M.S. (2009), Whither Muslim Politics?, Economic and Political Weekly, vol. xliv, no. 39, September 26, PP.92 - 95.
2. Chadha, G. K. (1978), Farm size and Productivity Revisited: Some notes from recent experience of Punjab, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 13, No. 39.
3. Engineer, I (1995): Politics of Muslim Vote Bank, Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 30 (4), 197-200
4. Indian Social Institute, (2006), Report on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Muslims in India, New Delhi.
5. Kadam Santosh N. (2009), New Agricultural Technology and Socio-Economic Impact, Reliance Publishing House, New Delhi.
6. Khalidi, Omar (1993): Muslims in Indian Political Processes, Economic & Political Weekly, Vol 28 (1-2), 43-54.
7. Najiullah Syed (2006), The Status of Muslims in India, Free Online Library.
8. Singh, J. P. (1981), Caste Institution and Production Efficiency of Farmers in Eastern UP, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 36, No. 3.
9. Tilak, B. G. (1993), Education and Agricultural Productivity in Asia: A Review, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol.48, No. 2.
10. Varghese, K. E. (1986), "Socio-Economic changes in Kerala" Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
11. Zahid S.F. (2009), Socio - Political and Economic Status of Muslims in India, Free Online Library.