

Profile Characteristics, Constraints and Suggestions of Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries of Pashu Bhagya Scheme

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ABSTRACT

Livestock plays an important role in changing the attitude/ behaviour of farmers with different income generating means, socio-economic and psychological aspects. Hence, studying the comprehensive nature of the livestock rearing farmers through their profile characteristics, make a remarkable contribution. Systematic study and analysis of the profile characteristics of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Pashu Bhagya Scheme in Vijayapura, Karnataka. Research was carried out by randomly selecting 90 beneficiaries and 30 non-beneficiaries of Pashu Bhagya Scheme from Vijayapura and Indi taluks. Among the beneficiaries 51.11 per cent belonged to medium age, 30.00 per cent completed their education up to high school, 52.22 per cent had medium level experience in livestock rearing. Among non-beneficiaries 43.33 per cent were old aged with primary level of education (36.66%) and high experience (43.33%) in livestock rearing. Beneficiaries had medium level of scientific orientation (45.56%), risk orientation (57.78%) and achievement motivation (53.33%), whereas non-beneficiaries had low level of scientific orientation (53.34%), risk orientation (53.34%) and achievement motivation (56.67%). Majority of the beneficiaries had medium annual income ranging between Rs.60000-Rs.1,20,000 (45.56%), while 46.67 per cent non-beneficiaries had low level annual income (<Rs.60000). Half of the beneficiaries were small farmers and non-beneficiaries were marginal farmers (33.34%). Beneficiaries had medium level of extension participation (51.11%), extension contact (68.89%), mass media use (55.55%), whereas non-beneficiaries had lower levels of extension orientation.

Keywords : Beneficiaries, Non-beneficiaries, Pashu Bhagya Scheme, Constraints

ANIMAL Husbandry plays a pivotal role towards poverty alleviation of farming community in rural areas. It is vital in supplementing family income and generating gainful employment, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women. Livestock provides raw material/ by products such as hides and skins, blood, bone, fat etc. Livestock in mixed farming is crucial for socio-economic development of farmers in India. In our country livestock contributes to agriculture through draft power, fuel, as fertilizer and manure. Besides, animal products such as meat, milk and eggs

provide the required nutrition to rural population and are also a source of supplementary cash income. In addition, livestock serves as ATM to farmers during crisis. With the increasing significance and contribution of livestock in country's economy as well as farmer's livelihood, Government of India and Government of Karnataka have brought various livestock programs together or individually to assist livestock rearing community. Among such schemes this study laid emphasis on the Pashu Bhagya Scheme that promotes their livelihood assurance through credit linked back-end support.

Pashu Bhagya Scheme was announced on March 13, 2015 to assist the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers in setting up of different livestock units. Under the scheme SC/ST farmers would get 50 per cent subsidy and other caste small and marginal farmers get 25 per cent of subsidy. The scheme prioritized women (33%), minorities (15%) and physically handicapped (3%). It was also proposed to provide interest free short-term loans up to Rs.50,000 under crop loans through cooperative banks to carry out expenses of cattle feed and other maintenance expenses. Farmers also get loan up to amount Rs.1.20 lakhs from commercial banks. Profile characteristics refer to the set of qualities that describe the category of the person based on his personal, psychological, socio-economic and communicational traits. The study on profile traits makes the researcher to analyze the background and uniqueness of the respondents. From the review of previous studies, it is found that the study on personal, socio-economic and psychological features of a respondent plays an important role to conduct the research effectively. Chandrasekar *et al.* (2017) indicated that socioeconomic characteristics *viz.*, family size, family type, annual income, economic motivation, land holding and education had significant impact on adoption of scientific practices. Koli (2019) indicated that the majority of the respondents belonged to middle aged (53.00%), educated up to secondary school (50.00%), possessed small land holding (up to 1.01 to 2.00 ha.), 68.50 per cent had medium level annual income, 92.50 per cent had medium level of sale of milk, 71.50 per cent belonged to medium level of scientific orientation, 58.50 per cent had medium level of risk preference, 64.50 per cent had medium extension contact, (57.00%) had medium level of economic motivation among his respondents.

To throw the light on the personal, psychological and socio-economic aspects in improving the livelihood status of landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, the present study has been taken up with the following objectives

1. To study the profile characteristics of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Pashu Bhagya Scheme
2. To find out the association between profile characteristics of beneficiaries with their livelihood status and
3. To elicit problems and seek suggestions from the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried in Vijayapura and Indi taluks of Vijayapura district in Karnataka state with total sample size 120. Based on the highest number of beneficiaries and livestock population, three villages were selected from each selected taluk. 45 beneficiaries and 15 non-beneficiaries were selected from each taluk randomly *i.e.*, fifteen beneficiaries and five non-beneficiaries from each village.

Age, education, family size and type, livestock rearing experience, annual income, land holding, training received were categorized on the basis of pre-determined scales, whereas other variables were categorized based on the values calculated using mean and standard deviation. The statistical difference between variables of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries is measured using chi-square values.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Vijayapura district stands at sixth place with highest livestock population in Karnataka. According to 19th livestock census, the total livestock and poultry population in Vijayapura was 1349761 comprising of 253272 units of cattle, 150341 number of buffaloes, 298681 number of sheep, 361483 number of goats, 23088 number of piggery units and 262890 units of poultry birds as shown in Table 1. Vijayapura and Indi taluks have highest livestock population among the five taluks of Vijayapura district as shown in Table 1.

Pashu Bhagya Scheme was utilized by 2239 beneficiaries in three years as shown in Table 2. Table 3 depicts the taluk wise beneficiaries of the scheme during 2019-20

Personal Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4 and Fig. 1 revealed that 51.11 per cent of beneficiaries belonged to middle aged group, followed

TABLE 1
Taluk-wise Livestock population in Vijayapura district

Animals	Indi	Vijayapura	Sindagi	Bagewadi	Muddebihal	Total
<i>Cow</i>						
Indigenous	65272	55410	52383	41237	37767	252069
Hybrid	264	457	99	270	113	1203
<i>Buffalo</i>						
Indigenous	39507	33446	19672	19311	15563	127499
Hybrid	7656	6641	3754	3527	1270	22848
Poultry	71816	56749	51145	41814	41366	262890
Sheep	33477	102188	24861	67650	70505	298681
Goat	87662	92304	70341	66118	45058	361483
Pigs	5676	2346	10617	3273	1176	23088
Total	311330	349541	232872	243200	212818	1349761

(Source: Anonymous.,2016)

TABLE 2
Year -wise Pashu Bhagya Scheme beneficiaries in Vijayapura district

Year	Number of Beneficiaries	Subsidiary Amount (Rs.Lakhs)
2017-18	822	276.78
2018-19	1175	476.32
2019-20	242	97.60
Total	2239	850.7

(Source : Anonymous, 2020)

TABLE 3
Taluk-wise Pashu Bhagya Scheme beneficiaries in Vijayapura district

Taluks	Number of Beneficiaries (2019-20)
Vijayapura	86
Indi	73
B.Bagewadi	28
Sindagi	39
Muddebihal	16
Total	242

(Source : Anonymous, 2020)

by 43.33 per cent young aged and 6.67 per cent old aged group. Among non-beneficiaries, majority of them belonged to old aged (43.33%) followed by young aged (30.00%) and middle-aged group (26.67%). Similar results were reported by Veena (2018). Thirty per cent of beneficiaries have taken education up to high school, 27.78 per cent have education till pre university level, 14.45 per cent have completed their degree programme, 12.22 per cent have completed education up to middle school, 6.67 per cent studied till primary level education, 3.33 per cent can just read and write and only, while

1.11 per cent and 2.22 per cent were post graduates and illiterate, respectively.

Among non-beneficiaries, 36.66 per cent completed their primary schooling, 20.00 per cent completed their middle school, about 6.67 per cent studied till high school level, 6.67 per cent completed their pre university level education, while 23.33 per cent are illiterate and 6.67 per cent can just read and write. Similar findings were reported by Koli (2019).

About 64.44 per cent of beneficiaries were from nuclear family and 35.56 per cent from joint family,

TABLE 4
Personal characteristics of respondents

(N=120)

Characteristics	Level	Beneficiaries (n ₁ =90)		Non-beneficiaries (n ₂ =30)		Chi-square value
		f	%	f	%	
Age	Young (<35 yrs.)	38	42.22	09	30.00	6.16 *
	Middle (36-50 yrs.)	46	51.11	08	26.67	
	Old (>50yrs)	06	06.67	13	43.33	
Education	Illiterate	02	02.22	07	23.33	16.20 *
	Read & write	03	03.33	02	06.67	
	Primary school	06	06.67	11	36.66	
	Middle school	11	12.22	06	20.00	
	High school	27	30.00	02	06.67	
	PUC	25	27.78	02	06.67	
	Diploma	02	02.22	00	00.00	
	Degree	13	14.45	00	00.00	
	PG	01	01.11	00	00.00	
Family type	Nuclear	58	64.44	17	56.67	7.80 *
	Joint	32	35.56	13	43.33	
Family size	Small (<5 members)	60	66.67	10	33.33	6.85 *
	Medium (5-8 members)	16	17.78	11	36.67	
	Large (>8 members)	14	15.55	09	30.00	
Livestock rearing experience	Low (<10yrs)	35	38.89	08	26.67	9.07 *
	Medium (10-20yrs)	47	52.22	09	30.00	
	High (>20yrs)	08	08.89	13	43.33	

f-Frequency, %- Percentage, SD- Standard Deviation, *-Significant at 5%

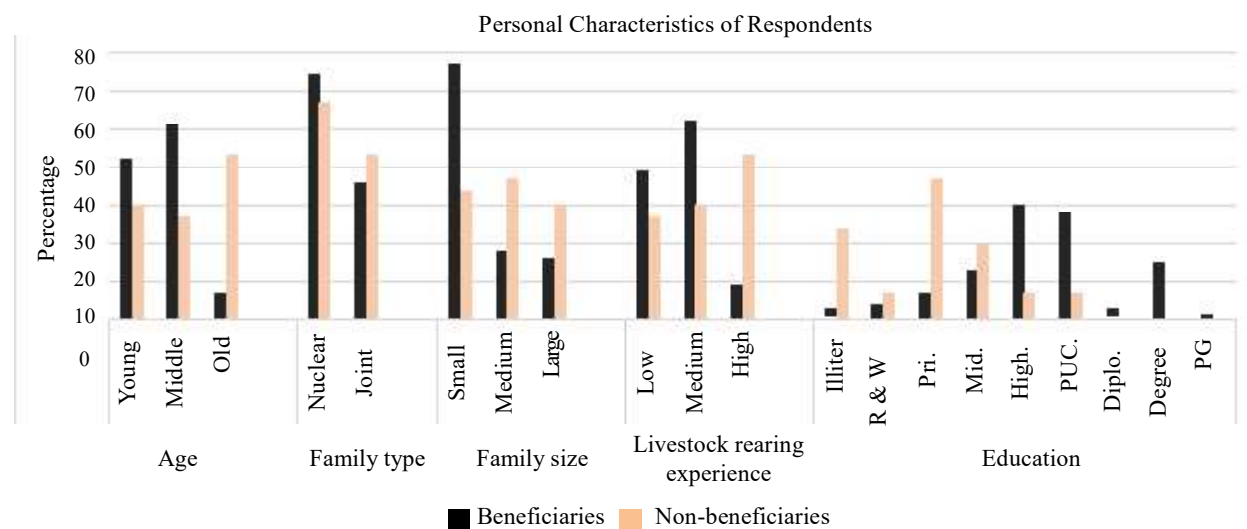


Fig 1: Personal Characteristics of Respondents

whereas, 56.67 per cent of non-beneficiaries were from joint family and 43.33 per cent are from nuclear family. Two-third of beneficiaries (66.67%) were having small family size, 17.78 per cent and 15.55 per cent were having medium and large family size, respectively. Whereas, 30.00 per cent of non-beneficiary families were of large family size, 36.67 per cent and 33.33 per cent belonged to medium and small family size, respectively. More than half (52.22%) of the beneficiaries were having medium level livestock rearing experience, whereas 38.89 per cent of low and 8.89 per cent of high-level livestock rearing experience. Similar findings were reported by Rahman and Gupta (2015). While, 43.33 per cent of non-beneficiaries were having high level, 26.67 per cent were having low level and 30.00 per cent were having medium level livestock rearing experience.

Many educated young and middle-aged beneficiaries with medium level livestock rearing experience were having more enthusiasm and potential to carry out the

livestock units along with agriculture. To gain more experience and knowledge in implementing new skills learnt, they tend to have frequent visits to department or other progressive farmers. Beneficiaries were of small and nuclear families, which lead to advantages like easy accessibility to the farm resources and standard life. Among the non-beneficiaries many old farmers with high experience were practicing traditional method of animal farming and showed less enthusiasm to gain knowledge about modern technologies in fast changing technological world. Being from the joint and large family farming background, their efforts were mostly concentrated towards labour and other activities rather than education and improvement in practices. Difference in the factors like age, family size, family background, education level, extension orientation and experience in farming have a significant effect on the knowledge and skill of respondents. Thus, there is significant difference between personal characteristics of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

TABLE 5
Psychological characteristics of respondents

(N=120)

Characteristics	Level	Beneficiaries (n ₁ =90)		Non-beneficiaries (n ₂ =30)		Chi-square value
		f	%	f	%	
Scientific orientation	Low (<5.83)	31	34.44	16	53.34	7.93 *
	Medium (5.83-8.77)	41	45.56	11	36.66	
	High (>8.77)	18	20.00	03	10.00	
Risk orientation	Low (<13.62)	22	24.44	16	53.34	8.23 *
	Medium (13.62-15.48)	52	57.78	10	33.33	
	High (>15.48)	16	17.78	04	13.33	
Achievement motivation	Low (5.60)	27	30.00	17	56.67	9.13 *
	Medium (5.60-7.50)	48	53.33	11	36.67	
	High (>7.50)	05	16.67	02	06.66	
Economicmotivation	Low (<16.15)	25	27.78	14	46.67	7.18 *
	Medium (16.15-20.75)	46	51.11	11	36.67	
	High (>20.75)	19	21.11	05	16.67	
Credit orientation	Low (<2.57)	25	27.79	19	63.33	9.00 *
	Medium (2.57-3.97)	51	56.66	08	26.67	
	High (>3.97)	14	15.55	03	10.00	

f - Frequency, % - Percentage, SD - Standard Deviation; * - Significant at 5%

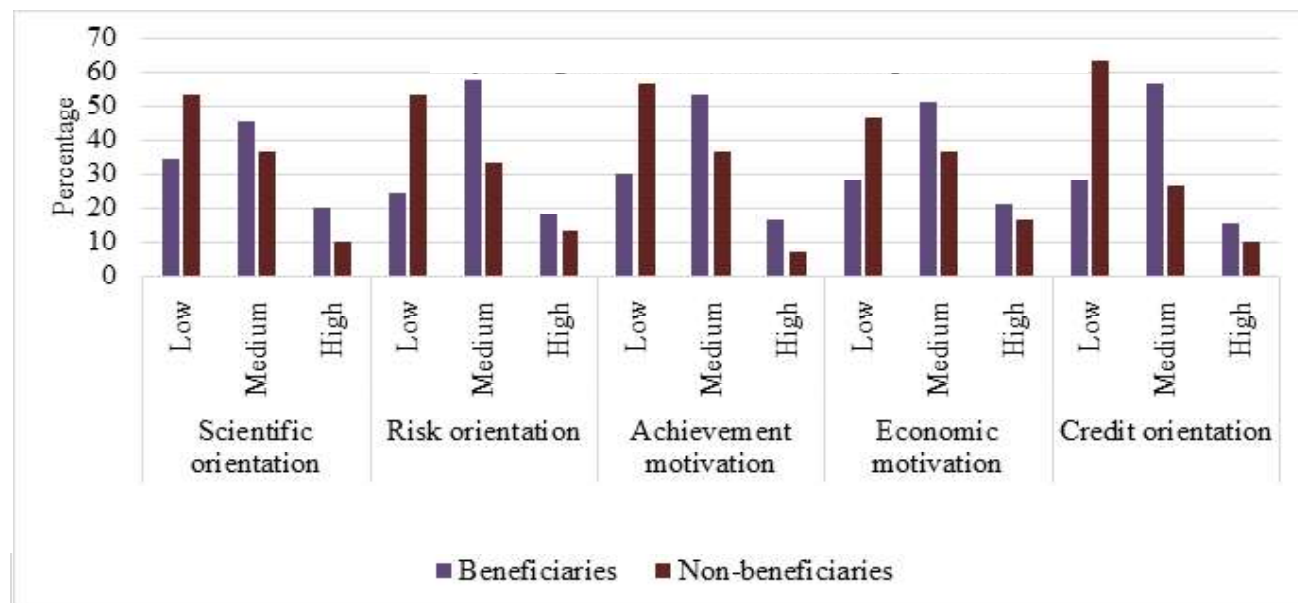


Fig 2: Psychological characteristics of the respondents

Psychological Characteristics of Respondents

Findings presented in Table 5 and Fig. 2 depicts that 45.56 per cent, 34.44 per cent and 20.00 per cent of the beneficiaries were having medium, low and high level of scientific orientation, respectively. Among non-beneficiaries, the degree of scientific orientation is low, medium and high with 53.34 per cent, 36.67 per cent and 10.00 per cent, respectively. More than half of the beneficiaries had medium level (57.78%) of risk orientation, followed by low (24.44%) and high (17.78%) level. Similar findings were reported by Lakshminarayani (2009). Among non-beneficiaries, the degree of risk orientation is low, medium and high with 53.34 per cent, 33.33 per cent and 13.33 per cent, respectively.

More than half of the beneficiaries belonged to medium level (53.33%) of achievement motivation, followed by low level (30.00%) and high level (16.67%). Among non-beneficiaries, the degree of achievement motivation was low, medium and high with 56.67 per cent, 36.67 per cent and 6.66 per cent, respectively. About 51.11 per cent of beneficiaries had medium level, followed by low level (27.78%) and high level (21.11%) economic motivation. Similar findings were reported by Chandrasekar *et al.* (2017). Nearly half (46.67%) of the non-beneficiaries were

having low level economic motivation, followed by 36.67 per cent were having medium level (36.67%) and high level (16.67%) of economic motivation. Over half of the beneficiaries (56.66%) were having medium level credit orientation, followed by low level (27.79%) and high level (15.55%). Whereas, more than half of the non-beneficiaries had low level (63.33%), medium level (26.67%) and high level (10.00%) of credit orientation.

Beneficiaries with wide extension contact, active participation in extension activities and mass media use on rearing, maintenance of animals, feeding, milking, cleaning etc., might have inclined them towards good scientific orientation when compared to non-beneficiaries with low extension participation and contacts. When there is no will to take risk then there will be no way for success. The motivation and determination level of a person help him to reach his goals. Beneficiaries' education level, wide exposure to mass media, acquaintance of other progressive farmers and participation in various extension activities might have motivated them to achieve more than the non-beneficiaries. Beneficiaries with medium level of credit orientation and economic motivation learnt well to invest in subsidiary units such as livestock rearing, kitchen garden, fisheries, apiculture

etc., along with efficient use of the resources and increase in economic profit unlike non-beneficiaries, who lack in investing additional income generating activities.

Active involvement of beneficiaries in development programs, demonstrations, trainings, village meetings, field and home visits, mass media usage unlike non-beneficiaries made a significant difference between psychological characteristics of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Socio-economic and Communication Characteristics of Respondents

In Table 5 and Fig. 3 it is revealed that about 45.56 per cent beneficiaries belong to medium annual income group, 32.22 per cent and 22.22 per cent had low and high level of annual income, respectively. Among the non-beneficiaries, about 46.67 per cent respondents belonged to low-income group and 36.66 per cent belonged to medium income group, while 16.67 per cent belonged to high annual income. Similar findings were in line with the findings of Subramanueswari and Reddy (2007) and

Chandrasekar *et al.* (2017). More than half of the beneficiaries (51.11%) had medium extension participation, 27.78 per cent and 21.11 per cent had high and low level of extension participation, respectively. Among non-beneficiaries, 43.33 per cent were having low level extension participation, followed by medium level (40.00%) and high level (16.67%) of participation.

More than two-third (68.89%) of the beneficiaries had medium level extension contact, followed by low level (21.11%) and high level (10.00%) extension contacts. Among non-beneficiaries, 53.34 per cent were having low level extension contact, followed by 40.00 per cent of medium and 6.66 per cent of high-level extension contact. Among the beneficiaries, 55.55 per cent had medium level exposure to mass media, followed by low level (24.45%) and high (20.00%) level exposure to mass media. Among non-beneficiaries, about 46.67 per cent respondents were having medium level exposure to mass media, followed by low (36.67%) and high level (13.34%) mass media exposure. Half of the beneficiaries had small land holdings (50.00%), followed by marginal

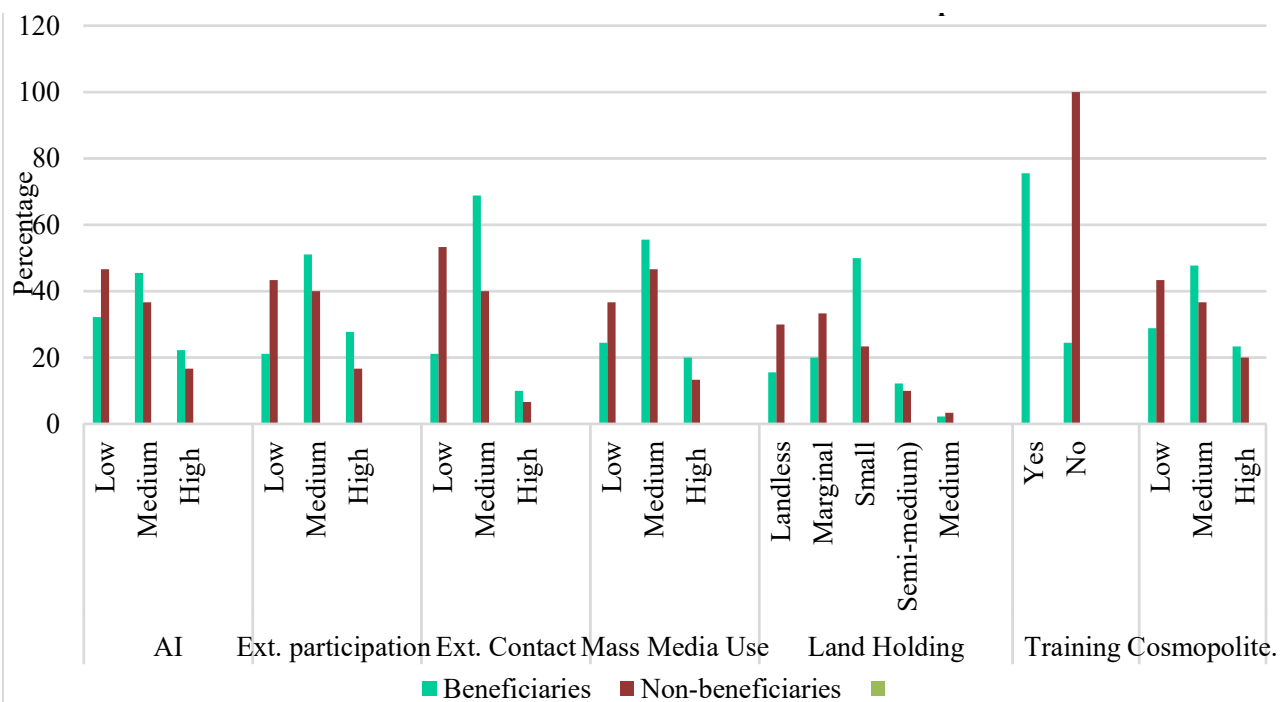


Fig 3: Socio-economic and Communication characteristics of respondents

(20.00%), semi-medium (12.22%) and medium land holdings (2.22%), whereas 15.56 per cent were landless. Among non-beneficiaries, about 33.34 per cent were marginal landholders, followed by 23.33 per cent of small landholders, 10.00 per cent semi-medium landholders and 3.33 per cent medium land holders, whereas 30.00 per cent of them were landless.

More than three fourth (75.55%) of the beneficiaries received training about scientific management of animals and 24.45 per cent didn't receive training

under the scheme, whereas none of the non-beneficiaries underwent training programmes. About 24.45 per cent beneficiaries received no training due to the problems in timing of training sessions and training centers situated at distant places from their residential areas. Similar findings were in line with the findings of Kowsalya (2017). Nearly half (47.78%) of beneficiaries had medium level of cosmopolitaness, followed by low level (28.89%) and high level (23.33%) of cosmopolitaness. Among non-beneficiaries 43.33 per cent had low level cosmopolitaness, followed by medium (36.67%) and high level (20.00%) cosmopolitaness.

TABLE 6
Socio-economic and communicational characteristics of respondents (N=120)

Characteristics	Level	Beneficiaries (n ₁ =90)		Non-beneficiaries (n ₂ =30)		Chi-square value
		f	%	f	%	
Annual Income	Low (<Rs.60,000)	29	32.22	14	46.67	6.12*
	Medium (Rs.60000-Rs1,20,000)	41	45.56	11	36.66	
	High (>Rs1,20,000)	20	22.22	05	16.67	
Extension participation	Low (<04.50)	19	21.11	13	43.33	8.81*
	Medium (04.50-08.59)	46	51.11	12	40.00	
	High (>08.59)	25	27.78	05	16.67	
Extension contact	Low (<01.66)	19	21.11	16	53.34	9.11*
	Medium (01.66-04.75)	62	68.89	12	40.00	
	High (>04.75)	09	10.00	02	06.66	
Mass-media use	Low (<04.80)	22	24.45	11	36.67	7.82*
	Medium (04.80-07.44)	50	55.55	14	46.67	
	High (>07.44)	18	20.00	05	13.34	
Land holding	Landless (0 acres)	14	15.56	09	30.00	12.81*
	Marginal (0-2.5acres)	18	20.00	10	33.34	
	Small (2.51-5.00 acres)	45	50.00	07	23.33	
	Semi-medium (5.01-10.00 acres) *	11	12.22	03	10.00	
	Medium (10.01-25.00 acres) *	02	02.22	01	03.33	
Training received	Yes	68	75.55	00	00.00	5.31*
	No	22	24.45	30	100.00	
Cosmopolitaness	Low (<12.79)	26	28.89	13	43.33	8.12*
	Medium (08.87-12.79)	43	47.78	11	36.67	
	High (>08.87)	21	23.33	06	20.00	

Frequency, %- Percentage, SD- Standard Deviation, * - Significant at 5%

Young and middle-aged beneficiaries with better education, good land holdings and training skills on scientific management of animals increased their income levels when compared to non-beneficiaries. Non-beneficiaries had low education and less awareness on scientific management of livestock that lead to follow old traditional methods, resulting in low-income levels. Beneficiaries' enthusiasm, extension contact and exposure to mass media made them to participate actively in extension activities like group meetings, trainings, demonstrations, study tour etc., when compared to old aged non-beneficiaries. Frequent visits to different extension organization lead to increased knowledge and get more exposure to the rapidly changing world unlike, non-beneficiaries who preferred to stay in their own comfort zone. About 24.45 per cent beneficiaries received no training due to the problems in timing of training sessions and training centers situated at distant places from their residential areas. None of the non-beneficiaries underwent training as they were least interested and had less awareness. Different opinions about training programmes and new methods of management of animals might have made them to be in distant from any training programmes. Difference in the interest and capability of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries like Herd size, Investment in subsidiary activities like backyard poultry, apiculture, sericulture, kitchen gardens along with the income from agriculture, livestock and animal products brought the significant difference between socio-economic characteristics of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

In the Table 7 association between the independent variables and livelihood status of beneficiaries is presented using Chi-square test along with contingency co-efficient values.

The livelihood status of beneficiaries is non-significantly associated with their personal characteristics like age, family size, family type and significantly associated with education and livestock rearing experience at five per cent level. The livelihood status of beneficiaries is positively and significantly associated with their socio-economic

TABLE 7
Association between Personal, Socio-Economic, Psychological and Communication characteristics of beneficiaries with livelihood status

Independent variables	Beneficiaries (n ₁ =90)	
	Chi-square value	"C" Value
Age	07.96 ^{NS}	00.46
Education	18.90 *	00.42
Family size	07.67 ^{NS}	00.45
Family Type	03.39 ^{NS}	00.32
Livestock rearing experience	10.71 *	00.51
Annual income	15.29 **	00.38
Extension participation	11.92 *	00.53
Extension contact	13.83 **	00.36
Mass media use	14.56 **	00.37
Land holding	18.00 *	00.61
Training received	06.82 *	00.26
Cosmopolitaness	09.85 *	00.31
Scientific orientation	10.00 *	00.32
Risk orientation	09.74 *	00.31
Achievement motivation	12.82 *	00.35
Economic motivation	12.59 *	00.35
Credit Orientation	10.73 *	00.33

C –Contingency coefficient, NS- Non-Significant; **- Significant at 1%; *- Significant at 5%

characteristics like annual income, extension contact and mass media use at one percent level.

Whereas, extension participation, land holding, training received, cosmopolitaness along with their psychological characteristics like scientific orientation, risk orientation, achievement motivation, economic motivation and credit orientation are positively and significantly associated with livelihood status at five per cent level.

The experience and education level builds knowledge and decision-making ability in terms of extension and economic activities that affect the livelihood regardless of age, family size or type. Annual income secures basic necessities (food, water, shelter and

clothing) and enhance financial security, hence it is significantly associated with livelihood status. Whereas, extension contact, extension participation, mass media exposure, scientific orientation, credit orientation and cosmopolitaness influence the social status and paves the way to attain sustainable livelihood by using resources and credit efficiently by taking calculated risk in attaining better livelihood, hence found to be significantly associated. Achievement motivation and economic motivation influence the capabilities and activities of the farmers by motivating them to achieve success and also more profit economically. Findings of the present study are in the line with Nirmala *et al.*, 2014.

Constraints Faced by Beneficiaries in Availing Benefits from Pashu Bhagya Scheme

The constraints faced by beneficiaries in availing benefits from the Pashu Bhagya Scheme are listed and ranked in Table 8.

Here the beneficiaries faced the discrimination between the respondents with political recommendation and respondents with no political

support in terms of information and priority in the respective area. Many respondents were given small amount of information and support with regards to dairy membership, training and animals purchasing. The training related problems are explained under training received variable from Table 6 (Sree Lakshmi and Nagaraja, 2022).

Reasons for Not availing Benefits by Non-Beneficiaries under Pashu Bhagya Scheme

Table 9 states the reasons for which the respondents were not able to get benefits by the scheme.

Lack of awareness about the scheme that were related to livestock was important because of less participation in social and extension activities and information about the scheme, eligibility, its advantages and requisites and applicable documents was not given to many of the non-beneficiaries by the officials of the department.

But because of not meeting eligibility, lengthy procedures or difficult bank procedures and lack of awareness about timing of subsidy sanctioned, they were not able to get any benefits.

TABLE 8
Constraints faced by beneficiaries in availing benefits from Pashubhagya Scheme (n₁=90)

Constraints	Percentage	Rank
Inadequate support received from the department while availing benefits and slow responses from Government / department.	31.83	I
Had to attend many procedures to avail benefits	29.03	II
Lack of knowledge about banking activities	25.02	III
Training facility located far off or no effective teaching or short duration	14.12	IV

TABLE 9
Reasons of non-beneficiaries for not availing the benefits under Pashu Bhagya Scheme (n₂=30)

Reasons	Percentage	Rank
Not aware about the scheme	35.67	I
Inadequate support / information received from officials	29.33	II
Not interested or necessity of such schemes	24.67	III
Applied, but did not claim benefits	10.33	IV

TABLE 10
Suggestions by respondents to overcome the problems (N=120)

Suggestions	Percentage	Rank
Training programs on management of diseases, digital technology to improve skill and knowledge of farmers	12.80	I
Effective and efficient extension advisory services needed	12.70	II
Simple bank procedures to take benefits from schemes easily	12.20	III
Creating awareness about schemes and promotion by Government organizations	11.13	IV
Quality feed and fodder at low costs	10.73	V
Minimize political interference while implementing / sanctioning scheme loans	10.09	VI
Increase employment opportunities in livestock sector through various schemes	10.01	VII
Regular follow up of implemented scheme	08.56	VIII
Increase in number of animals and subsidy amount	06.46	IX
Others (Better veterinary health facilities, schemes for large farmers, same procedures for all schemes, good response from officials)	05.32	X

Suggestions Given by Respondents

The suggestions given by the respondents are listed in Table 10.

Being in the digital world many respondents were not able to use the smart phones and access the information needed. Therefore, farmers were suggested to learn to use digital applications, which help in agriculture, livestock and marketing aspects. As many of the respondents were not able to communicate with the extension agency, there must be a provision to reach out and express the problems faced by the farmers with efficient extension advisory system. Farmers suggested to make the quality feed and fodder available to the farmers at low cost or quality fodder seeds must be distributed to the farmers.

While discussing the constraints faced by the beneficiaries in availing the benefits of scheme, it seemed that political influence had major role. It was suggested to minimize the political support or recommendation in implementing the schemes or sanctioning the loans, as it made many of the respondents to lose the confidence and trust over the schemes. Other suggestions were related to the veterinary services provided in the respective area. Even though there were some veterinary clinics,

institutions or departments many of the respondents were not able to use the services efficiently due to incorrect response from officials, many were made to wait for the required services, difficult paper works to get any information or applying to any schemes made the respondents to have negative attitude towards the institutions/departments

The purpose of the study was to outline the difference in profile characteristics of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of Pashu Bhagya Scheme that have the significant effect on their Livelihood Status. The beneficiaries expressed the satisfaction with the changes and improvements as a result of enrolling in the scheme. Low to medium level of extension orientation suggests that in future, extension personnel should motivate farmers to participate in extension activities (trainings, demonstrations, field visits, study tours etc.) and follow-up these activities to enhance the livelihood status of the farmers. It also poses a need to link government institutions (panchayats, departments, schools etc.) to provide the required information to the non-beneficiary farmers. The training on scientific management of animals also played an essential role in benefitting the beneficiaries.

Hence, there is a need to conduct such training programmes to all farmers irrespective of schemes enrollment or based on any other criteria.

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