



A Scientific Research On Socio-Economic Characteristics Of Farmers And Their Problems: A Study In Regulated Market Of Balasore District

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Abstract:

The two main avenues via which agricultural produce is gathered, distributed, and resold in rural India are the regulated markets set up by the State Governments and the sporadic marketplaces that have developed naturally and are unregulated. Under the auspices of extensive regulations that have been formulated and amended periodically by the corresponding state Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act, agricultural produce market committees have been established to promote equitable trade. Since their inception, regulated markets have assisted in reducing market disadvantages; yet, the competitive market structure was not well-foreseen by their legal framework. In an environment of liberalized trade, this paves the way for the market committee to become more manageable and sustainable. Given the dependence of other sectors on agriculture, India has viewed it as a valuable tool for economic progress. The regulated markets are regarded as accountable establishments that carry out all the tasks associated with the selling of products while considering the interests of all final consumers as a whole. The current paper highlights Indian agriculture, with a particular emphasis on the regulated agricultural marketing system and its development, status, and prospects. The report also emphasizes the difficulties and impact of a regulated market on farmers' socioeconomic standing. At the study's conclusion, a number of restrictions that either directly or indirectly impacted the farmers' socioeconomic standing were mentioned. To comprehend the link between the dependent and independent variables, a variety of statistical methods were employed. To arrive at the ultimate outcome, an ex post facto research design was mostly employed.

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Keywords: Regulated market, agriculture, socio-economic status, restrictions,

Introduction

Over fifty percent of Indians' livelihoods are derived from the agricultural sector, which drives the nation's economy, which is the most rapidly expanding in the globe. Automation brought about a major transformation in the agricultural landscape and brought about a considerable shift in farming practices due to the introduction of new technology and innovations. The overwhelming majority of farming communities can improve their

economic situation and guarantee a healthy profit by using proper marketing strategies for their agricultural products. Food grains provide the needed nourishment and vitamins that agriculture provides, either directly or indirectly supporting people. Approximately 18% of the GDP is contributed by agriculture to the economy. The 2011 Census report revealed that 69% of India's population still lives in rural areas and that farming remains their primary livelihood (Sandhu, 2020). The current state of agricultural advertising in India presents a concerning scenario for Country's peripheral and small-scale farmers. To improve marketing opportunities and revenue, agriculturalists everywhere should embrace new agricultural innovations, farming trends, varieties, growing techniques, and equipment. Along with bringing modern amenities up to date with their traditional methods, farmers also need to concentrate more on market-oriented cultivation while keeping in mind the farm's long-term sustainability, efficiency, and excellence. In additionally, agricultural workers need to be informed on farming plans, export-import regulations for agricultural commodities, customer preferences, economic reforms, and evolving technologies. Farmers' attitudes regarding organized marketing facilities need to be changed, and in order to do this, their current agricultural methods must be reoriented (Chandan *et al.*, 2020). According to the released report by (Aggarwal *et al.*, 2017) of a reputable journal, The Economics Time, eighty-five percent of Indian farmers own five acres or fewer, many of which are rainfed or dry. Additionally, these modest farmers run 46% of their farms and contribute to 51% of the overall agricultural output, with a far higher share (70%) going toward high-value crops like milk and vegetables. Research confirmed that small farms bring greater value to their output per unit area or produce twice as much as medium and large cultivation. It suggests that India's small farmers may hold the key to the country's agricultural future. Despite the advancements in agricultural technologies and developments, a significant number of cultivators continue to face challenges linked to agricultural marketing, particularly in relation to diverse In addition to issues like drought, flood, inadequate knowledge of how to use components, poor extension advisory service leading to large yield gaps, lack of assured and adequate irrigation, agricultural failure, lack of comprehension regarding crop insurance framework, and so forth, there are also issues like impoverished price understanding, shortage of market, excessive transaction expenditure, and inadequate ability to negotiate due to small promoted surplus. There are no restrictions on travel or the direct sale of agricultural products in Odisha. Farmers primarily sell their produce to local markets, primarily for vegetables. They also sell rice and other bulky goods to wholesale distributors like APMCs, private markets in the state, panchayat markets, and markets run by municipalities. Additionally, mandatory trading is not enforced in APMC Market Yards. Advertising for agriculture therefore remains open to the pressures of capitalism. As a result, Odisha can always assert that it is a transformed state in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Indian government's Model Act (Kathayat, 2019). Odisha has a peculiar scenario when it comes to vendor participation and administration. Various local bodies such as Municipalities 3 and notified area council, private individuals and associations, and organized market committees are the proprietors of the markets. GP and regional marketplaces that are either run by the local government or are leased to private entities (Sharma P., 2012). The aforementioned type of transaction is extinct in practically all marketplaces as a result of a shortage of technology and committed marketplaces personnel to hold open auctions, which has an impact on how prices are determined.

Material and methods

Balasore is a city in the state of Odisha. It is the largest city of northern Odisha and the administrative headquarters of Balasore district. It is most renowned for the shoreline at Chandipur. The Joint Experimental Station of the Indian Artillery Rocket Defense Project is situated 18 km southwest of Balasore. In Odisha there is no limits on travel and the personal sale of agricultural products. Farmers mostly sell their produce to local markets mostly vegetables, and rice or other bulky produce to the wholesale markets like APMCs, Municipality operated markets, Panchayat markets and State-wide Private Marketplace. Additionally, mandatory purchasing is not enforced in APMC Market Yards. Therefore, market forces are liberated to operate in agricultural marketing. The Regulated Market Committee, Balasore has been established by the state government with this, the present study was carried out 90 producers who responded to the multiple-phase the specimen method and then underwent simple random sampling were chosen for the purpose of the research. Three blocks—Nilagiri, Balasore, and Jaleswar—out of the district of Balasore were specifically chosen since there is a controlled market in each of these three blocks alone. Ten responders were chosen at random from each GP, and three gram-panchayats were chosen from each of the blocks that had been chosen. The data were collected through interview schedule contacting each farmer personally. To understand the relationship between different independent variables and selected dependent variables The experimental methodology employed was ex post facto in this study. In order to determine variables that are independent, such as different scales and scoring techniques developed by other researcher were used with little alteration. To make the finding consequential

the gathered information was categorized, tallied, and examined in the basis of the objectives. To assess the data and reach logical conclusions, statistical techniques including frequency, percentage, standard deviation, mean, and correlation matrix were employed. The present study has been clearly focused upon to find out the socio-economic characteristics along with constraints impact upon regulated agricultural market and the farmers that are associated with it.

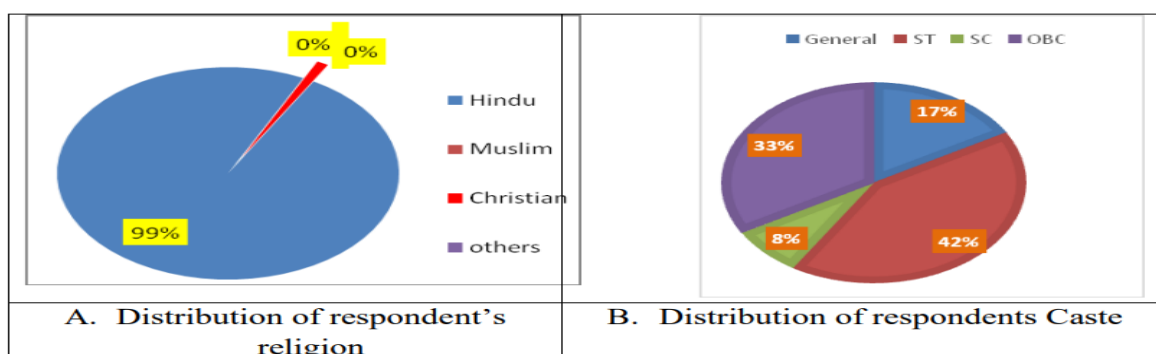
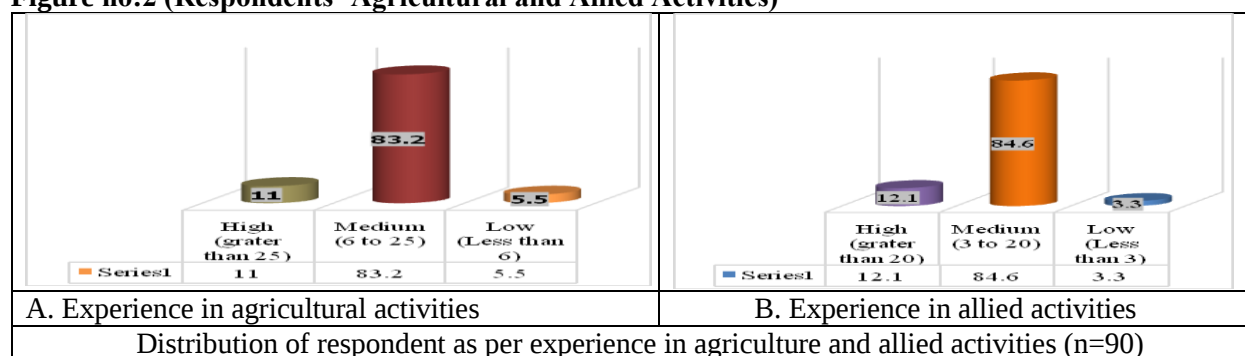


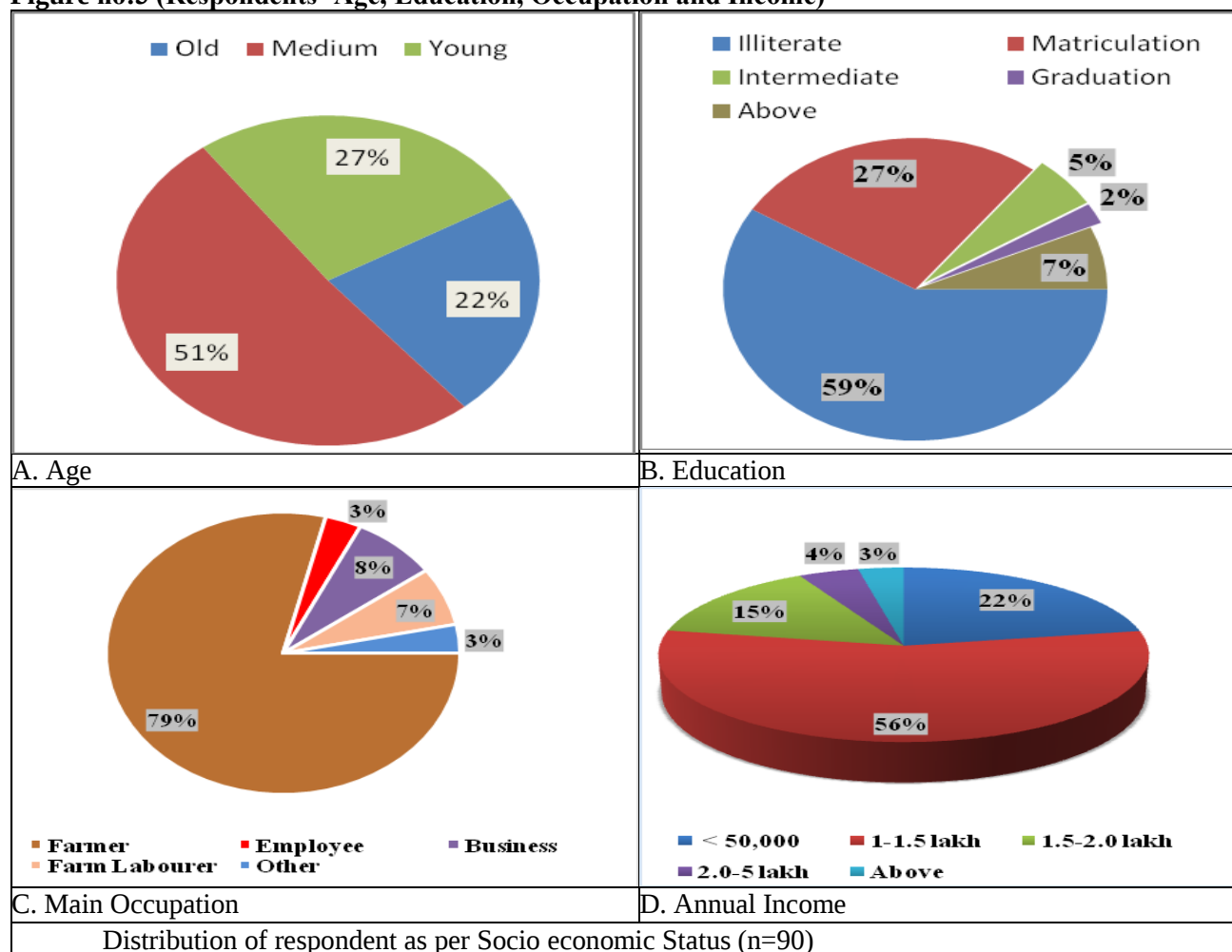
Figure no:1 (Respondents' Religion and Caste) n = 90.

It is evident based on the provided data in above fig-(A) states a vast half of which responding farmers (98.9%) were from Hindu religion, there were no Muslim farmers in the selected study area. Out of the total sample only 1.1 percent belong from Christian religious belief system. The data presented in fig-(B) showed that majority of farmers were Adivasi categories i.e., Schedule Tribe (42%), followed by Other Backward Caste (33%), General (17%) and Schedule Caste (8%) respectively.

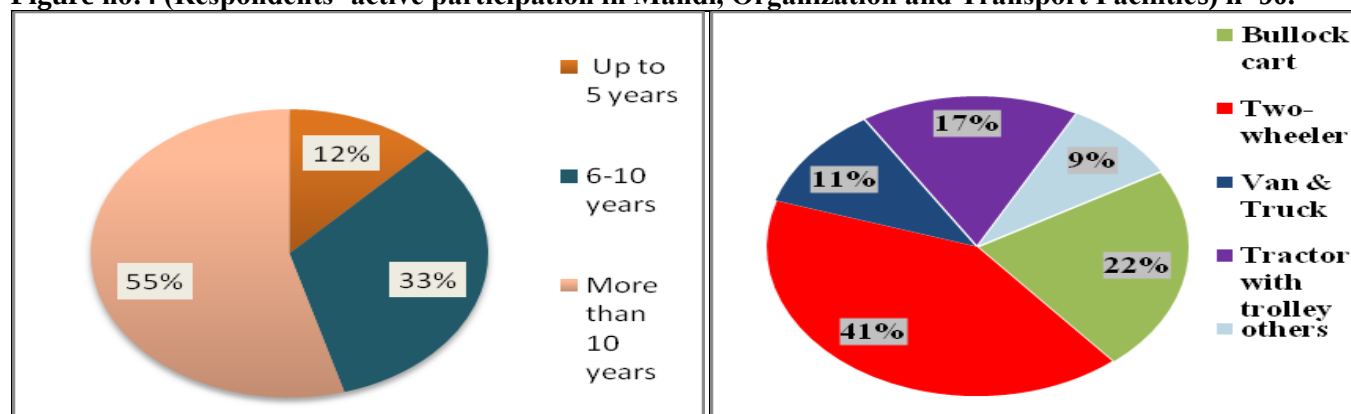
Figure no:2 (Respondents' Agricultural and Allied Activities)



In Fig-(A) represents that out of all respondent 11 percent of respondents had high experience in agriculture whereas 83.2 percent of respondents had medium experience; followed by only 5.5 percent respondents had less experience in agricultural activities. As maximum farmers are young so they have medium experience whereas out of all respondents few are elderly people with high experience in agriculture. Similar results had been found in the studies carried out in Tamil Nadu (Rehman and Selvaraj (2012)). In Fig-(B) represented that out of all respondent 12.1 percent of respondents had high experience in allied activities, whereas majority of (84.6%) of respondents had medium experience followed by only 3.3 percent respondents had less experience in allied activities. Out of all respondent utmost were in medium age people so they had also medium experience in allied activities. Like that a lesser number of respondents were high aged people so there were very less people who had high experience in allied activities.

Figure no:3 (Respondents' Age, Education, Occupation and Income)

From figure-3(A) it is clear that out of 90 respondents, majority (51%) were medium age (36-50 years) group of farmers, followed by 27 percent of young age (up to 35 years) group and only 22 percent were in old age group (above 50 years). Figure-3(B) showed that, among the selected respondent maximum number (59%) of farmers were illiterate and 27 percent of farmer's education level was up to matriculation and 5 percent of respondents had been studied up to intermediate. Apart from that only 2 percent of respondents had studied up to graduation, whereas 7 percent people studied more than graduation. Figure-3(C) represented that out of 90 respondents, a majority of (79%) of respondents had chosen farming as primary occupation, followed by 8 percent of respondents were businessman, 7 percent as farm labor, and only 3 percent respondents were working in any public or private jobs. Figure-3(D) indicates that maximum farmers are belongs to tribal community so their income source was recorded as very low. Majority of (56 %) of respondent's income was in between the range of 1 to 1.5lakh, followed by 22 percent respondent's income was less than 50 thousand, 15 percent in between 1.5lakh to 2lakh and 4 percent in between 2 to 5 lakhs. Apart from that only 3 percent of respondents income was more than 5 lakhs.

Figure no:4 (Respondents' active participation in Mandi, Organization and Transport Facilities) n=90.

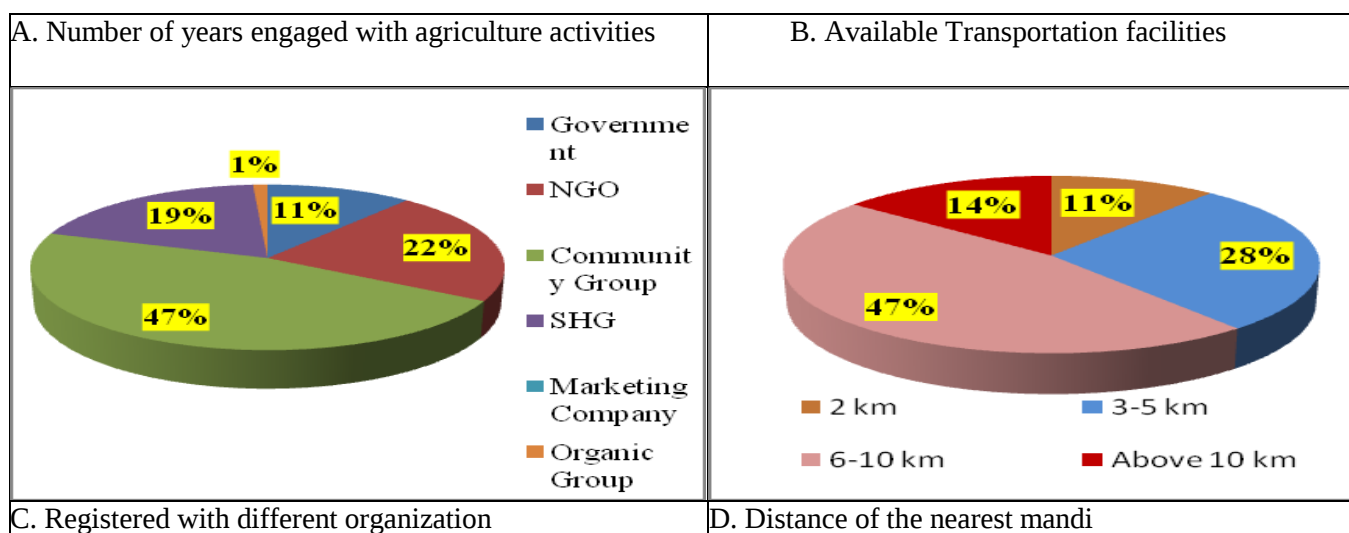


Figure-4(A) represents that out of 90 farmers majority of (55 %) of respondents had experience of more than 10 years, followed by 33 percentage of participants had between 5 and 10 years of expertise and 12 percentage of participants had knowledge of less than 5 years. Figure-4(B) showed that majority of the farmers (41%) using two wheelers for transport of agricultural produce, followed by 22 percent farmers using bullock- cart for transport of agricultural produce, 17 percent using van and truck, 11 percent using tractor with trolleys, whereas 9 percent of respondents were using other methods for transport. Exact results have been in the report prepared by the Govt. (Singh *et.al.*, 2016) Figure-4(C) represented that majority (47%) of respondents were registered with community group, followed by 22 percent of respondents were registered with NGO, 19 percent with SHG, 11 percent with government organizations. Besides only 1 percent were registered with community group organizations. Figure-4(D) indicates that among a total of 90 respondents 11 percent farmers situated within 2km and 28 percent 3-5 km from mandi and they can easily attend regulated agricultural market or mandi to sell agricultural produce. And slightly less than half (47%) of farmers were residing 6-10kms and 14 percent more than 10km distance from mandi so sometimes face problems to sell agricultural produce to mandi.

Figure no:5 (Respondents' Demographic profile) n=90.

Figure-5 (E) showed that the experience of respondents towards regulated market. Majority of 85.5 percent had average experience with regulated market, followed by 8.8 percent of respondents had high experience with regulated market and few 5.6 percent of respondents had less experience with RMC. Figure-5 (F) represented that 78 percent farmers are cultivating traditionally, and 22 percent farmers are following scientifically methods. Figure-5 (G) represented that majority of 58 percent of farmers were having 1 acre of land followed by 22 percent of respondents were having 2 to 3 acres of land. Apart from that 10 percent of respondents had no land and only 4 percent of respondents had 4 to 5 acres of land and few 6 percent of people had more than 5 acres of lands. Figure-5 (H) showed that during the time of survey out of all respondent 67 percent of respondents had irrigated land where as only 33 percent respondents had unirrigated land. Figure-5 (I) represents about type of land, majority (52.2 %) of respondents had high land and 35.6 percent of respondents had low land followed by 12.2 percent of respondents had medium land. Figure-5 (J) represented that a total of 90 respondents were among them, 43 percent of farmers spend their own money on farming and 57 percent farmers borrowed funds from public banks for farming. Figure-6 (K) showed that out of all respondent 37 percent of respondents can received funds from relative and friends, followed by 30 percent of respondents did not require any funds, 19 percent from public bank, 9 percent from private bank and only 5 percent of responding farmers seek funds from land lord. It can be seen from Figure-5 (L) that out of all respondent, majority (48 %) of were gather knowledge about cultural practices through word of mouth, followed by 26 percent through radio and TV, 14 percent through changing agent, 11 percent of through newspaper, only 1 percent of respondents through other media channels.

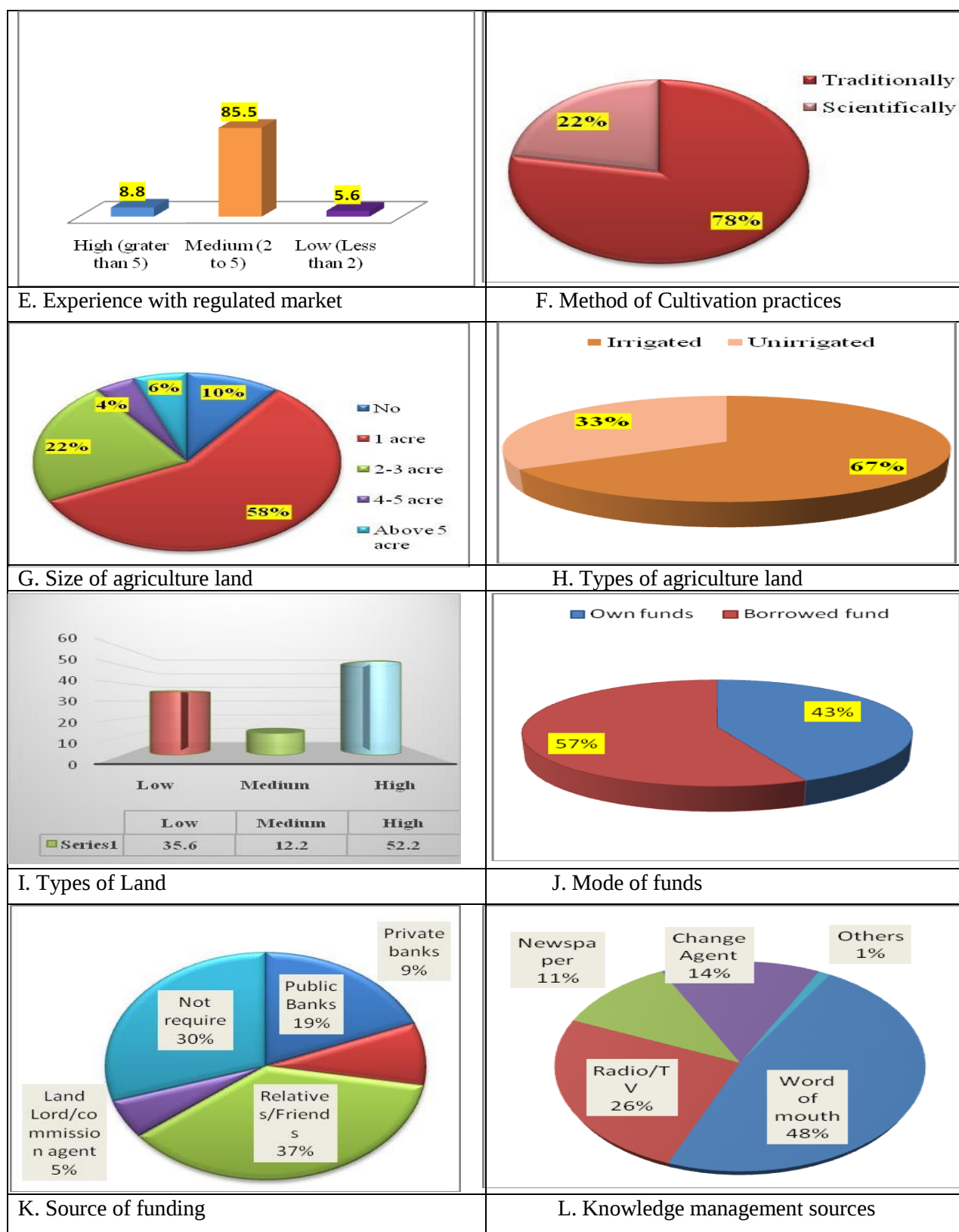
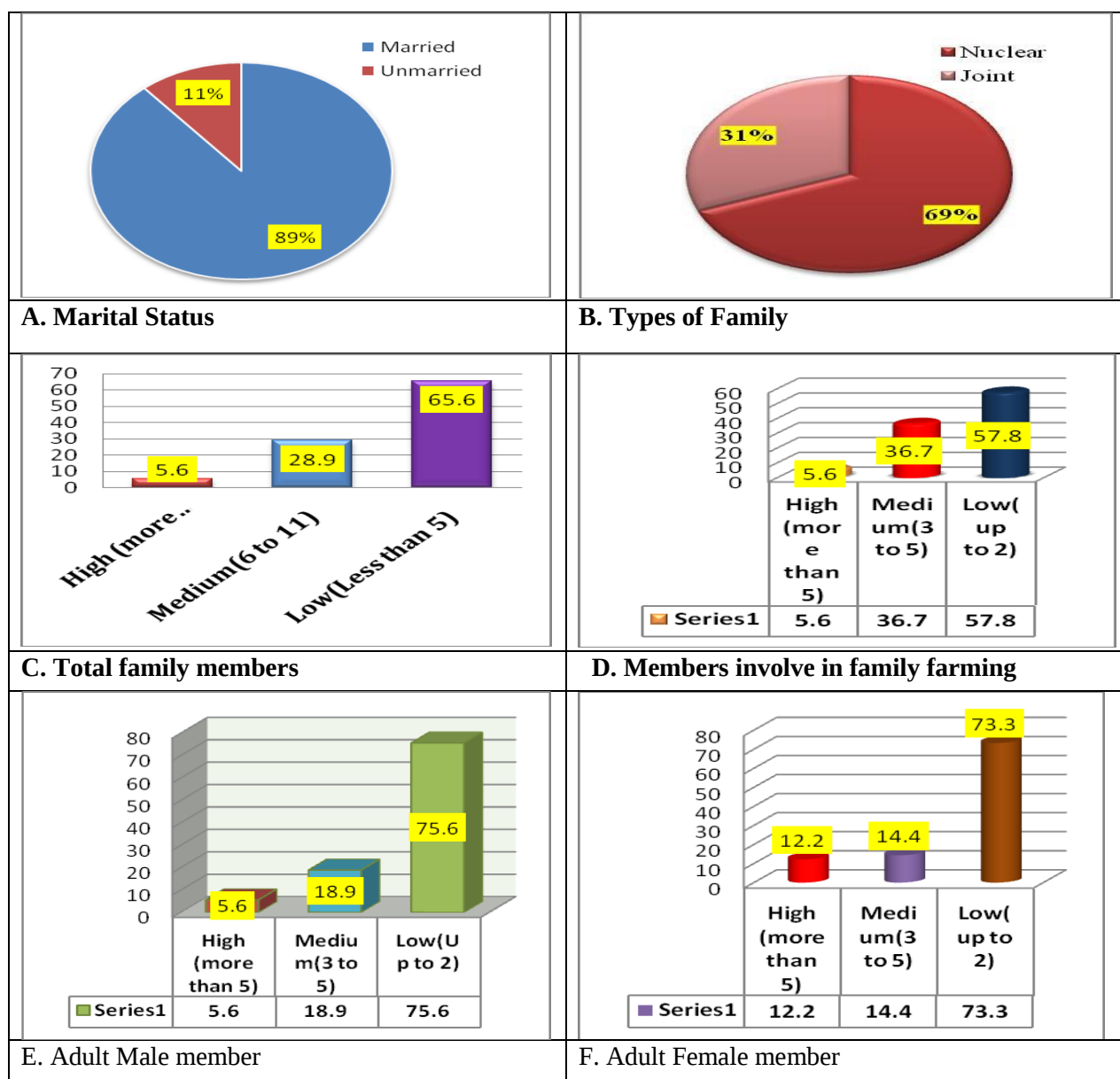
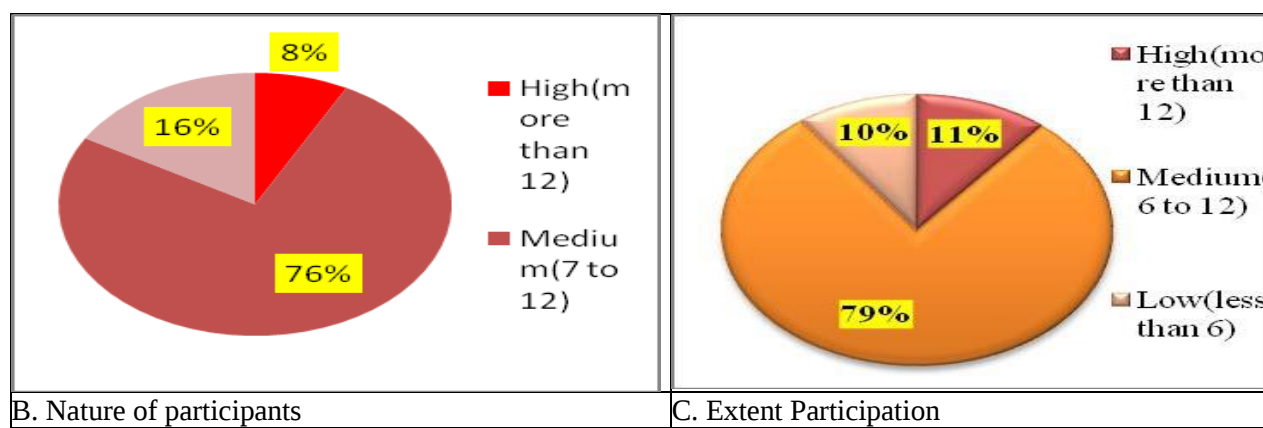
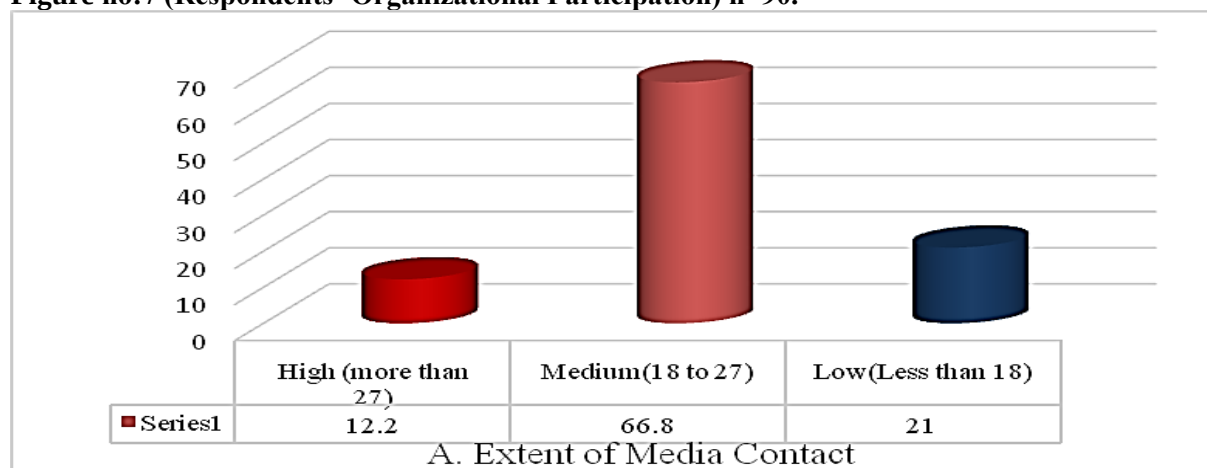


Figure no:6 (Respondents' detail family information) n=90



It is displayed in the image. -6(A) that out of 90 respondents, majority (89%) of respondents were married and rest i.e., 11 percent were unmarried. From figure-6(B), majority (69 %) of the farmers in the society live in nuclear families and few of farmers around (31%) live in joint families in the society. Figure-6(C) represented that out of all respondents, majority (65.6 %) had less than 5 no of family members, followed by 28.9 percent had 6 to 11 no of family members and rest of 5.6 percent of respondents had more than 11 no of family members. Figure-6(D) showed the number of family members involved in family farming, majority (57.8 %) of respondents had got help of 1 to 2 family members, followed by 36.7 percent of respondents had got the help of 3 to 5 family members and rest of 5.6 percent of respondents had got their help from more than 5 family members. Figure-6(E) represented the total no of adult male present in the respondent's family, majority (75.6 %) of respondents had up to 2 adult males per family, whereas 18.9 percent of respondents had 3 to 5 adult males in their family followed by only 5.6 percent of respondents had more than 5 adult males in their family. Figure-6(F) represented the total number of adult female present in the respondent's family, majority (73.3 %) of respondents had up to 2 adult females per family where as 14.4 percent of respondents had 3 to 5 adult females. And 12.2 percent of respondents had more than 5 adult females in their family.

Figure no:7 (Respondents' Organizational Participation) n=90.

It can be seen from figure-7(A) that majority of (66.8%) of respondents had average contact with extension persons where as 21 percent respondents had very less contact and very few 12.2 percent of respondents had good contact with extension persons. From figure-7(B) found that majority of (76%) farmers were moderately participating in different organization, followed by 16 percent were having less participation and very few 8 percent of respondents were highly participating in different organization. Similar kind of results has been seen in Junagarh regulated market in Kalahandi district (Mishra and Mohapatra, 2017). From figure-7(C), majority (70%) numbers of farmers were occasionally participated in different organizations, where as 11 percent producers seemed extremely participated in various organizations, it indicates that they stay consistent attendance at meetings as well as frequent interaction with various organizations. Additionally, few of farmers i.e., 10 Since those surveyed belong to a socially and academically disadvantaged class, a percentage of them never attended gatherings or made acquaintances with other organizations. Some of them were really gain anything through having involved in the various organization and believe that everything is good concerning their relatives, if they're optimistic were when any administrative processes are engaged, both time and resources will be lost.

Table no – 1 (The constraints Faced by the Farmers in Regulated Market) n= 90.

S.N.	Listed Constraints	Mean value	Rank
1	High transportation cost	2.26	II
2	Lack of market information	2.34	I
3	Non-remunerative price	2.26	II
4	Absence of a rating system	2.17	IV
5	Middlemen's oppression	1.99	VII
6	Lack of storage facility	1.88	IX
7	delayed in payment	1.96	VIII
8	lack of access to market credit	2.23	III
9	Insufficient necessities like potable water and a livestock barn	2.09	VI
10	poor coordination and cooperation between farmers and market committee	2.14	V

As per table no 1, most preferred constraints or problems faced by farmers to attain regulated market was Lack of market information (rank-I) followed by Non- remunerative price and High transportation cost (rank-II); lack of access to market credit (rank-III); lack of grading facility(rank-IV); poor coordination and cooperation between farmers and market committee(rank-V); Insufficient necessities like potable water and a livestock barn (rank-VI); exploitation by middlemen(rank-VII); delayed in payment(rank-VIII); and the least preferred problem was Lack of storage facility(rank-IX).

Conclusion

Factors like adult male, adult female, total extent of media contact, Cooperation type, engagement level, and acreage of farmland, irrigation types, types of land, modes of funds, source of funds, source of information, marital status, type of family, total family member, member involved in family farming, religion, caste, experience in agriculture, experience in allied activities, age, education, main occupation, annual income, experience in agricultural activity, mode of transport, register with RM, and distance of the nearest RM were the factors identified to be effecting their individuals opinions and perspectives on markets being regulated. Out of all these factors, nature of participation and distance of the nearest RMC were the most significant factors to form Physical opinion. Adult Female, Size of Agricultural Land and Total Family Member indicate most significant factors to form functional opinion. Ten different kinds of constraints were there that putting farmers in various difficulties. Out of all these, according to a survey, the main obstacle producers encountered generally a shortage of market information. Due to poor communication facility and maximum farmers were depending on neighbors. Secondly, the absence of an equitable price was identified by landowners as the most significant issue. Some of the respondents had not been pleased based on the expenses suppliers were getting. Besides these constraints like inability to obtain economic financing, absence of grading facility, poor coordination and cooperation between farmers and market committee, Insufficient requirements like an agriculturalist's barn and water for consumption; exploitation by middlemen; delayed in payment; and the least preferred problem was Lack of storage facility were following one after another which affected farmers satisfaction level.

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