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Income Generation and Socio-Economic Status of beneficiaries involved in Mahila Kisan Sashktikaran Pariyojana

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ABSTRACT

The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), initiated in 2011 under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), is designed to enhance the role of women in agriculture by strengthening their skills, increasing productivity, and improving income generation opportunities. The present research, titled "Impact Assessment of Beneficiaries Involved in MKSP in Muzaffarpur District of Bihar," focuses on assessing the socio-economic status and empowerment outcomes of women beneficiaries associated with MKSP in the Saraiya and Kurhani blocks of Muzaffarpur district. Findings revealed that the majority of MKSP beneficiaries belonged to marginalized communities (SC, ST, and OBC), with low literacy levels and small or no landholdings. Most were from nuclear families and engaged primarily in agriculture or wage labor. To assess the income generation and socio-economic status of beneficiaries.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Socio-economic Impact, Income generation]

INTRODUCTION

During last three decades Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojanaunder the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the Government of India playing a crucial role inWomen Empowerment and it was launched in 2011 launched with the objective of improving the statusSocio -Economic Statusof women in agriculture and creating opportunities for their empowerment. Implemented as a sub-component through carefully designed projects, MKSP focuses on strengthening women's participation in agriculture by systematically enhancing their productivity and engagement in farm-based livelihoods. The programme seeks to offer women sustainable agricultural income opportunities while simultaneously promoting food and nutritional security at both household and community levels. Rural community-based women's institutions were reinforced under MKSP.

METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the research design, sampling strategy, operational definitions, measurement of variables, data collection methods, statistical tools, and analytical techniques employed in the study. The following subsections present the details of the methodology adopted.

Location of the study

The present investigation was carried out in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, situated in the north-central part of the state. Muzaffarpur was purposively selected as the study area due to its substantial involvement in various rural development initiatives, especially government-led programmes like the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP). Its socio-economic diversity, sizeable proportion of small and marginal farmers, and the relevance of women-focused empowerment programmes made it a suitable and representative site for assessing the effects of developmental interventions on rural livelihoods.A total of 120 households (60 from Saraiya and 60 from Kurhani) were randomly selected as respondents for the study. All respondents were female beneficiaries of MKSP.

Table 1
Variables and their measurements withstatistical tools used for data analysis

Sl. No.	Objective	Variable	Measurements tools	Analysis pattern
1.	To assess the income generation and socio-economic status of beneficiaries. .	1. Age	Chronological age	Frequency, Percentage
		2. Caste	SC/ST/OBC/UR	
		3. Occupation	Schedule develops under the study	
		4. Family income	Total income from MKSP and other occupations	
		5. Family type	Joint/Nuclear	
		6. Education	SES scale Udai Pareek and G. Trivedi (1964) with minor modification	
		7.Land holding size	Followed ministry of agriculture & farmer's welfare (2015)	

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table -2 Socio-economic status & personal profile of the beneficiaries

This section outlines the results concerning the beneficiaries' personal profile, covering aspects such as age, caste, occupation, annual family income, family type, educational qualifications, and size of landholdings.

Classification of respondents based on age

Sl. No.	Categories	Frequency *(f)*	Percentage (%)
1.	Young age (18-35 year)	33	27.50
2.	Middle age (36 -50 year)	60	50
3.	Old age (above 50 years)	27	22.50
	Total	**120**	**100**

The above table reveals that 27.5% of the respondents fell within the young age group (18–35 years), 50% belonged to the middle age group (36–50 years), and 22.5% were in the older age category (above 50 years) in the study area. The same distribution is also illustrated through a graphical representation below.

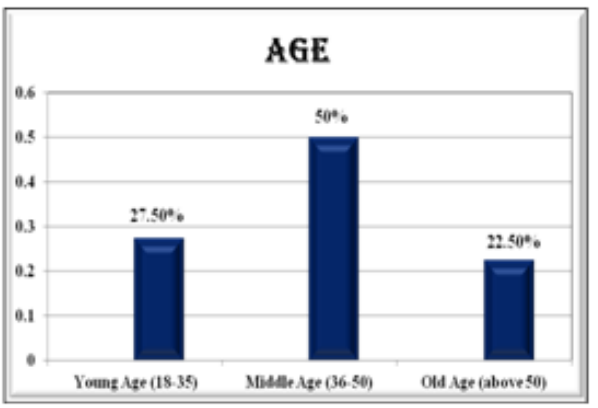


Fig 1.Distribution of age

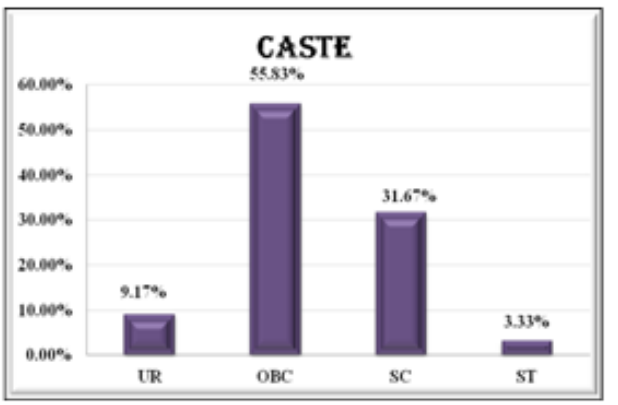


Fig 1.Distribution of caste

Table 3
Distribution of respondents based on caste

Categories	Female(n=120)	
	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)
UR	11	9.17
OBC	67	55.83
SC	38	31.67
ST	04	3.33
Total	**120**	**100**

As shown in above table 31.67% of the respondents belonged to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category, while the majority, 55.83%, were from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. In addition, 9.17% of respondents were from the General (UR) category, and a small proportion, 3.33%, belonged to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.

Table 3
Distribution of respondents according to their occupation

Categories	Female(n=120)	
	Frequency (*f*)	Percentage (%)
Labour	25	20.83
Labour+ farming	92	76.67
Labour + Business	3	2.50
Total	**120**	**100**

Table indicates that the majority of respondents (76.67%) were involved in both labour and farming activities. This was followed by 20.83% who were engaged exclusively in labour work, while a small share of 2.5% combined labour with business activities.Below it is also shown by graphical representation.

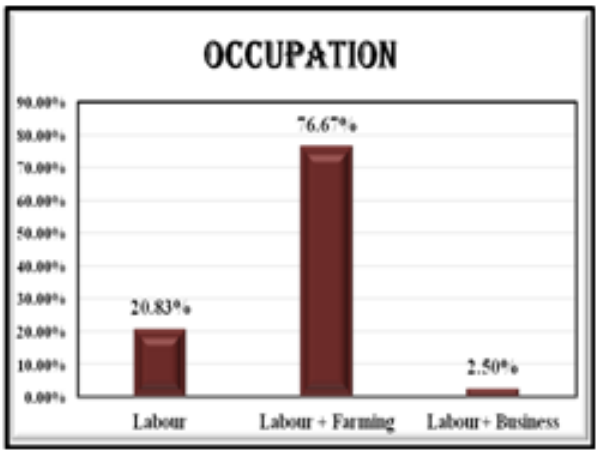


Fig.3 Distribution of occupation

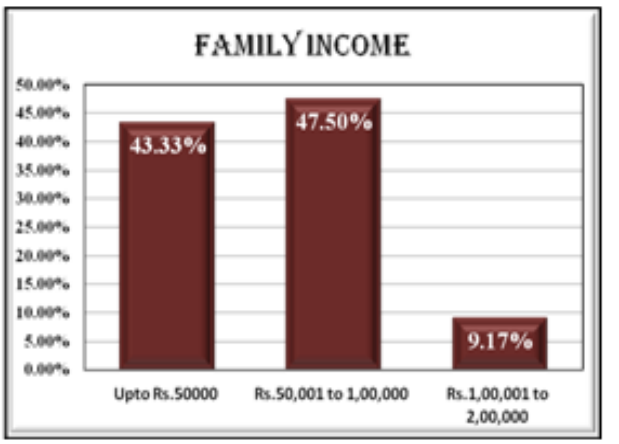


Fig. 4 Distribution of family income

Table 4
Distribution of respondents according to their family income

Categories	Female (n=120)	
	Frequency *(f)*	Percentage (%)
Upto ₹50,000	52	43.33
₹50,001 to 100000	57	47.50
₹100,001 to 2,00000	11	9.17
Total	**120**	**100**

Table shows that 43.3% of the respondent households reported an annual income of up to ₹50,000, while 47.5% earned between ₹50,001 and ₹1,00,000. Additionally, 9.17 per cent of the families had an annual income in the range of ₹1,00,001 to ₹2,00,000. The data is also illustrated through a graphical representation below.

Table 5
Distribution of respondents according to their family type

Categories	Female(n=120)	
	Frequency *(f)*	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	78	65
Joint	42	35
Total	**120**	**100**

Table reveals that in the study area, 35% of respondents belonged to joint families, whereas the majority, 65%, were from nuclear families. Below it is also shown by graphical representation.

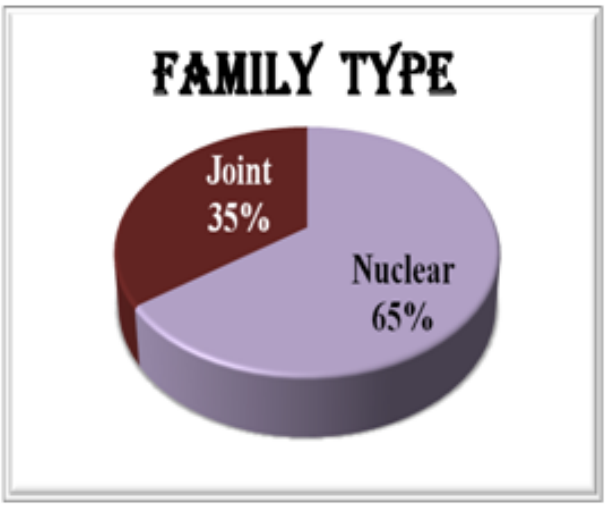


Fig. 5 Distribution of family type

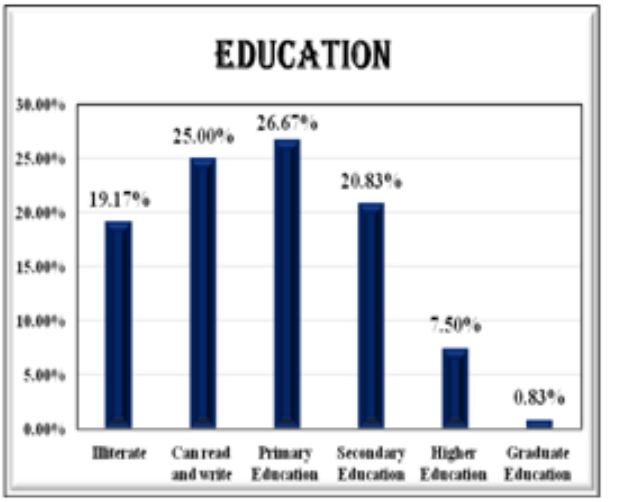


Fig. 6 Distribution of education

Table 6
Distribution of respondents according to their education

Categories	Female(n=120)	
	Frequency *(f)*	**Percentage (%)**
Illiterate	24	20
Can read and write	29	24.17
Primary education	32	26.67
Secondary education	25	20.83
Higher education	9	7.50
Graduate education	1	0.83
Total	**120**	**100**

Table shows that 20% of respondents were illiterate, while 24.17% possessed basic literacy skills. Furthermore, 26.67% had received primary education, 20.83% had completed secondary education, and 7.5% had pursued higher education. Very small proportions, 0.83%, weregraduates. Below it is also shown by graphical representation.

Table 7
Distribution of respondents according to their land holding size

Categories	Female(n=120)	
	Frequency *(f)*	Percentage (%)
Marginal (up to 1.00 acre)	78	65
Small (1.01 acre to 2 acre)	38	31.67
Medium (2.01 acre to 4 acre)	4	3.33
Total	**120**	**100**

Table reveals that among the 120 respondents, 65% (78) of women owned marginal landholdings of up to 1 acre. A further 31.67% (38) had small landholdings ranging from 1.01 to 2 acres, while only 3.33% (4) possessed medium landholdings between 2.01 and 4 acres.

Table 8
Correlation between socio-economic status and income generation of beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Variable	Pearson Correlation	Significant (p-value)
1.	Age	-0.043	0.643
2.	Caste	-0.301**	<.001
3.	Occupation	0.360**	<.001
4.	Family annual income	0.815**	<.001
5.	Family type	0.108	0.240
6.	Educational qualification	0.093	0.310
7.	Size of landholding	0.421**	<.001

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)*
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2- tailed)*

The table presents the Pearson correlation coefficients between various socio-economic variables and a specific dependent variable - most likely income generation of MKSP beneficiaries.Beginning with age, the correlation coefficient is -0.043 with a p-value of 0.643, indicating a very weak and statistically insignificant negative association. This implies that age does not have a significant impact on income generation in this study. Caste shows a moderate negative correlation of -0.301, which is statistically significant at the 0.01 level ($p < 0.001$), suggesting that individuals from marginalized caste groups tend to have lower income generation outcomes, likely due to existing social and economic disadvantages. Occupation has a positive and significant correlation of 0.360 ($p < 0.001$), indicating that the type of work beneficiaries engage in is positively linked to their income levels. Those involved in more productive or relevant occupations tend to achieve better economic results through the MKSP programme. Family annual income emerges as the strongest factor, with a very high positive correlation of 0.815, significant at the 0.01 level ($p < 0.001$). This demonstrates a strong relationship between higher family income and increased income generation, implying that families with greater financial resources are better able to capitalize on the benefits of the MKSP.

Family type has a low positive correlation of 0.108, with a p-value of 0.240, which is statistically insignificant. This implies that whether a beneficiary comes from a joint or nuclear family does not significantly affect their income-related outcomes. Educational qualification also shows a weak and non-significant positive correlation of 0.093 ($p = 0.310$). This suggests that formal education alone does not have a strong direct influence on income generation. Finally, size of landholding has a moderate positive correlation of 0.421, which is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). This means that beneficiaries who own more land tend to have better income outcomes, possibly due to greater agricultural production or access to land-based livelihood options.

Table 9
Regression analysis of independent variables with income generation of beneficiaries

Sl. No.	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t-value	P value
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1.	(Constant)	9.934	1.466		6.778	<.001
2.	Age	0.006	0.250	0.001	0.024	0.981
3.	Caste	-0.002	0.276	0.000	-0.007	0.994
4.	Occupation	0.310	0.394	0.048	0.785	0.434
5.	Family income	3.653	0.311	0.811	11.755	<.001
6.	Family type	0.099	0.350	0.016	0.283	0.778
7.	Educational qualification	-0.027	0.146	-0.012	-0.186	0.853
8.	Land size	-0.155	0.359	-0.030	-0.433	0.666

R2= 0.667Adjusted R2= 0.646F ratio= 31.996

The table presents the results of a regression analysis assessing the impact of various socio-economic factors on income generation among MKSP beneficiaries. The independent variables include age, caste, occupation, family income, family type, educational qualification, and landholding size.

The intercept value is 9.934, with a t-value of 6.778 and a p-value below 0.001, indicating that when all predictors are at zero, the baseline income generation score is approximately 9.93 units, a statistically significant figure.

CONCLUSION

Social and family-related challenges significantly impact women's participation and empowerment under the MKSP programme. A majority of beneficiaries (53.11%) reported needing permission from male family members for decisions related to farming and business, indicating patriarchal control over women's autonomy. Additionally, 42.51% noted reluctance among women to adopt new agricultural technologies, favoring traditional practices, which may hinder innovation and productivity. The lack of freedom to make farming and financial decisions was acknowledged by 39.87% of respondents, and 39.40% experienced discouragement from male family members when attempting to join the scheme. Furthermore, 38.12% of women indicated that they do not receive equal wages or respect, highlighting ongoing gender inequality. These findings underscore the importance of addressing deeply rooted socio-cultural barriers to enhance women's empowerment and ensure the effectiveness of initiatives like MKSP.

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