

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE KNOWLEDGE LEVELS OF ORGANIZED AND UNORGANIZED PIG FARM OWNERS IN RANCHI DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND*

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ABSTRACT: The present study was conducted in Ranchi district of Jharkhand to compare the knowledge levels of organized and unorganized pig farm owners about improved pig rearing practices. Data were collected from each of 25 organized and unorganized pig farm owners through structured interview schedule. The study revealed that majority of the respondents of both organized and unorganized pig farms were middle aged (64.00% & 60.00%), belonging to SC/ST category (80.00% & 84.00%), having large sized family (68.00% & 44.00%) and possessing large stock size (92.00% & 42.00%). The study also revealed that majority of the owners of organized pig farms were having high level of knowledge whereas majority of the owners of unorganized pig farms were having medium level of knowledge about different improved pig rearing practices. Age, size of family and land holding were non-significantly and education, occupation, stock size, extension contact and net annual income from pig rearing were significantly associated with knowledge level of respondents of both organized and unorganized pig farms.

Key Words : Knowledge level, Organized, Unorganized, Pig farm , Ranchi.

INTRODUCTION:

Pig is one of the most efficient food converting animals among domesticated stock. It is the only litter bearing animal among meat producing livestock having the shortest generation interval and high food conversion efficiency. It can utilize many types of farm wastes and human food wastes which was otherwise not utilized by other livestock. In turns, pig returns valuable animal protein and fat in the form

of pork which have high nutritional value in human diet (Verma 2003). It can be reared economically with minimum expenditure on housing, equipments and labour with quick handsome return, which serves as an important source of income for rural people.

In Jharkhand, pig rearing is a traditional occupation of tribals and some weaker sections of society. The farmers rear *desi* pigs which are of non-descript type and has no definite breed characteris-

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Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the pig owners (N=50)

SL No.	Variables	Organized pig farms (N=25)			Unorganized pig farms (N=25)		
		Frequency	Mean	SD	Frequency	Mean	SD
1	Age		34.16	± 5.60		36.28	±9.39
	Young (<30 years)	9 (36.00)			7 (28.00)		
	Middle (30-50 years)	16 (64.00)			15 (60.00)		
	Old (>50 years)	0 (0.00)			3 (12.00)		
2	Category		-	-		-	-
	General	0 (0.00)			0 (0.00)		
	OBC	5 (20.00)			4 (16.00)		
	SC/ST	20 (80.00)			21 (84.00)		
3	Education		-	-		-	-
	Illiterate	0 (0.00)			6 (24.00)		
	Can read & write only	2 (8.00)			1 (4.00)		
	Middle School	3 (12.00)			13 (52.00)		
	High School	10 (40.00)			4 (16.00)		
	Intermediate	6 (24.00)			1 (4.00)		
	Graduate & above	4 (16.00)			0 (0.00)		
4	Size of family		9.88	± 3.28		7.00	±2.43
	Small (<5 members)	0 (0.00)			5 (20.00)		
	Medium (5-7 members)	8 (32.00)			9 (36.00)		
	Large (>7members)	17 (68.00)			11 (44.00)		
5	Occupation		-	-		-	-
	Primary	17 (68.00)			4 (16.00)		
	Secondary	8 (32.00)			21 (84.00)		
6	Land holding		11.24	±4.89		3.44	±3.60
	Landless (No land)	0 (0.00)			2 (8.00)		
	Marginal (0.1-2.5 acres)	0 (0.00)			12 (48.00)		
	Small (2.6-5.0 acres)	3 (12.00)			5 (20.00)		
	Medium (5.1-10.0 acres)	6 (24.00)			4 (16.00)		
	Large (>10.0 acres)	16 (64.00)			2 (8.00)		
7	Stock size		38.48	± 22.47		15.60	±8.46
	Small (<10 nos.)	0 (0.00)			8 (32.00)		
	Medium (11-15 nos.)	2 (8.00)			6 (24.00)		
	Large (>15 nos.)	23 (92.00)			11 (44.00)		
8	Extension contact		-	-		-	-
	High (monthly)	13 (52.00)			0 (0.00)		
	Medium (6 monthly)	10 (40.00)			4 (16.00)		
	Low (Yearly)	2 (8.00)			21 (84.00)		
9	Net annual income from pig rearing(Rup ees)	-	61120	±34101.95	-	15200	±7610.30

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

tics. Also, they follow the unscientific breeding and unhygienic managerial practices. As a result, they get much less return. This is all due to the lack of awareness and knowledge about recommended practices among the pig owners (Mahali 2004).

There are 11,07,930 pigs in Jharkhand, out of which only 18,261 are cross breed/exotic breed. In Ranchi district, total number of pigs are 1,27,030 out of which 3,784 cross breed/exotic breed (Anonymous 2003).

The government is now mobilizing the rural population to adopt pig rearing on scientific and organized lines. Government has extended a great help to the weaker sections of the society by arranging subsidy and loans for pig rearing through various schemes. In view of these facts, it is highly justified to plan the swine industry in such a way that it can raise the socio-economic condition of the weaker sections of the society.

In recent years, a large number of organized pig farms are taking root in Jharkhand. But still there are large numbers of pig farms, which are maintained on scavenging system. There is hardly any work to study the performance of organized and unorganized pig farms. But such type of study becomes more ur-

gent particularly for the tribal and weaker section population. Keeping these in view, the present study was conducted to compare the knowledge levels of pig owners of organized and unorganized farms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS :

The present study was undertaken in Ranchi district of Jharkhand. 25 organized and same numbers of unorganized pig farm owners from different regions of the district were randomly selected. Thus, a total of 50 respondents were selected for the study and interviewed through face to face contact interview method. The data were collected by personal interview techniques through a pre-designed interview schedule developed for the purpose in consultation with other experts. Following the tabulation and necessary sorting, statistical analysis viz. frequency, percentile, t-test and Pearson's correlation (Snedecor and Cochran, 1994) were used to draw the inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

Socio-economic characteristics of the pig owners:

The results regarding socio-economic characteristics of the pig owners are presented in Table 1. It revealed that majority of the owners of both organ-

Table 2: Knowledge level of the pig owners about improved pig rearing practices (N=50)

SL No.	Variables	Organized pig farms (N=25)			Unorganized pig farms (N=25)		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	Breeding practices	0 (0.00)	10 (40.00)	15 (60.00)	11 (44.00)	12 (48.00)	2 (8.00)
2	Feeding practices	0 (0.00)	7 (28.00)	18 (72.00)	4 (16.00)	18 (72.00)	3 (12.00)
3	Diseases (Swine pox, swine fever & FMD)	0 (0.00)	5 (20.00)	20 (80.00)	8 (32.00)	11 (44.00)	6 (24.00)
4	Deworming & control of ectoparasites	2 (8.00)	15 (60.00)	8 (32.00)	10 (40.00)	11 (44.00)	4 (16.00)

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

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Table 3: Relationship between knowledge levels of the farmers with socio-economic characters (N=50)

Sl. No.	Variables	r - value	
		Organized pig farms (N=25)	Unorganized pig farms (N=25)
1.	Age	-0.100 ^{NS}	0.010 ^{NS}
2.	Education	0.455*	0.366*
3.	Size of family	-0.085 ^{NS}	0.109 ^{NS}
4.	Occupation	0.360*	0.781**
5.	Land holding	0.106 ^{NS}	-0.238 ^{NS}
6.	Stock size	0.578**	0.724**
7.	Extension contact	0.521**	0.414*
8.	Net annual income from pig rearing	0.305*	0.447*

NS - Non-significant, *Significant at (P < 0.05), **Significant at (P < 0.01)

ized (64.00%) and unorganized (60.00%) pig farms were found belonging to middle age group followed by young age group (36.00% & 28.00% respectively). The mean age of the respondents was 34.16 ± 5.60 years and 36.28 ± 9.39 years in organized and unorganized pig farms respectively. Verma (2003) also found that majority of the pig farmers belonged to middle age group. As regards to category, majority of the respondents of both organized (80.00%) and unorganized (84.00%) pig farms belonged to SC/ST category, whereas remaining 20.00 per cent and 16.00 per cent belonged to OBC category respectively. It is clear from the findings that pig rearing is still an occupation of tribals and some weaker sections of society in Jharkhand. The study showed that in organized pig farms, majority of the farmers were educated upto high school level (40.00%) followed by intermediate (24.00%) and graduate & above level (16.00%), whereas in unorganized pig farms, majority were educated upto middle school level (52.00%) followed by illiterate (24.00%) and high school level (16.00%). The present findings are in accordance with that of Pandey (1989) and Verma (2003). Regarding family size, majority of the owners of both organized (68.00%)

and unorganized (44.00%) pig farms were having large sized family followed by medium sized family (32.00% & 36.00% respectively). The average family size of the respondents was found 9.88 ± 3.28 and 7.00 ± 2.43 in organized and unorganized pig farms respectively.

The study also revealed that majority of the farmers (68.00%) of organized pig farms were doing pig farming as primary occupation while majority (84.00%) of unorganized pig farms were doing this as secondary occupation. Majority of the farmers (64.00%) of organized pig farms had large land holdings followed by medium (24.00%) and small (24.00%) land holdings, whereas in unorganized pig farms, majority of the farmers (48.00%) had marginal land holdings followed by small (20.00%) and medium (16.00%) land holdings. The average land holding of the respondents was found 11.24 ± 4.89 acres and 3.44 ± 3.60 acres in organized and unorganized pig farms respectively. As regards to stock size, majority of the owners of both organized (92.00%) and unorganized (44.00%) pig farms were having large stock size with a mean of 38.48 ± 22.47 and 15.60 ± 8.46 respectively. Majority of the farmers (52.00%) of organized pig farms had high level

of extension contact while majority of the farmers (84.00%) of unorganized pig farms had low level of extension contact. The average annual income of the respondents of organized and unorganized pig farms from pig rearing was Rs. 61120 ± 34101.95 and Rs. 15200 ± 7610.30 respectively.

Knowledge level of the pig owners:

Distribution of the farmers according to their knowledge level about improved pig rearing practices (Table 2) revealed that majority of the owners of organized pig farms were having high level of knowledge about breeding (60.00%) & feeding (72.00%) practices and different diseases of pigs like swine pox, swine fever and FMD (80.00%), while majority were having medium level of knowledge about deworming and control of ectoparasites (60.00%). In unorganized pig farms, majority of the farmers were having medium level of knowledge about different improved pig rearing practices like breeding(48.00%), feeding(72.00%), diseases(44.00%) and deworming & control of ectoparasites (44.00%). Verma (2003) and Mahali (2004) also reported a medium level of knowledge about improved pig rearing practices among pig owners of Ranchi district.

A positive and significant difference was found between the mean knowledge scores of organized and unorganized pig farms in respect of all the selected improved pig rearing practices like breeding, feeding, diseases and deworming & control of ectoparasites.

Relationship between knowledge levels of the farmers with socio-economic characters:

Relational analysis of the selected variables with total knowledge score of the farmers (Table 3) indicated that positive and significant correlation exists between education, occupation, stock size, extension contact and net annual income from pig rearing and overall knowledge level of respondents about im-

proved pig rearing practices in both organized and unorganized pig farms. A negative and insignificant relationship was observed between age and size of family of organized pig farms and land holding of unorganized pig farms with the knowledge level of the farmers. Also, a positive and insignificant relationship was observed between land holding of organized pig farms and age and size of family of unorganized pig farms with the knowledge level of the farmers.

CONCLUSION :

The study highlighted that there was a significant difference in the knowledge levels of organized and unorganized pig farm owners about improved pig rearing practices. It was also found that a large number of the farmers of unorganized pig farms were having medium to low level of knowledge about improved pig rearing practices. Therefore, proper programmes should be carried out to impart knowledge about improved pig rearing practices to the farmers of unorganized pig farms.

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