P-ISSN: 2618-0723 E-ISSN: 2618-0731



NAAS Rating: 5.04 www.extensionjournal.com

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 7; Issue 5; May 2024; Page No. 06-11

Received: 03-02-2024 Indexed Journal
Accepted: 09-03-2024 Peer Reviewed Journal

Socio-economic profile of the Kisan credit card scheme beneficiary and nonbeneficiary farmers of Marathwada Region

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2024.v7.i5a.592

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Abstract

The present study "Socio-economic profile of the Kisan credit card scheme beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers of Marathwada region" was conducted in Latur and Osmanabad district of the Marathwada region. Ex-post-facto research design was adopted in this study. The study had shown the results as under, 59.17 percent of the KCC scheme beneficiaries and 60.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries were from middle age group, 29.17 percent of the beneficiaries educated up to middle level and graduation and 25.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries educated up to middle level, 71.66 percent of the beneficiaries and 74.17 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to medium size of family, 70.00 percent of the beneficiaries and 66.67 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to nuclear family, 66.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to medium annual income and 47.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to low annual income, 91.67 percent of the beneficiaries and 92.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had cultivation as their occupation, 41.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to small land holding category and 45.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holding category, 49.17 percent of the beneficiaries had medium social participation and 45.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low social participation, 64.17 percent of the beneficiaries and 49.17 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium extension contact, 60.00 percent of the beneficiaries and 47.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium risk orientation, 47.50 percent of the beneficiaries and 41.67 percent of the beneficiaries had medium level of overall knowledge.

Keywords: Kisan credit card scheme, beneficiary farmers, non-beneficiary farmers, socio-economic profile, ex-post-facto research design

Introduction

Agriculture is a key sector of Indian economy as its contribution to gross domestic product and employment. The majority of our country's population depends upon agriculture. Indian agriculture and allied sector broadly cover four activities, viz., crop, livestock, forestry and fisheries. Hence, there is need of financial support to rural people. Credit is most crucial in agriculture to increase agriculture productivity. Agricultural credit plays a vital role in farm sector development and facilitates adoption of new technologies. It helps in maintaining agricultural production by allowing producers to meet their comprehensive credit requirement during the entire cycle of crop production and at the same time provides funds for investment purposes. However, any amount of credit even at the most reasonable rates cannot guarantee higher productivity or adequate income among the farmers, as the success depends upon many other supporting factors including the availability of agricultural inputs, services and remunerative markets for the products.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was first proposed by the Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha in the financial year 1998-99 Budget, with the objective of providing short term credit to farmers to meet their immediate credit needs during the crop season. Consequent to this a Model KCC scheme was prepared by the NABARD on the recommendations of R. V. Gupta committee to provide term loans for agricultural needs. According to need of credit for agriculture and allied sector development, KCC scheme was launched in August 1998 by GOI, RBI and NABARD to simplify credit delivery mechanism with the aim of providing short term formal credit to farmers on the basis of their land holding, cropping pattern and scale of finance, so that the farmers may use them for purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. and also drawn cash for their production needs. The government of India gives KCC loans up to Rs. 1.6 lakh without guarantee to small farmers having KCC. Now a days KCC not limited to farming only. The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement viz. allied activities and nonfarm activities in 2004 and by 2019 for fisheries and animal husbandry giving financial support up to Rs. 2 lakh to farmers.

In the present situation low production and productivity of agriculture is more serious problem due to poor socioeconomic endowed of the farmer? Without adequate credit

farmers are unable to buy inputs for high production. Production will be increased if timely provision of credit. In this situation KCC plays an important role. KCC linked with health and crop insurance. KCC become one of the innovative credit tools to enhance the flow of institutional agricultural credit in the state. In Maharashtra lack of availability finance due to this farmer's suicide situation arises. In this situation KCC loan facility help to farmers by providing loan amount in low interest rate but so many farmers are unaware about KCC scheme and those farmers who are using KCC face many problems. Hence present study has been carried out to know about the socioeconomic profile of the beneficiary farmers and nonbeneficiary farmers of KCC Scheme. The present study will be useful for farmers, administrators, policy makers, researchers and banking or financial institutions for making future strategies and also explore the weakness of the ongoing implementations of the KCC.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Latur and Osmanabad district of the Marathwada region which was selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of Kisan Credit Card Scheme beneficiary farmers. From these two districts six talukas i.e. three talukas from each district were selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of Kisan Credit Card Scheme beneficiary farmers. From these six talukas total 24 villages i.e. four villages from each taluka were selected purposively on the basis of list obtained from bank and co-operative society having KCC Scheme beneficiary farmers. From each selected village 5 KCC Scheme beneficiary farmers and 5 non-beneficiary farmers were selected purposively. Thus total 240 respondents were selected out of that 120 KCC Scheme beneficiary farmers and 120 non-beneficiary farmers. Ex-post-facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule from the respondents as per their convenience at their home or farm. The statistical methods and tests such as mean, standard deviation, frequency and percentage and 'Z' test were used for the analysis of data.

'Z' test was used for knowing significance of difference between mean of beneficiary and non-beneficiary of KCC scheme

'Z' Test =
$$\frac{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1}{n_1} + \frac{S_2}{n_2}}}$$

Where,

 $\overline{X_1}$ = Mean of first series

 $\overline{X_2}$ = Mean of second series

 S_1 = Variance of first series

 S_2 = Variance of second series

 $n_1 = \text{Total number of first sample}$

 n_2 = Total number of second sample

Results and Discussion

The study of socio-economic profile of KCC Scheme beneficiary farmers and non-beneficiary farmers were made with reference to age, education, size of family, type of family, annual income, occupation, land holding, social participation, extension contact, sources of information, economic motivation, risk orientation and overall knowledge about KCC Scheme. The result of data collected from the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with respect to above listed variables have been tabulated, analyzed, discussed and presented below,

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-economic profile

Particulars	Category	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries		(7) 1
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	'Z' Value
Age	Young	25	20.83	25	20.83	1.69 ^{NS}
	Middle	71	59.17	72	60.00	
	Old	24	20.00	23	19.17	
Education	Illiterate	00	00.00	17	14.17	2.47*
	Can read only	13	10.83	12	10.00	
	Can read and write	12	10.00	25	20.83	
	Primary	06	05.00	10	08.33	
	Middle	35	29.17	30	25.00	
	High school	19	15.83	15	12.50	
	Graduate	35	29.17	11	09.17	
Size of family	Small	17	14.17	16	13.33	-0.53 ^{NS}
	Medium	86	71.66	89	74.17	
	Big	17	14.17	15	12.50	
Type of family	Nuclear family	84	70.00	80	66.67	-0.55 ^{NS}
	Joint family	36	30.00	40	33.33	
Annual income	Low	19	15.83	57	47.50	7.61**
	Medium	80	66.67	48	40.00	
	High	21	17.50	15	12.50	
Occupation	Cultivation + Labour	00	00.00	04	03.34	2.11*
	Cultivation + Caste occupation	00	00.00	02	01.66	
	Cultivation + Business	02	01.66	02	01.66	
	Cultivation	110	91.67	111	92.50	
	Cultivation + Service	08	06.67	01	00.84	

Land holding	Marginal	30	25.00	55	45.83	4.02**
	Small	50	41.67	52	43.34	
	Semi-medium	32	26.67	09	07.50	
	Medium	05	04.16	03	02.50	
	Big	03	02.50	01	00.83	
Social participation	Low	25	20.83	55	45.83	4.13**
	Medium	59	49.17	43	35.83	
	High	36	30.00	22	18.34	
Extension contact	Low	20	16.66	41	34.17	6.70**
	Medium	77	64.17	59	49.17	
	High	23	19.17	20	16.66	
Sources of information	Low	17	14.17	44	36.67	5.76**
	Medium	72	60.00	57	47.50	
	High	31	25.83	19	15.83	
Economic motivation	Low	26	21.67	45	37.50	6.69**
	Medium	64	53.33	51	42.50	
	High	30	25.00	24	20.00	
Risk orientation	Low	19	15.83	46	38.33	4.72**
	Medium	66	55.00	54	45.00	
	High	35	29.17	20	16.67	
Overall knowledge about KCC Scheme	Low	17	14.17	49	40.83	12.88**
	Medium	57	47.50	50	41.67	
	High	46	38.33	21	17.50	

Age

It was revealed from Table 1 that, nearly three fifth (i.e. 59.17%) of the KCC scheme beneficiaries were from middle age group, followed by 20.83 percent of the KCC scheme beneficiaries were from young age group and 20.00 percent of the KCC scheme beneficiaries were from old age group. While 60.00 percent of the KCC scheme non-beneficiaries were from middle age group, followed by followed by 20.83 percent of the KCC scheme non-beneficiaries were from young age group and 19.17 percent of the KCC scheme non-beneficiaries were from old age group.

The findings from the above table shows that, majority of the respondents belongs to middle age group. The middle age respondents were more enthusiastic, have ability to work more than old age respondents and have more experience than young age respondents. They always ready to accept new schemes and innovative technologies to maximize production.

It was observed that, there was no significant difference between age of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries according to calculated 'Z' value (1.69). It is because of age not contributed in adoption of KCC Scheme as compared to non-beneficiaries. The findings are similar to Dhaka (2013) [4] and Bhosale (2019) [2].

Education

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 29.17 percent of the beneficiaries educated up to middle level and graduation, followed by 15.83 percent of the beneficiaries educated up to high school level, 10.83 percent of the beneficiaries can read only, 10.00 percent of the beneficiaries can read and write, 05.00 percent of the beneficiaries educated up to primary level and no any beneficiary illiterate. While one fourth (i.e. 25.00%) of the non-beneficiaries educated up to middle level, 20.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries can read and write, 14.17 percent of the non-beneficiaries were illiterate, 12.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries educated up to high school, 10.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries can read only, 09.17 percent of the non-beneficiaries educated

up to graduate level and 08.33 percent of the nonbeneficiaries educated up to primary level.

It was observed from above table that, maximum number of beneficiaries educated up to middle level i.e. 5th to 10th standard and graduate. While non-beneficiaries educated up to middle level i.e. 5th to 10th standard. Education is very important key to success and plays important role in motivating individuals to accept the new schemes. It helps to get information and knowledge about new schemes. Majority of the non-beneficiaries was low level of education due to their family income is low as compared to beneficiaries.

The calculated 'Z' value 2.47 significant at 0.05% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in education of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme. The findings are similar to Keshri (2014) [8] and Gottemukkula (2017) [6].

Size of Family

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 71.66 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to medium size of family, followed by 14.17 percent of the beneficiary's belonged to small and big size of family. While nearly three fourth (i.e. 74.17%) of the non-beneficiaries belonged to medium size of family, followed by 13.33 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to small size of family and 12.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to big size of family.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the respondents belonged to medium size of family. The probable reason is the fragmentation of joint families into nuclear families. Another reason might be that the family planning which results in lesser members in the family. Medium size of family creates more employment opportunities to the family labour.

The 'Z' value -0.53 is non-significant, indicate that there was no significant difference in size of family of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Rameshkumar S. and Alexpandi M. $(2017)^{[12]}$.

Type of family

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 70.00 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to nuclear family and 30.00 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to joint family. While 66.67 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to nuclear family and 33.33 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to joint family.

It was observed from above table that, the majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear family. The reason might be that the people of present generation have tendency to separate from joint family after marriage. The people are preferring nuclear families over joint families.

The 'Z' value -0.55 is non-significant, indicate that there was no significant difference in type of family of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Roshni Ritu Murmu *et al.* (2019) [13]

Annual income

It was revealed from Table 1 that, two third (i.e. 66.67%) of the beneficiaries belonged to medium annual income followed by 17.50 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to high annual income and 15.83 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to low annual income. While 47.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to low annual income followed by 40.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to medium annual income and 12.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to high annual income.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the beneficiaries were from medium annual income group. While majority of the non-beneficiaries were from low annual income group. Such findings are due to the majority of the beneficiaries belonged to small and semi-medium land holding category and non-beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holding category. Due to financial support from KCC Scheme to the beneficiaries for cultivation needs helps to increase the crop production resulted in increase in annual income.

The 'Z' value 7.61 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in annual income of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

The findings are similar to Bhosale (2019) [2] and Roshni Ritu Murmu *et al.* (2019) [13].

Occupation

It was revealed from Table 1 that, majority (i.e. 91.67%) of the beneficiaries had cultivation as their occupation, 06.67 percent of the beneficiaries had cultivation + service as their occupation, 01.66 percent of the beneficiaries had cultivation + business as their occupation and no any beneficiaries had cultivation + labour or cultivation + caste occupation as their occupation. While majority (i.e. 92.50%) of the non-beneficiaries had cultivation as their occupation, 03.34 percent of the non-beneficiaries had cultivation + labour as their occupation, 01.66 percent of the non-beneficiaries had cultivation + caste occupation and cultivation + business as their occupation and 00.84 percent of the non-beneficiaries had cultivation + service as their occupation.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the respondents had cultivation as their main occupation. It might be due to ancestral traditional occupation and

financial support from KCC Scheme for the cultivation needs

The 'Z' value 2.11 significant at 0.05% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in occupation of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Pramod Parwate and M. L. Sharma (2018) $^{\left[10\right]}$.

Land holding

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 41.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to small land holding category, followed by 26.67 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to semi-medium land holding category, one fourth (i.e. 25.00%) of the beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holding category, 04.16 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to medium land holding category and 02.50 percent of the beneficiaries belonged to big land holding category. While 45.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to marginal land holding category, 43.34 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to small land holding category, 07.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to semi-medium land holding category, 02.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to medium land holding category and 00.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries belonged to big land holding category.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the beneficiaries had small and semi-medium land holding and non-beneficiaries had marginal land holding. The probable reason might be that size of land holding reduced day by day due to fragmentation of land as separation of families from joint to nuclear families.

The 'Z' value 4.02 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in land holding of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Verma (2016) $^{[16]}$, Gottemukkula (2017) $^{[6]}$ and Bhosale (2019) $^{[2]}$.

Social Participation

It was revealed from Table 1 that, nearly half (i.e. 49.17%) of the beneficiaries had medium social participation, 30.00 percent of the beneficiaries had high social participation and 20.83 percent of the beneficiaries had low social participation. While 45.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low social participation, 35.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium social participation and 18.34 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high social participation.

It was observed from above table that, most of the beneficiaries had medium social participation. This might be due to that, they had membership of one or two organizations like cooperative society, FPO's, oil mills, Grampanchayat, etc. for personal interest and benefits. While non-beneficiaries had low social participation might be due to lack of interest, local politics and hesitate to participate.

The 'Z' value 4.13 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in social participation of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Sharma (2010) [15], Gole (2013) [5], Verma (2016) [16] and Gottemukkula (2017) [6].

Extension Contact

It was revealed from Table 1 that, nearly two third (i.e. 64.17%) of the beneficiaries had medium extension contact, 19.17 percent of the beneficiaries had high extension contact and 16.66 percent of the beneficiaries had low extension contact. While nearly half (i.e. 49.17%) of the non-beneficiaries had medium extension contact, 34.17 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low extension contact and 16.66 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high extension contact.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the respondents were having medium extension contact. It is because of their interest and good contact with the extension officer, Gramsevak, bank officers, VEW, Agril. Officer, DRDA staff, etc. Beneficiaries had more sources of information which helps to increasing their extension contact.

The 'Z' value 6.70 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in extension contact of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Sharma (2010) [15], Gottemukkula (2017) [6] and Bhosale (2019) [2].

Sources of information

It was revealed from Table 1 that, two fifth (i.e. 60.00%) of the beneficiaries had medium sources of information, 25.83 percent of the beneficiaries had high sources of information and 14.17 percent of the beneficiaries had low sources of information. While 47.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium sources of information, 36.67 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low sources of information and 15.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high sources of information.

It was observed from above table that, most of the respondents had medium sources of information. It might be because of most of the beneficiaries got information about KCC Scheme from family members, friends, relatives, progressive farmers, agriculture officers, bank officers, extension officers, Grampanchayat members, TV, newspaper, mobile, internet, etc. also they have strong communication facilities and availability of mass media. While non-beneficiaries had poor communication facilities, lack of time and understanding.

The 'Z' value 5.76 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in sources of information of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Dawar (2011) $^{[3]}$ and Parwate *et al.* (2018) $^{[10]}$.

Economic motivation

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 53.33 percent of the beneficiaries had medium economic motivation, one fourth (i.e. 25.00%) of the beneficiaries had high economic motivation and 21.67 percent of the beneficiaries had low economic motivation. While 42.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium economic motivation, 37.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low economic motivation and 20.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high economic motivation.

It was observed from above table that, most of the respondents had medium economic motivation. The probable reason could be that, for better agriculture production requires availability of inputs and cultivation resource base at proper time. For this KCC Scheme provide financial support which leads to increase in crop production. This might be due to the sources of information and extension contact which provide information about KCC Scheme leads to better economic motivation.

The 'Z' value 6.69 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in economic motivation of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Sekhon (2010) [14].

Risk orientation

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 55.00 percent of the beneficiaries had medium risk orientation, 29.17 percent of the beneficiaries had high risk orientation and 15.83 percent of the beneficiaries had low risk orientation. While 45.00 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium risk orientation, 38.33 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low risk orientation and 16.67 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high risk orientation.

It was observed from above table that, most of the respondents had medium risk orientation. This is due to the medium annual income and small and semi-medium land holding of the beneficiaries. Majority of the beneficiaries educated up to middle level and graduate which help them to understand the situation and take the risk whenever required. Also, majority of the beneficiaries had medium and high knowledge which helped them to improve skill and risk-taking ability among the beneficiaries.

The 'Z' value 4.72 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in risk orientation of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Parwate *et al.* (2018) [10].

Overall knowledge about KCC scheme

It was revealed from Table 1 that, 47.50 percent of the beneficiaries had medium level of overall knowledge, 38.33 percent of the beneficiaries had high level of overall knowledge and 14.17 percent of the beneficiaries had low level of overall knowledge. While 41.67 percent of the non-beneficiaries had medium level of overall knowledge, 40.83 percent of the non-beneficiaries had low level of overall knowledge and 17.50 percent of the non-beneficiaries had high level of overall knowledge.

It was observed from above table that, majority of the beneficiaries had medium and high level of knowledge while non-beneficiaries had medium and low level of knowledge. The reason behind this is the beneficiaries were well known about KCC Scheme because they got information from various sources of information and extension contacts.

The 'Z' value 12.88 significant at 0.01% level of probability indicating that there was significant difference in knowledge of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of KCC Scheme.

The findings are similar to Rajput (2011), Gole (2013) $^{[5]}$ and Roshni Ritu Murmu *et al.* (2019) $^{[13]}$.

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Conclusion

It was concluded that there is significant difference between socio-economic profile of the KCC Scheme beneficiary farmers and non-beneficiary farmers. Therefore KCC scheme is beneficial for the farmers to enhance their livelihood.

Implication

It is implied that, banking personnel and policy makers try to promote the use and benefits of KCC Scheme for better farming so as to ensure maximize crop production and returns.

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