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A Amet Keikung
Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Livestock Production and Management, School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland, India

Samar Thakuria
Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland, India

Penchen T Bhutia
Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland, India

Corresponding Author:
A Amet Keikung
Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Livestock Production and Management, School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland, India

Socio-economic status of women poultry farmers in Dimapur district of Nagaland

A Amet Keikung, Samar Thakuria and Penchen T Bhutia

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Abstract
India country is an agrarian country its mainly depends on agriculture, animal husbandry and allied sector for their livelihood. Poultry farming has developed into a substantial agribusiness activity in India, making a contribution to the alleviating of poverty, maintaining food security and providing employment opportunities in rural areas. In addition to providing a dependable supply of nutrition in the form of eggs and meat, it also creates income for millions of people. The study was undertaken to find out the Socio-economic status of women poultry farmers in Dimapur district of Nagaland. A field survey was carried out in Chumukedima block and Dhansiripar block of Dimapur district in the state of Nagaland. A total of 100 respondents were randomly selected from the above-mentioned blocks of Dimapur district (50 from Chumukedima block & 50 from Dhansiripar block). The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents (51.00%) belonged to middle aged category with graduate level of formal education (35.00%). All the respondents (100 %) belonged to the female category. Majority of the respondents (41.25%) belonged to medium family size (5-9 members). Most of the respondents (54.00%) had medium level of farming experience. Majority of the respondents (40.00%) were involved I business as their occupation followed by 33.00 per cent of respondents with poultry business as occupation. Majority of them (76.00%) had small level of flock size. Most of the respondents (56.00%) had single level shed in poultry farming. Majority of the respondents (68.00%) of respondents had Kuccha &Temporary of shed. Most of the respondents (81.00%) were used poultry for Meat purpose.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, poultry, women farmer, Dimapur, Nagaland

Introduction
According to agriculture diary, poultry refers to a wide range of birds of various species and it applies to them generally alive or dressed that is killed and prepared for sales. It involves chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pigeons, peacock, peafowl, ostriches, quails and even other game birds. Most of them may be classified based on the basis of utility, economic value or purpose and this may include meat type, Egg type, dual purpose, game, ornamental etc. Changing food habits, globalization, industrialization, rising income and urbanization have created a favorable atmosphere for development of poultry sector. (Rao, 2020) [7].

Poultry production is a sector of the animal industry in agriculture throughout the world. This has become important because of the increasing demand for poultry meat and eggs as healthy proteins. Farmyard manure from poultry is generated as the by-product of poultry production and is rich in plant nutrients such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and some trace elements for the growth of crops. Poultry manure improves the physical and biological properties of the soil. Poultry manure is an ideal organic fertilizer for land application, for crop production and increasing crop yield. (Hamidu 2022) [3]. Poultry farming and consumption of poultry is very common and prevalent in India. Currently India stands 3rd in Egg production while stands 5th& 6th in Poultry production and Poultry Meat Production in the world. Tamil Nadu being the State with the Largest Poultry population and Andhra Pradesh as leading egg production state in the country along with Highest poultry meat production held by Maharashtra.

India's North East is a region known for its mystical splendours and extensive cultural history. It is renowned for the various breeds of chicken and ducks that farmer ‘s raise using conventional management techniques. Around 43.53 million chickens are present in the NE

egion as a whole. The North-Eastern Hills Region of India in general and Nagaland in particular are characterized by inaccessibility, marginality, fragility, cultural heterogeneity, rich biodiversity, low livestock and crop productivity. Nagaland, The State consists of 16 (Sixteen) Administrative Districts, inhabited by 17 major tribes along with other sub-tribes. Each tribe is distinct in character from the other in terms of customs, language and dress. The state of Nagaland has an area of 16,579 km2 with a population of 1,980,602 as per the 2011 census making it one of the smallest states in India.

For the people of Nagaland, poultry has numerous uses and is a valuable form of social, economic and cultural standpoint. Eggs and meat are the two main goods for which poultry are raised. In the state, broiler chicken farming employing closed housing systems has persisted for the past five years as a successful small business enterprise. While largely backed by private businesses that set up hatcheries to provide Day Old Chicks, vaccinations for pallet feed, and fundamental expertise of broiler farming operations. Although at a considerably slower rate and without a cluster-based strategy, business had begun to take hold. In order to grow their business and ultimately increase productivity, current private players had recommended a deep litter production system with a vendor-based input supply channel. However, there should be coordination between government programmes because a significant number of poultry farmers in the state would profit and traditional home chicken farming had intrinsic advantages over broiler farming.

Methodology

Nagaland lies between 93°20'E and 95°15'E longitude and between 25°6'N and 27°4'N latitude. It is largely a mountainous state. The Naga Hills rise from the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam to about 610 metres (2,000 ft.) and rise further to the south east, as high as 1,800 metres (6,000 ft). It is one of the smaller states of India. Nagaland is bounded by the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh to the northeast, Manipur to the south, and Assam to the west and northwest and the country of Myanmar (Burma) to the east. The state capital is Kohima, located in the southern part of Nagaland. It is also popularly known as the 'land of festivals and every tribal festival is celebrated with pomp and gaiety, adorned with rich and colourful traditional attires. Nagaland has 16 districts.

The present research work has been conducted to study the Socio-Economic status of women poultry farmers in Dimapur District, Nagaland from1st of April to 10th of June, 2023. Dimapur is the largest District. Two blocks were selected randomly for the present investigation in all the directions of Dimapur district. The study was conducted in Chumukedima Block and Dhansiripar Block of Dimapur District of Nagaland. There are 59 villages in Chumukedima block out of which 50 respondents were selected and interviewed. Likewise, Dhansiripar Block consists of 39 villages out of which 50 respondents were selected and interviewed. Thus, the entire sample consists of 100 respondents from these two blocks of this district.

The data were collected through face-to-face interview and by direct observation method. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages were used to present the data which were further analyzed while using MS excel software.

Fig 1: Map of India with Nagaland in Red

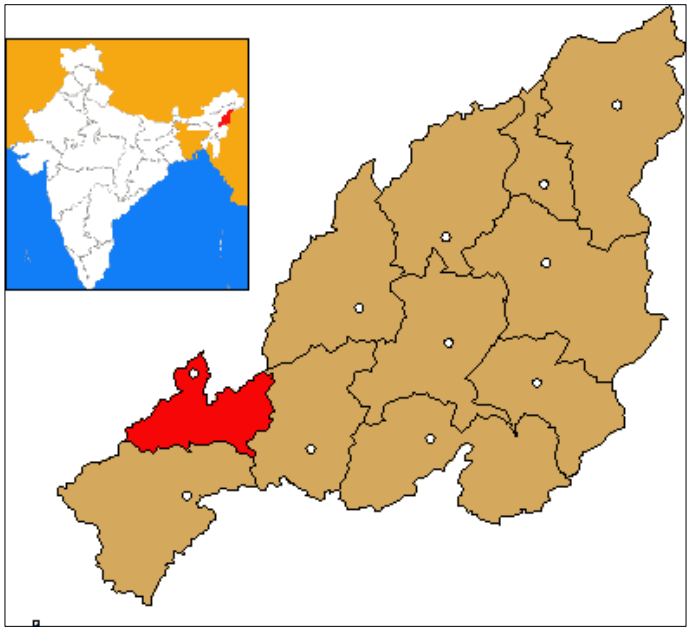


Fig 2: Map of Nagaland with Dimapur District in Red

Fig 3: Broiler chicken reared with housing attached ready to be sold

Fig 4: Shown in the pictures are the most commonly used housing system in majority of small women poultry farmers.

Results and Discussion

Distribution of the respondents according to their profile

The distribution of respondents according to their profile characteristics is presented in Table-

1. Age

The analysis of the age of the respondents revealed that the majority of the respondents (51.00 %) belonged to the middle age group (36 -50 years). In contrast, 40.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to young age (Up to 35 years) and the remaining 9.00 per cent belonged to the young age group (Above 51 years). Shinde *et al*. (2020) [9] stated that more than one third (41.67%) of Bt cotton growers (41.67%) were found in middle age group of 36-50 years. Thakuria *et al.* (2025) [15] reported that majority of the respondents (43.75%) were in the middle-aged group adoption of recommended litchi production technology. Sunikumar (2004) [12] indicated that, majority (53.30%) of the tomato growers belonged to middle age group. Toppo (2005) [17] revealed that majority (71.67 per cent) of farm women belonged to middle age group followed by 26,67 per cent of them with young age and 1.66 per cent with old age group.

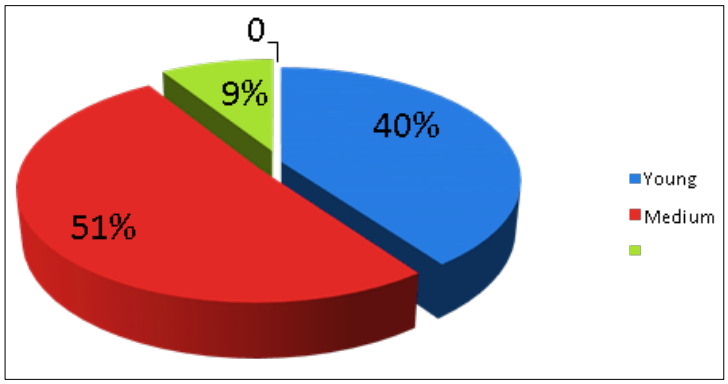


Fig 5: Distribution of respondents according to their age group.

2. Gender

The analysis of the gender of the respondents revealed that all of the respondents (100 %) belonged to the female category. Rakesh and Naik (2022) [6] revealed that the majority of respondents (86.66 percent) were males, whereas 13.34 percent female. Our country's social structure and familial relationships heavily influence women's roles in the household.

3. Family Size: Findings observed that majority of the respondents (60%) had 5 to 9 members, followed 36.00% having up to 4 members and only 4.00% having above 10 members in the family.

Hussain (2024) [4] reported that majority of the respondents (60.66%) had small family size (having up to 5 members). Sonowal (2012) [11] also found that the majority of respondents (52.00%) had small families.

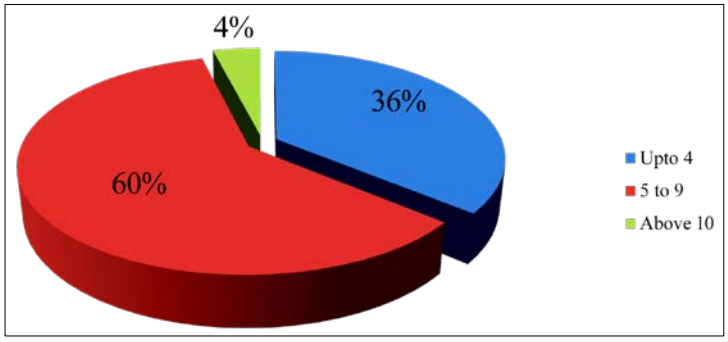


Fig 6: Distribution of respondents according to their family size.

4. Family Type

Most of the respondents (64.00%) had Joint family and only 36 percent had nuclear family. Patel (2005) [5] also revealed that most (64.58%) of the respondents belonged to the joint family, while 35.42 per cent of the banana growers belonged to the nuclear family.

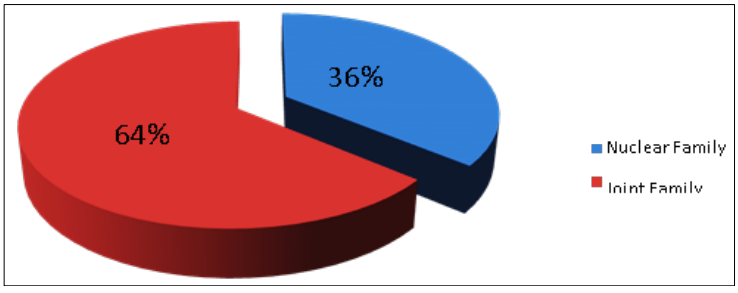


Fig 7: Distribution of respondents according to their family type.

5. Educational status

In the case of educational qualification data revealed that 35.00 per cent of the respondents had a graduate degree, succeeded by 32.00 per cent of the respondents who had received secondary school education. The study also found that 23.00 per cent had received primary education, while the others 10.00 per cent of the respondents were illiterate. A similar type of observation was also reported by Thakuria *et al.* (2024) [16] where 41.25 per cent of the respondents had received higher secondary school education. Singh (2007) [10] indicated that majority (58.83 per cent) of the respondents were educated up to secondary and higher secondary level, remaining 25.00 and 16.66 per cent were educated above higher secondary education and primary level of education, respectively.

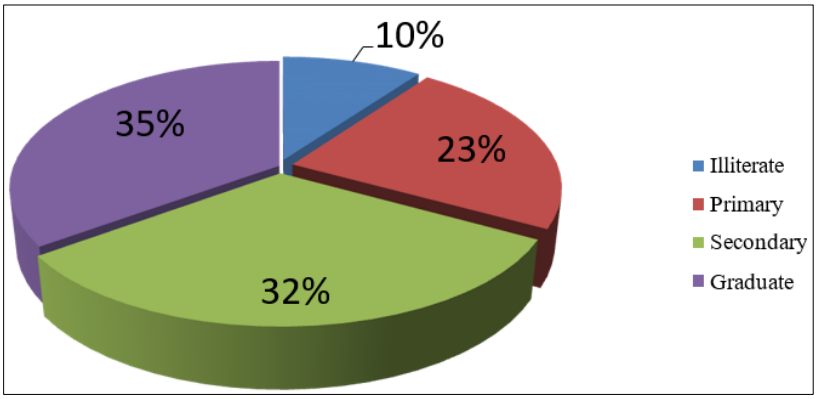


Fig 8: Distribution of respondents according to their educational status.

6. Occupational status

Findings revealed that majority of the respondents (40.00%) were involved I business as their occupation followed by 33.00 per cent of respondents with poultry business as occupation and only 19 per cent were Govt. Employee. Shanaz *et al.* (2010) [8] reported that only 40.00 per cent of the respondents had poultry farming as major occupation, followed by business (34%), service (16%), agriculture (6%) and contractor (4%).

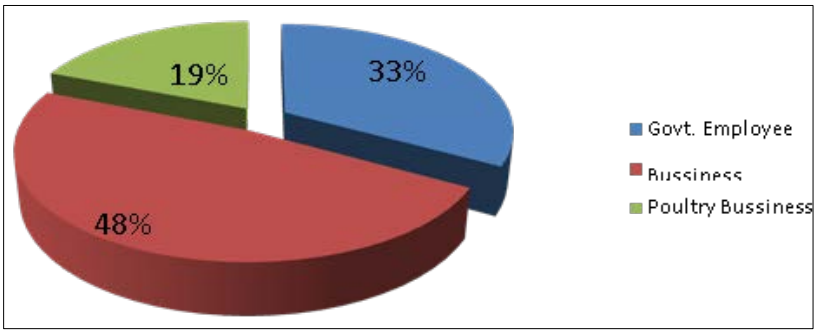


Fig 9: Distribution of respondents according to their occupation

7. Level of Experience

Data revealed that the level of experience of the respondents which indicates that majority of the respondents (54.00%) had up to 5 years of experience, followed by 43.00 per cent with 6 to 10 years of experience and only 3.00 per cent respondents had above 11 years of experience. Thakuria *et al.* (2024) [16] reported that majority of respondents (53.75%) had 9-19 years of experience in litchi cultivation. Trivedi (2000) [18] revealed that majority (67.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium experience of cultivation of flowers.

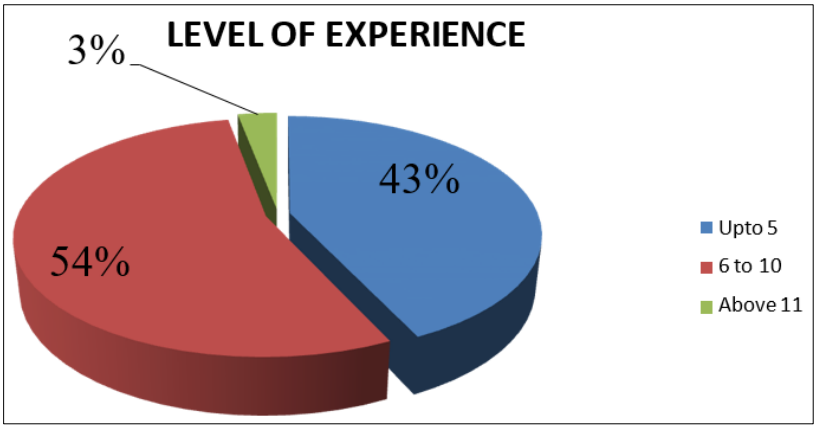


Fig 10: Distribution of respondents according to their level of experience (In years).

8. Flock Size

Data revealed that majority of the respondents (76.00%) had a small flock size, followed by 16.00 per cent with a large flock size. Only 8.00 per cent respondents have a medium flock size. Gazi *et al.* (2014) [2] reported that majority of respondents (65.70%) had small flock size (0-5) followed by medium size flock (34.3%, 6-10).

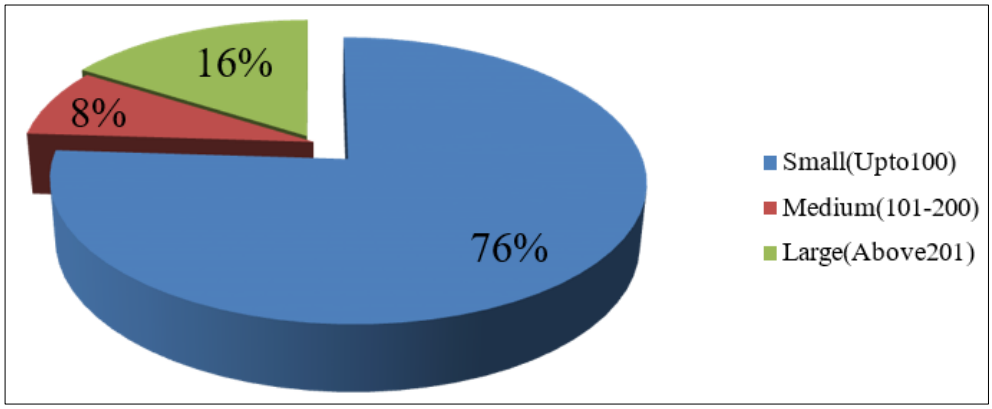
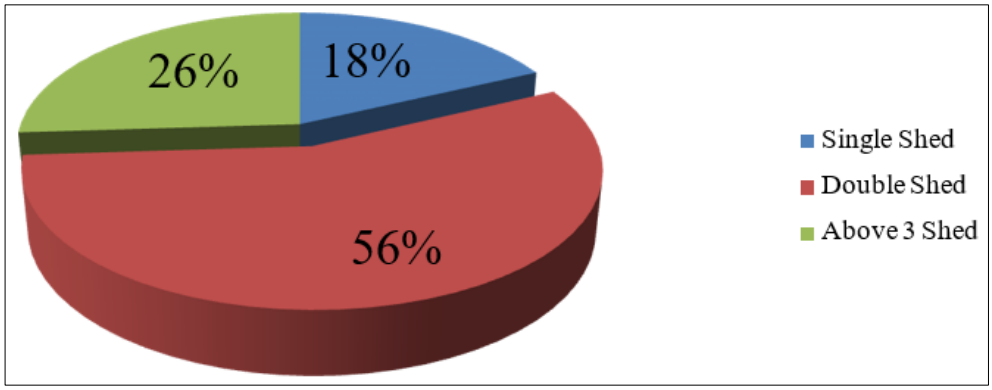


Fig 11: Distribution of respondents according to their flock size

9. Number of Sheds: Findings revealed that majority of the respondents (56.00%) had a single shed, followed by 18 per cent with a double shed. Only 26.00 per cent respondents have an above 3 sheds.



. **Fig 12:** Distribution of respondents according to their no. of sheds.

10. Type of Sheds: Findings revealed that that majority of the respondents (68.00%) had a Kucha-Temporary, followed by 19.00 per cent with a Semi - cemented. Only 13 per cent respondents have free range.

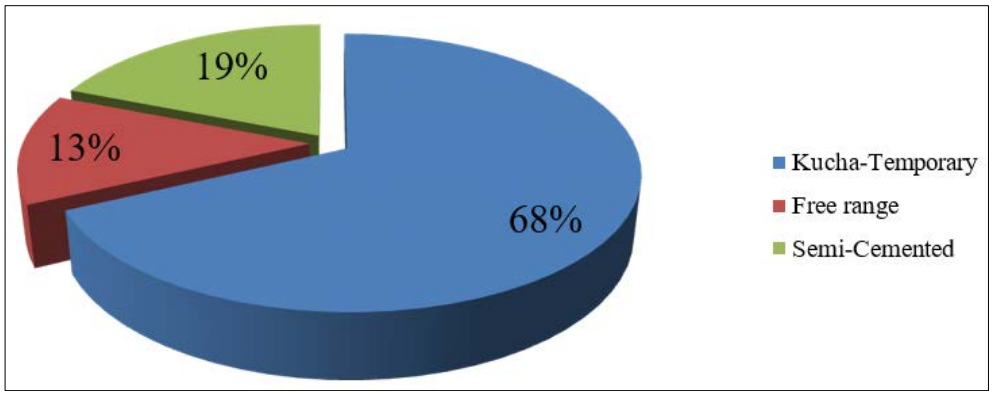


Fig 13: Distribution of respondents according to their type of sheds.

11. Training status and source of training

Data revealed that majority of the respondents (89.00%) were untrained, followed by 8.00 per cent trained under State Govt. department seminar and only 3.00 per cent respondents trained under Pvt. Integrator. Thakuria *et al.* (2025) [15] reported that majority of the respondents (50.00%) high level of exposure to training on litchi cultivation. Christian (2001) [1] indicated that more than half of the respondents were received training about IPM strategy in cotton crop.

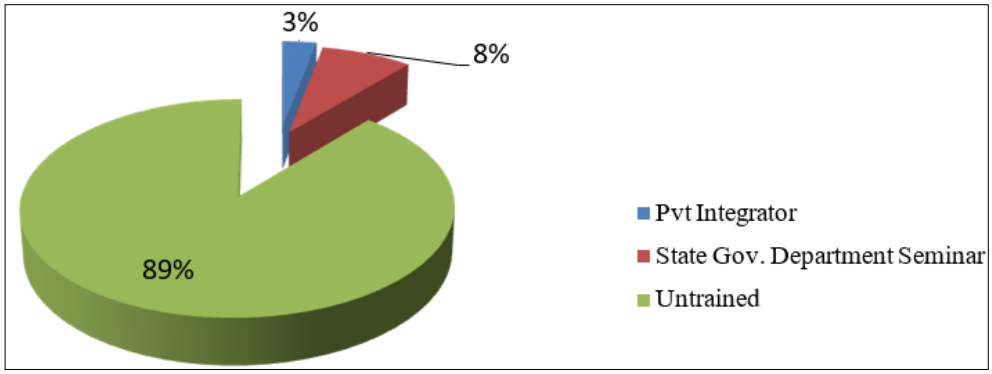


Fig 14: Distribution of respondents according to their training status and source of training)

12. Purpose of Rearing Poultry: Data revealed that majority of the respondents (81.00%) were used poultry for Meat purpose, followed by 19.00 per cent of the respondents used for dual purpose.

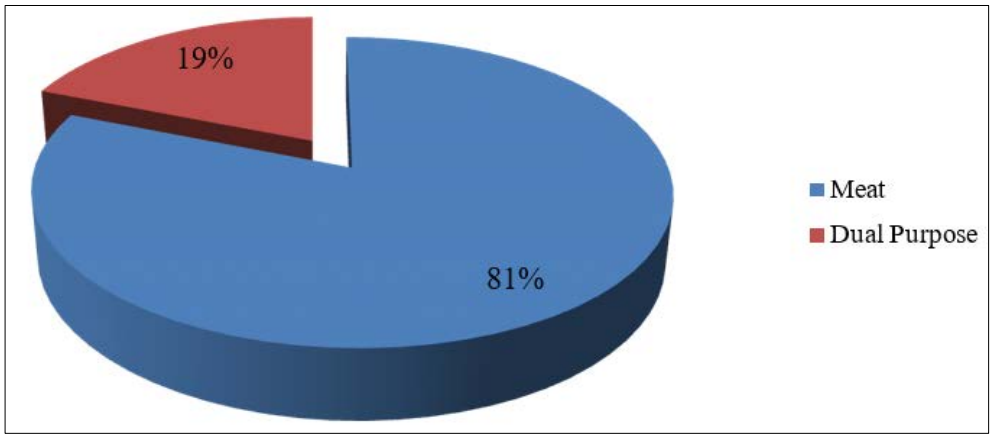


Fig 15: Distribution of respondents according to their purpose of rearing poultry

Table 1: Profile of the respondents

Sl. No.	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	**Age Group**		
	Young (Upto35 Years)	40	40.00
	Medium (36-50 Years)	51	51.00
	Old (Above51 Years)	9	9.00
	Total	100	100
2	**Gender**		
	Female	100	100
	Total	100	100
3	**Family Size**		
	□ 4 Members	36	36.00
	5-9 Members	60	60.00
	□ 10 Members	4	4.00
	Total	100	100
4	**Type of Family**		
	Joint Family	64	64.00
	Nuclear Family	36	36.00
	Total	100	100
5	**Educational Status**		
	Illiterate	**10**	**10.00**
	Primary	**23**	**23.00**
	Secondary	**32**	**32.00**
	Graduate	**35**	**35.00**
	Total	100	100
6	**Occupational status**		
	Govt. Employee	33	33.00
	Poultry Business	19	19.00
	Business	48	48.00
	Total	100	100
7	**Level of experience (In years)**		
	Low (2-5 Years)	43	43.00

	Medium (6-10 Years)	54	54.00
	High (11-15Years)	3	3.00
	Total	100	100
8	**Flock Size**		
	Small (Upto-100)	76	76.00
	Medium (101+-200)	8	8.00
	Large (Above201+)	16	16.00
	Total	100	100
9	**Number of Sheds**		
	Single Shed	18	18.00
	Double Sheds	56	56.00
	Above 3 Sheds	26	26.00
	Total	100	100
10	**Type of Sheds**		
	Kucha & Temporary	68	68.00
	Free range	13	13.00
	Semi-Cemented	19	19.00
	Total	100	100
11	**Training Status & Source of Training**		
	Pvt. Integrator	**3**	**3.00**
	State Govt. Department Seminar	**8**	**8.00**
	Untrained	**89**	**89.00**
	Total	**100**	**100**
12	**Purpose of Rearing Poultry**		
	Meat Purpose	81	81.00
	Dual Purpose	19	19.00
	Total	100	100

Conclusion

The results of the study also showed that majority of the respondents (51.00%) belonged to middle aged category with graduate level of formal education (35.00%). All the respondents (100 %) belonged to the female category. Majority of the respondents (41.25%) belonged to medium family size (5-9 members). Most of the respondents (54.00%) had medium level of farming experience. Majority of the respondents (40.00%) were involved I business as their occupation followed by 33.00 per cent of respondents with poultry business as occupation. Majority of them (76.00%) had small level of flock size. Most of the respondents (56.00%) had single level shed in poultry farming. Majority of the respondents (68.00%) of respondents had Kuccha &Temporary of shed. Most of the respondents (81.00%) were used poultry for Meat purpose. As poultry farming in the study area is predominantly managed by women, their participation should be the central focus of poultry development programs. Strengthening women's involvement through training, demonstrations and vocational education on low-cost and efficient poultry rearing practices can significantly improve adoption of advanced technologies. Encouraging farmers to increase flock size and adopt scientific management practices will enhance productivity and income levels. Overall, promoting technological innovations, continuous extension support and local vocational training can help improve the economic well-being of poultry farmers and ensure sustainable poultry production, ultimately enhancing their livelihoods.

The limitation of the study is that considering the restraint of time and resources of the investigator, only one district covered in the state of Nagaland. In future a similar study may be undertaken covering a greater number of districts of Nagaland with a larger sample size.

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