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Abstract: The present study entitled “Studies on Homestead Agroforestry system in relation to social stratification in Ranchi District” was conducted during the year 2017. The objectives are to study the different components of homestead agroforestry system across the different social strata and the impact of such vegetation on the subsistence, income generation and other purposes of the people. The study was conducted between Urban and Rural groups and among the three categories of each group i.e. HIG (High income group), MIG (Middle income group), LIG (Lower income group). From each category 20 household sample units were selected and overall 120 household sample units were studied. Multistage random sampling technique was adopted during the course of study. The parameters studied include the land area available at each sampling unit for homestead agroforestry, Vegetation and animal component available in the system in both urban and rural groups, yield and income generated from vegetation and animal components and ultimately average income/family/month was calculated. The results indicated that the area allotted for homestead agroforestry varied from 5 sq. m to 473 sq.m. The average area allotted for home stead agroforestry was more in all the categories of rural group than that of their counterpart in the urban group. However in each group the area allotted was more in HIG followed by MIG and LIG. Vegetation component of homestead system in both urban and rural groups was listed. In HIG, MIG and LIG categories of the urban group the total No. of plants which include vegetables, Flowers and trees were 57 (14+27+16), 67 (16+25+26) and 50(21+13+16) respectively. Similarly in the Rural group the total no. of plants present in HIG, MIG and LIG were 65(27+23+15) 57(28+13+16) and 51(27+11+13) respectively. Thus the results showed that the total number of plants present across the different categories of urban and Rural groups were 174 and 173 respectively. The vegetation component was further classified and listed in both groups on the basis of Strata, Temporal arrangement, Habit, Utilization. Preferential spp, Common species and differential species were also sorted out in between the groups and among the categories of each group. Animal component of homestead system was also studied and the presence of each animal component in different categories of both the groups were also presented. The yield of product from each plant sp and animal component from each household was estimated and accordingly the average income from both plants and animals/family was calculated. The average income from homestead agroforestry system was gradually increasing from HIG to MIG and LIG in both urban and Rural groups. More importantly the home stead income in the rural categories is higher than their counterpart in urban categories. The results showed that the total homestead income/month /family in the HIG, MIG and LIG of urban group was Rs 92/-, 264/- and 3156 /- respectively where as in three categories of rural group the income estimated was Rs 1368/-, 3890/- and Rs 4578/-respectively. Thus the results indicate that the income derived from homestead system was more in the Rural group than in the urban group. They further showed that the income derived from homestead is high in the LIG category followed by MIG and HIG in both the groups. The study clearly suggests that dependency on homestead system is more in rural group than in the urban group. It further suggest that the dependency in both groups increases with decrease in the family income. The study suggest that homestead agroforestry system being the Low income group family oriented system, it demand more research study on its design, species composition and spp in different strata etc with the aim to help and improve the economy of the LIG people particularly in rural area.

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