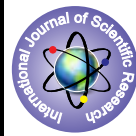


Attitude of Rural Women Towards Employment in Dairying



Dairy Science

KEYWORDS : Women, dairying, livelihood, employment

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ABSTRACT

The women can easily be considered as backbone of any nation and better half of the men in almost all spheres of community development, of which India is not an exception. Rural women, who constitute about 50 % of total rural population, play an active role in all spheres of economic life and contribute richly towards national income. The present study was done at Kollam district at Kerala. Simple sampling technique was used for sample selection and a total of 60 women were selected for the study. Result revealed that majority of the rural women agree that family members should have an open mind about the rural women working outside the home. Fifty five percentage of the respondents agree that livestock rearing generates employment primarily for family labour.

Introduction

Dairy farming plays significant role in sustaining the rural livelihoods, although the phenomenon of farmer's suicides, migration, and malnutrition/ill health are widely prevalent in rural India.. The importance of dairying in our country hardly needs emphasizing. In Kerala 96 percent of the agricultural holding fall below 1 ha and nearly 94 percent of the livestock population is concentrated in rural areas. As a consequence, 80 percent of the livestock farmers are marginal farmers and agricultural labour household. As per the 17th Livestock Census, Kerala had 21.22 lakhs of cattle population (1.15%), 0.07 percent of buffaloes, 0.01 percent of sheep, 0.98 percent of goats and 0.57 percent of pig population of the country.

Dairy farming is one of the important activities of the rural population of our country. The importance of the dairy, as a subsidiary industry to agriculture, has stressed by the National Commission on Agriculture. Dairy Enterprise, next to agriculture, not only provides continuous income and improves dietary standards of family, but also supplements the income and reduces unemployment to a large number of the rural poor. In many societies rural women serve as the main work force involved in agricultural activities. These activities may include farm works, from planting to harvest, animal husbandry and some marketing. Various micro level studies highlight women's significant role in dairy production (Prakash Singh et al 2005). Involvement of women in the labor market is believed to be one of the main indicators of a country's development that reflects. The extent of rural women activity is far more influenced by economic, social, cultural and ecological factors than it is in case of men. (Mosavi et al). The importance of dairying in our country hardly needs emphasizing. The vast resources (more than 50 percent of the world's buffalos and 20 percent of its cattle) of livestock in the country play an important role in the national economy as well as in the socio-economic development of millions of rural households. Although the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the national GDP has declined during the past few decades, the contribution of the livestock sector has increased from less than 5 percent in the early 1980s to over 6 percent in the late 1990s.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The present study was done in Kollam district at Kerala. A scale (Tripathi, 1991) was adopted for the studying attitude of farm women towards employment in dairying. Random sampling technique was used for sample selection. Total of 60 rural women were selected for the study from different parts of the district.

Result & Discussion

Table 1 Socio economic variables of the respondents

Sl.No	Socio economic		Percentage
1	Age	20-30 years	27%
		30-55 years	69 %
		Above 55 years	4%
2	Education	Illiterate	0%
		Primary	12%
		High school	66%
		College level	22%
3	Occupation	Govt	23.5%
		Private	19%
		Agriculture	57.5%
4	Monthly Income	Below 2000	7%
		2000-5000	48.5%
		Above 5000	44.5%
5	Type of Family	Nuclear	77%
		Joint	33%
6	Land Holding	Below 50 cent	42%
		50 cent – 1 acre	53%
		1 acre – 2 acre	4%
		Above 2 acre	1%
7	Type of livestock	Cattle/Buffalo	100%
		Goat	28%
		Poultry	92%
		Rabbit	2%

Table 1 Attitude of farm women towards employment in dairying

Sl No	Items	Agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree
1	More educated rural women more employment opportunities will be available to her	95	5	0
2	Family members should have an open mind about the rural women working outside the home	100	0	0
3	LS rearing generates employment primarily for family labour	91.6	1.6	6.6
4	For taking up outside home employment it is not necessary to know the nature to work	76.6	20	3.3
5	Adopting recommended animal science technology will hardly open up new avenues of employment for me	86.6	6.6	6.6
6	It is difficult to manage both the family as well as the outside employment	81.6	11.6	6.6
7	Even if I have adequate information about available jobs, I will not be able to choose the one which suit to my personality	55	6.6	38.33

Result of the study (Table 1) reveals that majority of the respondents were belonging to 30 -55 years of age with high school education. Rathod et al, (2011) suggested that majority of the farm women were in middle age group and the probable reason for such distribution might be that, majority of the middle aged rural women perceived dairy farming as a profitable avenue and took up as a subsidiary occupation. Most of them have below one acre land and no job other than animal husbandry. The present study reveals that majority of the rural women (100%) agree that family members should have an open mind about the rural women working outside the home. Fifty five percent-age (55%) of the respondents agree that livestock rearing generates employment primarily for family labour. The prominent reasons for rearing cattle, in the order of descending importance, were: regular cash income through sale of milk; less tedious than agriculture labour; and flexibility in working time (Rao et al, 2007). In a study result revealed that just below one fifth (20.3 %) of the women expressed an interest in rearing cows as a single species enterprise because they perceived cows as providers of milk both for sale as well as home consumption and manure for agriculture (George et al, 2009). Majority agree that adopting recommended animal science technology will hardly open up new avenues of employment for them and It is difficult to manage both the family as well as the outside employment.

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