

Role and constraints of women in dairying Growth towards women empowerment



Social Science

KEYWORDS :

M. Deepa Narayana

Sivvala Radhika

Dr. B. Jamuna Rani

ABSTRACT

Women contribute to 50-60 percent of agricultural labour in India. They play a crucial role in animal husbandry but often goes invisible. The present study was taken up to ascertain certain roles, constraints in performing those roles in dairying faced by rural women using pretested interview schedule and personal interviews with rural women in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Total sample comprises of 120 from Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. The paper discuss the role and constraints of women in dairy industry.

INTRODUCTION

The contribution of women to national development in the current context and its potential is of greater significance. Involvement of Indian women in national progress at all levels is indisputable reality although the degree of involvement varies from time to time and region to region. The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they not only constitute nearly half of the population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. The crucial role of women in agriculture, allied occupations, and household activities has however been grossly underestimated and undervalued. Women play significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields like dairy farming, mushroom production, pisciculture etc. Dairy production is considered an important tool for self-employment and socioeconomic transformation of rural folk, especially for small farmers, landless labours, and educated unemployed and also for tribal people. The economic viability of dairy units depends on scientific management. Therefore, it is expected that with the adoption of improved dairy production practices, tribal people will be able to achieve better level of production leading to higher income. Livestock rearing is an important means of income generation in villages for all categories of farmers including small, marginal and even landless farmers in rural India. Milk production and processing of milk for product preparations play a vital role in India's agricultural economy. Dairying is an important means of livelihood to millions of rural poor farmers. Women play a significant role in agriculture and allied activities. They play a key role in agriculture and allied activities. They play a key role in dairying as it fetches more income when compared to daily wages in agriculture labour work. Most of the rural households have dairy as alternate source of income and livestock as biggest asset. Both men and women work together or share the roles for improving the total income of the family, but the roles are different. As women involves both in household work besides income generation so there is less time for accessing scientific information. Most of the women spend 2-3 hours in dairying and they contribute 25- 30 percent of their total house hold income from dairy.

Methodology

The study was carried to ascertain certain roles, constraints in performing those roles in dairying faced by rural women using pretested interview schedule and personal interviews with rural women in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Total sample comprises of 120 from Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. The present study was designed to study role and constraints of women in dairying. Purposive sampling was used for selecting women, using interview schedule. Data was coded and descriptive statistics is used for analyzing the results.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 Socio personal profile of women. (N=120)

S.No	Characters	Number	Percentage
1	Age		
	20-25	10	8.3
	25-30	45	37.5
	30-35	65	54.16
2	Education		
	Read and write	89	74.16
	Cannot read and write	31	25.83
3	Type of family		
	Joint	44	36.6
	Nuclear	76	63.3
4	Occupation		
	Agriculture(own land)	43	35.83
	wage earner (landless)	21	17.5
	Both agricultural labour and wage earner(land owning upto 2 acres)	64	53.33
5	Income levels		
	Low (income upto 10000/- per month)	19	15.83
	Middle income (upto 15000 per month)	89	74.16
	High (15000/- above)	12	10
6	Livestock number		
	Milch animals		
	Low (2 no)	79	65.83
	3-5 (Medium)	26	21.66
	5 and above (large)	15	12.5

It was interesting to note from the study that fifty five percent of women were in the age group of 30-35 years, and thirty eight percent were in age group of 25-30years. Only eight percent of the selected sample were in the age group of 20-25 years. The study results are similar with Prakash Kumar Rathod, 2011. Findings revealed that 55 per cent of rural women were middle aged in the study region followed by young (35%) and old age (10 %) category. This indicates that women during the young age are mostly newly married and might be involved in child care rather the alternate source of income i.e., dairy. It was encouraging to note that seventy five percent of women can read and write. Only 25 percent of selected women were illiterates. The study further reveals that sixty three percent of them belong to nuclear families. Majority of them (53%) work in their agricultural lands and also work for other farmers on daily wages, while thirty five percent work in their own lands. Very less percentage of them (17%) were landless agricultural laborers. The study further reveals that seventy five percent of them belong to middle income group, while 15 percent of them were from low and 10

percent from high income group. It is also identified that many of these women have on an average of two milch animals, this forms a majority of about 65.83percent , followed by medium group of about 21.66 percent having milch animals of about 3 to 5 and 12.5 percent of women have milch animals of about five and above.

Table 2 Participation of women in different dairy activities. (N= 120)

S.No	Activities	Number of women	Percentage
1	Feeding		
	Taking animals for grazing in fields	95	79.16
	Fodder collection from fields	79	65.8
	Manually cutting the fodder	56	46.6
	preparation of feed at home	78	65
	Storage of feed	92	76.6
	Fetchng water	89	74.16
2	Management		
	Helping in construction of animal sheds	68	56.6
	Cleaning of animal sheds	95	79.16
	Washing and grooming of animals	99	82.5
	Milking	83	69.16
	Disposal of cow dung	94	78.33
3	Breeding		
	Taking animals for artificial insemination	74	61.6
	Pregnancy diagnosis	78	65.0
4	Health care		
	Care of sick animals	56	46.6
	Care of new borns	62	51.6
	Care of pregnant animals	71	59.16
	Taking animals for treatment	76	63.33
	Vaccination and medication	83	69.16
5	Marketing		
	Sale of milk	58	48.33
	Sale of milk products	74	61.6
	Purchase of feed	46	38.33
	Knowing information on price of milk	35	29.16

Feeding

The results from the study revealed that 79.16 percent of farm women were involved in feeding and watering of animals followed by fodder collection and storage of feed at home which is similar with the results of (Prakash Kumar Rathod ,2011) which revealed that 86.66 per cent of rural women were involved in feeding of animals followed by watering of animals 85 percent, work regarding feeding and watering of animals was the sole responsibility of the women folk. They were responsible for the tasks like taking the animals for grazing, fodder collection, chaffing and storage of fodder etc. The study clearly states that 46.6 percent of women involved in cutting the fodder manually where purchase of chaff cutter is not viable with small number of livestock. 82 percent of women involved in washing and grooming of animals, 79.16 percent of women were involved in cleaning of sheds.

Management

It was interesting to find that 65 percent of women were involved in taking animal for pregnancy diagnosis and 61.6 percent of women involved in taking animal for artificial insemination. *Puri (1971)* who revealed that preparation of feed, grazing, and washing of animals were mostly carried out by women. It was observed that respondents majorly participated in milking of animals followed by their involvement in cleaning of milking utensils. Women actively participated in construction of animal

sheds with locally available resources. From the study it was found that 56.6 percent of women involved in helping in construction of animal sheds.

Health care

From the study it was found that women participation in dairying especially in health care of animals was more like taking animals for animal health camps for vaccination and giving medicines at home prescribed by the doctor. It can be also stated that 59 percent of women were involved in taking care of pregnant animals and 65 percent of women involved in taking animal for pregnancy diagnosis, and it was surprising to note that sixty three percent of women take care of sick animals.

Marketing

The study reveals that 48.33 percent of women were involved in milk selling and 61.6 percent of them were involved in sale of milk products. It was surprising to note that 45 percent of women expressed that they do not have the exposure of preparation of quality feed for the animal and only twenty nine percent were aware of the market milk price.

Table 3 Constraints faced by women in dairying. (N= 120)

S.No	Constraints	Number	Percent
1	Lack of fodder due to decreasing grazing lands	65	54.16
2	Low irrigation facilities for growing fodder	77	64.16
3	Less remunerative price for milk	80	66.66
4	Spoilage of milk	29	24.16
5	Less transport facility	86	71.6
6	Low fat percentage	42	35
7	Lack of timely information on diseases and vaccination	95	79.16
8	Lack of medical facilities in emergencies	92	76.6
9	High cost of concentrate feed	83	69.16
10	Lack of preservation facilities for fodder	96	80
11	Technical problems in fat testing	86	71.66
12	Lack of information on dairying Clean milk production	78	65
	Artificial Insemination	79	65.83
	Feed preparation	56	46.6
	Deworming	45	37.5
	Vaccination	74	61.6
13	Lack of knowledge on diversification of products	89	74.16
14	Lack of timely information on marketing	78	65
15	lack of knowledge on detecting quality feed	54	45

Constraints of women in dairying

From the study it was revealed that the scarcity of fodder during lean season is mainly due to lack of preservation facility for the fodder, second constraint is lack of timely information on vaccination and treatment of animals for seasonal diseases and lack of proper medical facilities during emergencies for treating diseases(**Jeyachandra Reddy M.**) The study has further brought out the fact that higher fat content provides higher price as milk is priced based on fat and solid-Net-Fat (SNF) content by dairies. Hence proper scientific breeding procedure is to be followed to improve fat content in the milk as well as milk production per animal. Besides knowledge and awareness on scientific breeding, feeding, treatment and veterinary care and management would

not only increase milk production and fat content but also helps in cost reduction and increases incomes of farmers. Thus dairy farming is considered an instrument for socio economic change in rural areas. Lack of timely medical facilities and road connectivity is also constraint hence animals were taken to the nearest clinics where men were involved and access of information on diseases and treatment is more for them compared to women. Diversification of milk products is more important when there is less demand and to minimize the loss due to spoilage of milk. Women considered lack of knowledge on diversification of milk products is necessary to improve the net returns from dairy enterprises. **Hegde, H.G.2001** pointed out that there is very little breathing time for Indian farmers to face the challenge of importing milk and milk products under WTO. Our farmers are not prepared to solve them well on time. It is necessary to reduce the cost of milk production by increasing the productivity of our animals. We also need to reduce the cost of handling of milk and processing by reducing intermediary agencies and by adding value to the produce. The quality of the milk should be of international standard which can be improved through screening of the livestock against important diseases and maintaining clean surroundings in the dairy farm. Other constraints are low remunerative price for milk due to lack of proper techniques at village level, lack of timely information on practices of dairy management like agriculture information. As women were involved in major activities of dairying and their contribution of income to household income is about 30 percent, so some of the constraints like measures to reduce spoilage of milk, calving intervals, preparation of low cost feed from the indigenous agro waste, deworming were identified by women if these problems get addressed dairy enterprises for women is not a major issue. (**Mathialagan 2009**)When the SNF content falls below 8.0% the payment for the milk will be calculated based on the fat content of the milk as per the price policy of milk co-operative societies. In such cases, the farmers would get a lower price of Rs.6.50/- per litre instead of Rs.8.75 / litre of milk. The constraints experienced by the ex-trainees are the poor results of A.I., non-availability of mineral mixture in the area, lack of knowledge of common contagious diseases, their causes & control in adoption of scientific dairy farming practices. Whereas for non-trainees also poor result of A.I., lack of knowledge of common contagious diseases, their causes & control measures and non- availability of mineral mixture in the area. (**Ashish Santosh Murai**).

Conclusion:

The study reveals the role of women participation and constraints in dairy industry. The study reveals that women in dairy were mostly in the age group of 30-35 years and majority of them were able to read and write. It was interesting to note from the study that women participation was more in taking care of the cattle, feeding them and even during the pregnancy of the animals. Major constraints was lack of scientific knowledge and awareness of using latest technology to reduce the loss and increase the income.

Recommendations:

The importance of women in dairy industry cannot be ignored. In a country like India where women plays a major role of caretaker, it is important to strengthen their participation. The solution for constraints lies in the united efforts of NGOs, government and SHGs. Dairy development department can conduct skill oriented training programme, banks can encourage women by easy loans and subsidies. The animal husbandry department can sensitize women on issues like vaccination, deworming, health care programmes.

REFERENCE

1. Ashish Santosh Murai and B. K. Singh Differential Adoption of Scientific Dairy Farming Practices and Related Constraints Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu. 11 (2), May, 2011 | 2. Gautam Kakaty and Moromi Gogoi (2001), "Employment and income opportunity in Dairy enterprises of Assam - A Case Study", Agricultural situation in India, Vol. 66, No. 2, May, P.69. | 3. Hegde, H.G. (2001), "WTO Challenges for Indian Dairy Farmers", Yojana, Vol. 45, Dec., | Pp. 34-35. | 4. Jeyachandra Reddy M, Reddy Y.V.R and Ramakrishna Y.S. (2004), "A Comparative Study of Cost of Milk production under Different Agro-Climate Regions in Semi-Arid Regions", Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 59, No. 3, July-Sep., Pp. 611. | 5. Mathialagan, Chandrasekaran, D.C. and Manivannan, A. (2009), "Effect of Feeding Supplements of SNF content in Milk" Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Vol. 5, | No. 1, Jan-Feb, Pp. 28-29. | 6. Prakash Kumar Rathod, T.R. Nikam, Sariput Landge Participation of Rural Women in Dairy Farming in Karnataka Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu. 11 (2), May, 2011 |