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Research Article

INVOLVEMENT OF FARM WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING PATTERN FOR DAIRY FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Dairy business is one of the few sources of agricultural income in which farm women play a concrete role starting with grazing of animals to marketing of milk. Aim of the present work was to study the involvement of farm women in decision making pattern of women in dairy farming and factors associated with it. This study was conducted in three dairy i.e. Vasudhara Dairy of Navsari District, Dhudhdhara Dairy in Bharuch District and Choryasi Dairy of Surat District with 1000 farm women. The result revealed that the involvement of farm women in decision making was high but still more involvement and participation is needed for overall improvement in the contribution farm women in the decision-making process.

Keywords: Dairy Farming, Farm Women, Decision, Milk.

INTRODUCTION

Dairy farming is an integral part of rural agricultural economy. Today, the fact that dairying is a women's domain has been well accepted. Farm women play an important role in performing agricultural and dairy husbandry practice and share the responsibility of generating family income. The responsibility of all sorts of activities involved in animal husbandry occupation is shouldered by the farm women. She performs active role in the activities such as grazing of animals, milking, managing fodder and feeds from distant places, looking after sick animals, calf feeding, preparation of various dairy products and marketing etc. Therefore, it has been considered worthwhile to get a clear picture and understanding about decision-making pattern of farm women, with respect to dairy farming practices. The present study has been conducted to study the involvement of farm women in decision making pattern of women in dairy planning practices and to find factors associated with decision-making pattern in dairy farming¹⁻⁵.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in purposively selected Vasudhara Dairy of Navsari District, Dhudhdhara Dairy in Bharuch District and Choryasi Dairy of Surat District. There were total 1000 women dairy cooperative societies out of which thirty

societies were selected for the study. From these societies a sample of 180 farm women was selected by the proportionate sampling technique. The data were analyzed by using appropriate statistical technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of findings, the results have been presented in the following sub-sections.

1. Decision-making pattern of dairy farm women in dairy farming practices.

1.1 Breeding Practices

Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents (46.67%) had high level of participation in decision-making 31.11 per cent respondents were in medium category of decision making. Only 22.22 per cent respondents were falling in low category of decision-making in breeding practice.

1.2 Feeding Practices

It is observed from Table 1 that majority of the respondents (42.22%) had medium level of participation in decision making followed by 38.89 per cent respondents were in high category of decision-making and 18.88 per cent respondents were falling in low category of decision-making in feeding practices.

1.3 Health care Practices

It is clear from the data presented in Table 1 that majority of the respondents (40.56%) had high level of participation in

decision-making, while 40.00 per cent respondents were in medium category of decision-making and 19.44 per cent respondents were in low category of decision-making in healthcare practices.

1.4 Management Practices

Table 1 depicts that majority of the respondents (51.11%) had medium level of participation in decision-making, 35.00 per cent had high level of decision-making and 13.89 per cent

respondents had low level of participation in decision-making regarding management practices.

1.5 Marketing

Data presented in Table 1 reveals that majority of respondents (48.33%) had medium level of participation in decision-making. Whereas, 26.67 per cent were coming in low category of decision-making. Rest 25.00 per cent respondents were falling in high category of decision-making in marketing.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their participation in decision-making pattern in dairy farming practices

Sr. No.	Dairy farming practices	Decision-making pattern	No.	Percentage
1.	Breeding Practices	Low	40	22.22
		Medium	56	31.11
		High	84	46.67
2.	Feeding Practices	Low	34	18.88
		Medium	76	42.22
		High	70	38.89
3.	Health care Practices	Low	35	19.44
		Medium	72	40.00
		High	73	40.56
4.	Management Practices	Low	25	13.89
		Medium	92	51.11
		High	63	35.00
5.	Marketing	Low	48	26.67
		Medium	87	48.33
		High	45	25.00

N†=80

†N= number of total respondents

2. Factors associated with decision-making pattern of dairy farm women in dairy farming practices.

2.1 Breeding Practices

Finding indicated that age, caste, land holding, income, milk consumption, milk sale, television viewing, radio listening,

training attended were significantly associated with decision-making pattern about breeding practices while education, Occupation, herd size, milk production, newspaper reading , dairy related magazines were not associated with the decision-making pattern of the respondents (Table 2).

Table 2: Factors associated with decision making pattern of dairy from women in dairy farming practices

Sr. No.	Factors	Chi-square				
		Dairy Farming Practices				
		Breeding	Feeding	Healthcare	Management	Practices
1	Age	13.68**	17.38 **	11.42*	13.12*	12.80 **
2	Caste	28.32**	7.52 NS	8.98 NS	4.92 NS	7.00 NS
3	Education	4.98 NS	25.13 **	15.45 NS	15.82**	24.18 **
4	Occupation	3.25 NS	27.08 **	6.90 NS	5.63 NS	15.69 *
5	Land holding	18.12*	5.47 NS	8.05 NS	7.90 NS	44.86**
6	Herd size	0.35 NS	23.52**	13.76*	21.42**	5.05 NS
7	Income	16.52**	5.12 NS	37.72**	38.04**	20.32**
8	Milk production	2.09 NS	34.12**	4.12 NS	34.45**	38.12**
9	Milk consumption	17.43**	28.03**	44.10**	20.12**	34.93**
10	Milk sale	26.48**	13.52**	40.44**	10.18*	4.10 NS
11	Mass Media Exposure					
(a)	Television	14.68**	15.58**	4.50 NS	13.12*	44.21**
(b)	Radio	23.52**	20.42**	4.25 NS	21.52**	23.47**
(c)	Newspaper	3.15 NS	5.55 NS	3.98 NS	7.57 NS	45.76**
(d)	Dairy related magazines	4.16 NS	8.76**	14.90**	11.68*	41.36**
12	Training attended	4.68*	4.05**	18.52**	4.23 NS	9.06**

NS=Non significant, *=Significant at 0.05 level of significant

**=Significant at 0.01 level of significance

2.2 Feeding practices

Table 2 shows that age, education, herd size, occupation, milk production, milk consumption, milk sale, television viewing radio listening, dairy related magazines, training attended were significantly associated with decision-making pattern of the respondents. Caste, land holding, income, newspaper reading were having no association with decision -making in feeding practices.

2.3 Health care practices

Data presented in Table 2 shows that in healthcare practices, age, herd size, income milk consumption, milk sale, dairy related magazines training attended were significantly associated with decision-making pattern of the respondents. Caste, education, occupation, land holding, milk production, television viewing, radio listening, newspaper reading were not associated with decision-making pattern of the respondents.

2.4 Management practices

Table 2 reveals that age, education, herd size, income, milk production, milk consumption, milk sale, television viewing, radio listening, dairy related magazines were significantly associated with decision-making pattern of the respondents. While caste, occupation, land holding, newspaper reading, training attended were having no association with decision-making pattern in management practicis.

2.5 Marketing

It is clear from the data presented in Table 2 that age, education, occupation, land holding, income, milk production, milk consumption, television viewing, radio listening, newspaper reading, dairy related magazines, training attended were significantly associated with decision-making. Caste,

herd size, milk sale were having no association with decision-making pattern of respondents in marketing.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of revealed results, it can be concluded that although, the farm women had high involvement in decision-making process occupied in dairy farming, there is a need to increase their additional involvement and participation for an overall improvement in their contribution in the decision-making process.

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