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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Personal and socio-economic profile of dairy farmer in Akola and Washim district of Maharashtra

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SUMMARY : An attempt has been made in this paper to investigate the socio-personal, socio-economic and Socio-psychological profile of dairy farmer in Akola and Washim district of Maharashtra during the year 2015-2016. Total 140 farmers were selected from two blocks namely Akola and Washim from above districts as respondents by using random sampling method.Data were collected by personal interview with help ofwell structured interview schedule and data were subjected to appropriate statistical analysis. In this investigation it is found that, out of 140 respondents majority (42.14%) were in middle age group, (38.57%) of them belonged to high school level of education, (56.43%) of them had 5 to 8 members in their Family, more than half (52.86%)of respondents had medium term credit acquisition,(82.86%) of them had Dairy + Agriculture as occupation, (46.43%) of respondent had Rs 1, 00,001 to 1, 50,000 /- annual income, (65.72%) dairy farmer had 08 to 26 years of dairy farming experiences, (72.86%) of dairy farmer had categories under medium level of scientific orientation and more than three fourth (77.14%) of them had also categories under mediumlevel of market orientation.

KEY WORDS :
Dairy farmer, Socio-economic Profile, Livestock

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Billions of people around the world consume milk and dairy products every day. Not only are milk and dairy products a vital source of nutrition for these people, they also present livelihoods opportunities for farmers, processors, shopkeepers and other stakeholders in the dairy value chain. The dairy sector in the India has shown remarkable development in the past decade and India has now become one of the largest producers of milk (143.3 million tons) and value-added milk products in the world. Therefore role of dairy farmers is very important in Dairy industry and socio-economic development of the society. Dairy farming in India is practice withone or two indigenous buffaloes or cow milk has now emerged as the second largest agricultural commodity and that is why dairy as a businessis becoming more popular among farmers and also among the educated unemployment people. Dairying is recognized as an instrument for socialand economic development. The nations milk supply comes from millionsof small producers dispersed throughout rural areas.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Akola and Washim block of these districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. Seven villages from each selected blocks were randomly selected with lottery method by preparing the list of villages where the good number of dairy farmers were available and who were having five or more milch animal. Thus fourteen villages were selected from two blocks namely Akola and Washim from the Akola and Washim districts of Maharashtra state. From this list 10 respondents from each village was selected randomly for the study comprising the total sample of 140 respondents.The data were collected through pretested interview schedule from the respondents. Collected data were tabulated and processed by using appropriate statistical tools and methods.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Socio-personal characteristics:

Age:

About age status, the datarevealed that relatively higher proportion of the respondents (42.14%) belonged to middle age group, followed by 37.86 per cent of dairy farmers belonged to young age category and only one fifth per cent of the respondents belonged old age categories.

Education:

Education shows that, maximum number of the respondents (38.57%) were educated upto high school level, followed by little less than one fourth of respondents (23.58%) were educated upto higher secondary level whereas, 12.14 per cent of respondents were educated up to middle school level, also it was observed that 10.71 per cent of respondents were educated upto primary school, Further 9.29 per cent where graduated and Only 05.71 per cent respondents were illiterate (Table 1).

Family size:

The data furnished in Table 1 indicated that maximum number (56.43%) of the dairy farmers had medium family size (5 to 8 members) whereas, 29.28 per cent of dairy farmers belonged to small family size (Upto 4 members) and 14.29 per cent of dairy farmers belonged to large family size (Above 8 members).

Dairy farming experience:

In dairy farming experience near about two third of respondents (65.72%) had medium (08 to 26 years) dairy farming experience, followed by 17.14 per cent of the respondents had low (upto 07 years) dairy farming experience and same percentage of respondents (17.14%) were found in high (above 26 years) level of experience.Thus, it is inferred that majority of respondents had medium level of experience in dairying.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their socio-personal characteristics

Character	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young (Upto 35 years)	53	37.86
	Middle (36 to 50 years)	59	42.14
	Old (Above 50 years)	28	20.00
Education	Illiterate (No schooling)	08	05.71
	Primary school (Upto 4^{th} std.)	15	10.71
	Middle school (5^{th} to 7^{th} std)	17	12.14
	High school (8^{th} to 10^{th} std.)	54	38.57
	Higher secondary(11^{th} and 12^{th})	33	23.58
	Graduation (Above 12^{th})	13	09.29
Family size	Small (Upto 4 members)	41	29.28
	Medium (5 to 8 members)	79	56.43
	Large (Above 8 members)	20	14.29
Dairy farming experience	Low (Upto 07 years)	24	17.14
	Medium (08 to 26 years)	92	65.72
	Large (Above 26 years)	24	17.14

Socio-economic characteristics:

Occupation :

It is apparent from the Table 2 that great majority (82.86%) of the respondents were engaged in agriculture as well as dairy occupation. Relatively fewer respondents were engaged in other subsidiary occupation along with dairy and business (05.00%) and only dairy (04.28%), respectively. The negligible per cent of respondents (02.86%) were engaged in dairy and services occupation.

Credit acquisition:

Credit acquisition revealed that relatively higher proportion (52.86%) of the respondents had acquired medium term credit, followed by short-term credit (30.00%), while no one had taken long-term credit. The majority of the respondents had acquired medium term credit and (17.14%) respondent had not acquired any type of credit.

Annual income:

In case of annual income little less than half of respondents (46.43%) were observed having annual income ranges from Rs. 1,00,001/- to 1,50,000/- whereas over one third of respondents (32.85%) had annual income range of Rs. 50,001 to 1,00,000/-, followed by 13.57 per cent had annual income upto Rs. 50,000/- the 04.29 per cent of respondents were having annual income group of above Rs. 2,00,001/- and only 02.86 per cent were having annual income of Rs. 1,50,001 to 2,00,000 /-. As large proportion of respondents (46.43%) were having annual income of Rs. 1, 00,001/ - to Rs. 1, 50,000/- .

Socio-psychological characteristics:

Scientific orientation:

As we talk about scientific orientation, near about three fourth (72.86%) of respondents belonged to medium level of scientific orientation followed by low percentage of respondents (20.71%) and only (06.43%) in high level of scientific orientation (Table 3).

The probable reason for scientific orientation of the dairy farmers might be due to the fact that high

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic characteristics

Character	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation	Dairy	06	04.28
	Dairy + Agriculture	116	82.86
	Dairy + Business	07	05.00
	Dairy + Service	04	02.86
	Dairy + other occupation	07	05.00
Credit acquisition	Not acquired	24	17.14
	Short term credit	42	30.00
	Medium term credit	74	52.86
	Long term credit	00	00.00
Annual income	Upto 50,000/-	19	13.57
	Rs.50,001 to 1,00,000/-	46	32.85
	Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000 /-	65	46.43
	Rs. 1,50,001 to 2,00,000/-	04	02.86
	Above Rs. 2,00,001	06	04.29

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their socio-psychological characteristics

Character	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
	Low (Upto 06 Score)	29	20.71
Scientific orientation	Medium (07 to 10 Score)	102	72.86
	High (Above 10 Score)	09	06.43
	Low (Upto 9 Score)	25	17.86
Market orientation	Medium (10 to 12 Score)	108	77.14
	High (Above 12 Score)	07	05.00

school and college level education of dairy farmers together constituted near about three forth (71.43%) of the respondents. Hence higher formal education helps the respondents to apply scientific practices in dairying.

Market orientation:

In market orientation, the majority of respondents (77.14%) had medium level of market orientation followed by 17.86 per cent had low level of market orientation. Whereas, negligible (05.00) percentage of respondents had high level of market orientation.

The logical reason behind medium followed by low market orientation might be due to that milk is a perishable product and farmer had no option to sell his produce without market information.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that majority of the respondents had middle age group (36 to 50 years), belongs to medium (5 to 8 members) family size, perused high school (8th to 10th std.) level of education, while majority had 08 to 26 years of dairy farming experiences. Dairy + Agriculture is their main source of income, had medium term credit acquisition and annual income of majority of respondents in the study area ranges between Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000. However, maximum number of dairy farmer had medium level of scientific and market orientation.

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