

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Gender participation and decision making pattenen of farming families in dairy farming

■ Supriya P. Patil and Shobha Nagnur**ARTICLE CHRONICLE :****Received :**

29.11.2018;

Revised :

11.01.2019;

Accepted :

17.01.2019

KEY WORDS :

Dairy farming,

Gender participation,

Decision making

SUMMARY : India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is an integral component for rural livelihoods. In India livestock production is largely in the hands of women constituting about 69 per cent of work force. Dairy occupation has been an age old practice because of its complementary nature with agriculture and the vegetarian food habits of most Indians. The study was conducted to know the gender participation and decision making pattern of farming families in dairy farming. The study was conducted in Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Gadag, Haveri and Uttar Kannada districts of Karnataka. Snowball sampling method was used to select the respondents who were engaged in crop + dairy enterprise. Eighty farming families were selected for the study. The study revealed that in regular activities like, processing of milk (88.80%), selling the milk (81.20%), milking (80.00%) and putting the waste in bin (67.50%) were dominated by women. Men dominated in the activities like, chaffing (72.50%) and fodder transportation (67.50%). Both men and women jointly participated in white washing of sheds (91.20%), preparation of concentrate (66.20%) and fodder harvesting and collection (53.80%). In health activities, more men were involved in vaccination, taking the calf for dehorning and breeding (ranging from 83-55 %). Activities like care of sick animals (88.80%) and care of new born (61.20%) were carried out jointly. In marketing, more men participated in selling the skin of dead animals (78.80%), purchasing of animals (70.00%). More women were involved in selling the milk (78.80%). In decision making pattern more men take decision about insurance of animals (75.00%), breeding of animals (73.80%), purchase of fodder (58.80%) and feeding of animals (47.50%). Most of the decisions like, pre and post-natal management (96.20%), purchase and sale of animals (85.00%), cattle shed management (81.20%), obtaining bank loans (72.50%) and fodder management (55.00%) were taken by both men and women.

Author for correspondence :**Supriya P. Patil**

Department of Extension
and Communication
Management, College of
Community Science,
University of Agricultural
Sciences, Dharwad
(Karnataka) India
Email: sidjamanal@gmail.com

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations

How to cite this article : Patil, Supriya P. and Nagnur, Shobha (2019). Gender participation and decision making pattenen of farming families in dairy farming. *Agric. Update*, 14(1): 71-74; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/14.1/71-74. Copyright@ 2019: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Livestock is one of the fastest growing agricultural subsectors in developing countries like India and this sector provides regular

employment to 11 million people in principal status and 9 million people in subsidiary status. Its share to total GDP is around 3.90 per cent and is largest segment of the agricultural sector. This growth is driven by rapidly

increasing demand for livestock products, driven by population growth, urbanization and increasing incomes. Milk being an important source of protein in India, particularly in rural areas, the demand for milk is likely to increase with the increase in rural prosperity. With the growing demand for various products, dairy farming can provide good opportunity, particularly for the small and marginal farmers and the landless to improve their economy. Livestock development is a labour intensive activity which demands very close attention throughout the year. This will be a boon for the small farmers and landless who are mostly unemployed or under-employed. Thus, animal husbandry can be promoted as a major economic activity in non-irrigated regions in the country. Women are traditionally regarded as source of strength to men. They participate at different levels of almost all the activities of animal husbandry right from feeding, looking after the animals, processing, storage and marketing of the products, so she needs to be helped to develop her capability and inherent potentials. In spite of continuous right of equal opportunity, rural women face many problems in everyday life due to traditional and social conditions, while sharing nearly equal responsibility of participation in decision making, income earning and time spent. Her contribution to the animal husbandry sector has largely ignored. Hence, this study was conducted to study the gender participation and decision making pattern of farming families in dairy farming.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

This study was conducted in Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Gadag, Haveri and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka. Snowball sampling method was used to select the respondents who were engaged in crop + dairy enterprise. Eighty farming families were selected for the study. Frequency and percentage statistical tools were used for analysis of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Participation of farming families in dairy farming:

Table 1 shows the participation of farming families in dairy farming activities. The activities were classified

as regular activities, health activities and marketing activities.

India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is an integral component which is generally considered a key asset for rural livelihoods. It offers advantages over other agricultural sectors and is an entry point for promoting gender balance in rural areas. In India livestock production is largely in the hands of women constituting about 69 per cent of work force. Dairy occupation has been an age old practice because of its complementary nature with agriculture and vegetarian food habits of most Indians. It provides regular cash income for the rural women and dairy animals provide nutrition for the family. Easy availability of fodder from own farms make dairy a popular adjunct livelihood system.

Women's dominance was seen in activities like, processing of milk (88.80%), selling the milk (81.20%), milking (80.00%) and putting the waste in bin (67.50%). Women as managers in the kitchen prepare milk products and market milk and milk products in the neighbourhood. Women are also members of co-operative societies and so it is their duty to pour milk to the society. Men dominate in the activities like, fodder chaffing (72.50%) and fodder transportation (67.50%) as these practices require more physical work compared to other practices like watering, feeding etc. Both men and women were jointly participated in activities *viz.*, white washing of sheds (91.20%), preparation of concentrate (66.20%) and in fodder harvesting and collection (53.80%). These were the regular activities which farm women do along with house hold chores with the help of men. The findings of Badiger and Jutle (2004); Savitha (2004); Chauhan (2012); Kadu *et al.* (2013) and Doddamani (2015) lend support to the findings of the present study.

In health activities, 83.00 to 55.00 per cent of the men were involved in activities like vaccination, taking the calf for dehorning and breeding activities outside the house. Men have more experience and scientific knowledge about the improved dairy management practices as training programmes until recently have targeted man. Activities like care of sick animals and care of new born were carried out jointly. The results are in confined with the findings of Reshma Bhemappa *et al.* (2014); Batool *et al.* (2012); Sowjanya (2014) and Doddamani (2015).

In marketing activities, majority men participated in selling the skin of dead animals (78.80%) and purchasing

Gender participation & decision making pattern of farming families in dairy farming

Table 1: Participation of farming families in dairy farming activities				(n=80)
Sr. No.	Activities	Men alone	Women alone	Jointly
Regular activity				
1.	Washing the animals	10 (12.50)	40 (50.00)	30 (37.50)
2.	Cleaning the shed	1 (1.20)	44 (55.00)	35 (43.80)
3.	Putting fodder and ration	-	31 (38.80)	49 (61.20)
4.	Milking	5 (6.20)	64 (80.00)	11 (13.80)
5.	Selling the milk	6 (7.50)	65 (81.20)	9 (11.20)
6.	Keeping water	1 (1.20)	41 (51.20)	38 (47.50)
7.	Putting the waste (animal) in bin	2 (2.50)	54 (67.50)	24 (30.00)
8.	Fodder harvesting and collection	24 (30.00)	13 (16.20)	43 (53.80)
9.	Fodder transportation	54 (67.50)	6 (7.50)	20 (25.00)
10.	Fodder chaffing	58 (72.50)	1 (1.20)	21 (26.20)
11.	Preparation of concentrate	11 (13.80)	16 (20.00)	53 (66.20)
12.	Processing of milk	18 (22.50)	55 (88.80)	7 (8.80)
13.	Making dung cake	1 (1.20)	44 (55.00)	35 (43.80)
14.	White washing of sheds	6 (7.50)	1 (1.20)	73 (91.20)
Health activities				
1.	Vaccination	58 (72.50)	9 (11.20)	13 (16.20)
2.	Breeding	44 (55.00)	8 (10.00)	28 (35.00)
3.	Care of new born	11 (13.80)	20 (25.00)	49 (61.20)
4.	Care of sick animals	-	9 (11.20)	71 (88.80)
5.	Taking the calf for dehorning	67 (83.80)	-	13 (16.20)
Marketing activities				
1.	Selling the milk	4 (5.00)	63 (78.80)	13 (16.20)
2.	Purchasing the animal	57 (71.20)	1 (1.20)	22 (27.50)
3.	Selling the animals	56 (70.00)	13 (16.20)	11 (13.80)
4.	Selling the manure	39 (48.80)	1 (1.20)	40 (50.00)
5.	Selling of the skin of the deal animals	63 (78.80)	6 (7.50)	11 (13.80)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

Table 2: Decision making pattern of farming families involved in dairy farming				(n=80)
Sr. No.	Activities	Men alone	Women alone	Jointly
1.	Fodder management	27 (33.80)	9 (11.20)	44 (55.00)
2.	Purchase of fodder	47 (58.80)	3 (3.80)	30 (37.50)
3.	Feeding of animals	38 (47.50)	6 (7.50)	36 (45.00)
4.	Cattle shed management	7 (8.80)	8 (10.00)	65 (81.20)
5.	Purchase and sale of animals	6 (7.50)	6 (7.50)	68 (85.00)
6.	Breeding of animals	59 (73.80)	2 (2.50)	19 (23.80)
7.	Insurance of animals	60 (75.00)	-	20 (25.00)
8.	Obtaining bank loans	22 (87.50)	-	58 (72.50)
9.	Pre and post-natal management	3 (3.80)	-	77 (96.20)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

of animals (70.00%). As in today's trend, women do not go to the village shandies for buying and selling of animals. Most of the women involved in selling milk to the co-operatives (78.80%). The above results are in conformity with the findings of Reshma Bhemappa *et al.* (2014); Batool *et al.* (2012); Sowjanya (2014) and Doddamani (2015).

Decision making pattern of farming families involved in dairy farming:

More number of men takes decisions about insurance of animals (75.00%), breeding of animals (73.80%), purchase of fodder (58.80%) and feeding of animals (47.50%). The dominance of male in financial matters is due to hesitation of women to come out from house and speak were reason for the same. Most of the decisions like, pre and post natal management (96.20%), purchase and sale of animals (85.00%), cattle shed management (81.25%), obtaining bank loans (72.50%) and fodder management (55.00%) were taken by both men and women because women play a major role in deciding which animal to sell and which to retain (Table 2). The above mentioned findings are in consonance with findings of Sarma and Payega (2012) and Kavitha and Rajkumar (2016).

Conclusion:

It can be concluded from the study that, most of the financial decisions were taken by men and also dominate in almost all the health and marketing activities. While women dominate in regular activities like milking, processing of milk and milk products. Most of the decisions like, pre and post natal management, purchase and sale of animals, cattle shed management, obtaining bank loans and fodder management were taken by both men and women.

Authors' affiliations :

Shobha Nagnur, Department of Extension and Communication Management, College of Community Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) India

REFERENCES

- Badigar, C.** and Jutle, R. (2004). Participation of rural women in agricultural and animal husbandry activities. *Karnataka J. Agric. Sci.*, **17**(4): 893-898.
- Batool, Z.,** Warriach, H. M., Ishaq, M., Latif, S., Afzal, M., Bhatti, A., Murtaza, N., Arif, S. and Wynn, P. C. (2012). Participation of women in dairy farm practices under small holder production system in Pakistan. Proceedings of the 15th (AAAP) *Anim. Sci. Congress*, **26** (30): 1077-1080.
- Chauhan, N. M.** (2012). Contribution of the tribal farm women in livestock management. *Agric. Update*, **7** (1&2) : 5-7.
- Doddamani, M.K.** (2015). Dairy management practices adopted by farm women of self-help groups in Gadag district. M. Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka (India).
- Kadu, S. S.,** Kotikhane, R.R. and Nagawade, D. R. (2013). Empowerment of women's SHG through food processing and dairy management practices. *Indian Res. J. Extn. Edu.*, **13** (3): 52 - 54.
- Kavithaa, N. V.** and Rajkumar, V. (2016). Decision making behaviour of farm women in dairy farming activities in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. *Internat. J. Sci. Environ.*, **5** (2): 416-419.
- Reshma Bhemappa, A.,** Natikar, K. V., Biradar, N., Mundinamani, S. M. and Havaladar, Y. N. (2014). Entrepreneurial characteristics and decision making behaviour of farm women in livestock production activities. *Karnataka J. Agric. Sci.*, **27** (2):173-176.
- Sarma, J.** and Payega, S. (2012). Women dairy farmers and decision making pattern in Sonitpur district of Assam. *Indian J. Hill Fmg.*, **25** (1): 58-62.
- Savitha, S. S.** (2004). Role of rural women in animal husbandry, M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka (India).
- Sowjanya, S.** (2014). Management efficiency of dairy farm women. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka (India).

14th
Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★