



Research Article

## Training needs of rural women regarding animal husbandry

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**SUMMARY :** The present study was conducted in Anand and Borsad Talukas of Anand District. Total 100 rural women having minimum 5 years of experience in dairy farming were selected from 10 villages. The data were collected by personal interview method. Findings of the study revealed that majority of the dairy farm women have expressed their maximum training need regarding individual housing, replacement of stock at home, pregnancy diagnosis, reproductive efficiency of dairy animals, precaution against parasitic diseases, selection of varieties of fodder crops, selection of fodder crops, time and frequency of feeding, homemade livestock feed and feeding schedule of dry animals.

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**Key Words :**

Training needs, Rural women, Animal husbandry

### **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

India occupies the foremost position in the world in respect of livestock contributing nearly about one fourth of world's total bovine population. India maintained its position as largest producers of milk, with achievement of around 104 million tons during 2007-08 and its contribution to the GDP has 4.36 per cent share in 2007-08 (Anonymous 2008).

The recent advances in dairy technology have demonstrated that adoption of improved dairy farming practices has great potential for increasing the quality of milk production. It is considered as one of the important factors in economy of Gujarat state. The dairy farm women can increase production of milk by adopting improved dairy farming practices and it is not feasible unless rural women are trained in scientific dairy farming. For making training more effective, it should be based on the felt needs of trainees. The training without need based, may have a little impact on bringing desirable change in the clientele system. So, present study was planned to identify the training needs of rural women regarding animal husbandry.

### **RESOURCES AND METHODS**

The present investigation was carried out in Anand and Borsad Taluka of Gujarat. Ten milk producing villages were randomly selected from these Talukas. For this study, total 100 dairy farm women who had minimum 5 years of experience in dairy farming were selected randomly from those 10 villages *i.e.* ten dairy farm women from each village.

The training needs of the dairy farm women were availed on a three-point continuum ranging from 'Most needed' 'Needed' and 'Not needed'. The three categories were assigned with 3 score, 2 score and 1 score, respectively. The training needs were worked out for each of the major areas considering the total score for training need acquired by the respondents. On the basis of the mean score, the ranks to the major areas of training needs were assigned. The data were collected with the help of well-structured, pre-tested, Gujarati version interview schedule through personal contact and data were compiled, tabulated and analyzed to get proper answers for objectives of the study. The statistical tools used were percentages and mean score.

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## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Five major areas of animal husbandry *i.e.* breeding, feeding, fodder production, management and animal health care were identified. The results for the major areas of animal husbandry are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Training needs of rural women for major areas of animal husbandry**

Sr. No.	Areas of training needs	Mean score	Rank
1.	Management practices	2.96	I
2.	Breeding practices	2.96	I
3.	Animal health care practices	2.89	II
4.	Fodder production	2.48	III
5.	Feeding practices	2.43	IV

Table 1 reveals that the rural women perceived maximum training need in management practices and breeding practices with mean score 2.96 followed by animal health care practices (2.89), fodder production (2.48) and feeding practices (2.43).

### Training needs for management practices:

Training need is difference between performances required in proper management of dairy farm and actual performance of rural women. It is rigidly stated that improved management practice is an instrument for making dairy a better and more profitable enterprise. The data regarding training needs of rural women regarding management practices are given in Table 2.

Table 2 reveals that individual housing (mean score 2.88) was the most important areas as perceived by the rural women for training followed by replacement of stock at home (2.84), replacement of stock through purchase (2.53), raising the stock by feeding colostrum (2.39), keeping of the various records (2.38), group animal housing (2.27), cafe pan animal housing (2.21), dehorning (1.86) and castration (1.68). The results are also in accordance with the findings of Desai and Mohiaddin (1992).

### Training needs for breeding practices:

Proper adoption of breeding practices helps in maintaining quality of breed and increases in milk production is very important, hence the data regarding training needs for breeding practices are given in Table 2.

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that the major areas of training needs of rural women regarding breeding practices were pregnancy diagnosis (2.95), reproductive efficiency of dairy animals (2.68), selection of breeds (2.60), artificial insemination and rearing the calves (2.51), selection of adult animals and dairy heifers (2.49), heat detection (2.45) and breeding programmes (2.38) in ascending order.

**Table 2: Distribution of rural women according to their training needs regarding management practices (n = 100)**

Sr. No	Areas of training needs	Mean score	Rank
<b>Training needs for management practices</b>			
1.	Individual housing	2.88	I
2.	Replacement of stock at home	2.84	II
3.	Replacement of stock through purchase	2.53	III
4.	Raising the stock by feeding colostrum	2.39	IV
5.	Keeping of the various records	2.38	V
6.	Group animal housing	2.27	VI
7.	Cafe pan animal housing	2.21	VII
8.	Dehorning	1.86	VIII
9.	Castration	1.68	IX
<b>Training needs for breeding practices</b>			
1.	Pregnancy diagnosis	2.95	I
2.	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animals	2.68	II
3.	Selection of breeds	2.60	III
4.	Artificial insemination	2.51	IV
5.	Rearing the calves	2.51	IV
6.	Selection of adult animals and dairy heifers	2.49	V
7.	Heat detection	2.45	VI
8.	Breeding programmes	2.38	VII
<b>Training needs for animal health care practices</b>			
1.	Precaution against parasitic diseases	2.81	I
2.	Sterility treatment	2.76	II
3.	Vaccination schedule	2.70	III
4.	Treatment against contagious diseases	2.47	IV
5.	Control of parasites	2.35	V
6.	Treatment against common diseases	2.26	VI
<b>Training needs for fodder production</b>			
1.	Selection of varieties of fodder crops	2.81	I
2.	Selection of fodder crops	2.75	II
3.	Storage of fodder products	2.55	III
4.	Cultivation of fodder crops	2.38	IV
5.	Drying of fodder products	2.13	V
6.	Silage making	1.80	VI
<b>Training needs of rural women for feeding practices</b>			
1.	Time and frequency of feeding	2.96	I
2.	Homemade livestock feed	2.95	II
3.	Feeding schedule of dry animals	2.90	III
4.	Feeding schedule for young heifers	2.43	IV
5.	Feeding schedule for pregnant animals	2.43	IV
6.	Feeding for milch animals	2.41	V
7.	Feeding schedule for young calves	2.38	VI

**Training needs for animal health care practices:**

Proper adoption of animal health care practices keeps animals healthy and it improve quantity as well as quality of milk production and reduces expenditure on animal health. The data regarding training needs of rural women in animal health care practices are given in Table 2.

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that precaution against parasitic diseases (2.81) was the major thrust area of rural women for training in animal health care practices followed by sterility treatment (2.76), vaccination schedule (2.70), treatment against contagious diseases (2.47), control of parasites (2.35) and treatment against common diseases (2.26) as on ascending order. These findings are supported by Seetaram (1992).

**Training needs for fodder production:**

The data regarding training needs of rural women for fodder production are given in Table 2.

Table 2 indicates that, among various sub-topic, selection of varieties of fodder crops (2.81) was the major thrust area of rural women for training in fodder production followed by selection of fodder crops (2.75), storage of fodder products (2.55), cultivation of fodder crops (2.38), drying of fodder products (2.13) and silage making (1.80). Supporting findings were by Srisankari and Uma (1995).

**Training needs of rural women for feeding practices:**

Proper management of feeding helps in keeping animal healthy, saving quantity of feeds and fodder and reduce wastage of fodder. The data regarding training needs of rural women regarding fodder production are given in Table 2.

Table 2 indicates that the highest mean score for training needs as perceived by rural women were recorded for time and frequency of feeding (2.96) followed by homemade livestock feed (2.95), feeding schedule of dry animals (2.90), feeding schedule for young heifers (2.43), feeding schedule

for pregnant animals (2.43), feeding for milch animals (2.41) and feeding schedule for young calves (2.38) in ascending order. The present results are in close conformity with the findings of Desai and Mohiuddin (1992).

**Conclusion:**

Looking to main areas, rural women perceived maximum training need in management practices. As regards breeding practices, majority of the rural women preferred training in pregnancy diagnosis, reproductive efficiency of dairy animals selection of varieties of fodder crops, selection of fodder crops, storage of fodder products, individual housing replacement of stock at home, precaution against parasitic diseases, sterility treatment and vaccination schedule. The different training centres viz., National Dairy Development Board, KVKs', AMUL, SSKs, Farmer Training Centre and ATMA while finalizing training programmes should concentrate on above areas of training and should be included in the training programmes for rural women.

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