



Research Article

Socio-economic status of tribal farm women as influenced by milk cooperatives

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SUMMARY : A study was undertaken to assess the socio economic status of tribal farm women as influenced by village milk cooperatives in Valsad district of Gujarat state. Women administered primary village milk cooperatives are nucleus for multifarious activities related from milk production to its marketing and thereby very much concerned for socioeconomic development of tribal farm women in the district. The members of village milk cooperative societies with high education, large family size, higher land holding, large herd size, higher annual income, more social participation, high risk orientation and more extension contact led to higher socioeconomic status in the village society.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The agriculture, being only seasonal, the dairy industry provides off-season work, steady income and keeps the rural population employed through out the year. Livestock sector has been playing an important role in Indian economy and is an important subsector of Indian agriculture. Milk cooperatives are an integral part of the milk marketing and dairy development programme in India. Village milk cooperatives successfully supporting the socioeconomic status of farm women after the agriculture. With change in time dairy enterprise has changed from subsistence level to a commercial one. This has change the complete outlook of dairy farmers in all areas of the country. Farmers accept the dairying as a source of income and employment generation activities for all members of family. Dairy activity also utilize the leisure time of farm families through out the year. The dairy industry in Gujarat is now largely based upon three tier system under which primary village milk cooperative societies which are guided by the national cooperative dairy federation of India. The village milk cooperative societies play important role in the development of dairying in the country .In India Anand pattern

organized societies under operation flood have been implemented throughout the country.

In Gujarat state cooperative dairy movement running successfully through village milk cooperative societies structure. These village milk cooperative societies have tremendous influence on socioeconomic status of members. Members get sufficient income and generate employment for all members of family and by better marketing facilities for their produce. Keeping all these aspects in the view , the present research study was carried out with the following specific objectives

– To study the socio economic status of tribal farm women as influenced by village milk cooperatives.

– To ascertain the association between socioeconomic status and selected independent characteristics of the members.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kaporada and Pardi blocks of Valsad district of South Gujarat.

From all milk cooperatives of these two blocks, twelve milk cooperatives which are in the vicinity of Krishi Vigyan Kendra –Valsad were

KEY WORDS:

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purposely selected for the study. Ten members from each milk cooperative were selected randomly for the study. Thus the total sample of 120 members were selected for the present investigation. KVK as a technology transfer centre of ICAR aimed to disseminate latest and proven technological know how related to agriculture and animal husbandry for the economical and social upliftment of rural community. Data were collected from members of village milk cooperative societies before and after becoming members through personal interview method with help of structured interview. The scale developed by Bawajir (1984) was used for the study of the socio economic status of tribal farm women as influenced by village milk cooperatives.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The socioeconomic status of members was measured on selected criteria related to socio economic aspects on five point continuum. The scores obtained before and after being a member in village milk cooperatives were classified into three groups as mentioned in Table 1.

Data furnished in Table 1 indicated that after becoming the member of village milk cooperative society majority nearly half (49.16 %) of the members were found in high socioeconomic status. Whereas, 39.16 per cent members were found in medium socioeconomic status category and only 11.66 per cent members were found in low socioeconomic

status category. As in case of before becoming the member of village milk cooperative society majority (73.33 %) of the members were found in medium socio-economic status, whereas 17.50 per cent and 9.17 per cent members were found in low and high socioeconomic status category, respectively. The results are in line with the findings of Poonusamy and Ambasankar (2006). The calculated 'Z' value indicates that there was a significant difference in socio economic status of the farmers after becoming a member of milk cooperatives.

An attempt has been made in the present study to find out relationship between the characteristics of members with their socioeconomic status, co-efficient of correlation was applied for the study. It is visible from the data presented in Table 2 that the variables namely education (0.303), family size (0.552), land holding (0.563), herd size (0.365), annual income (0.486), social participation, (0.376) and extension contact (0.538) showed positive and significant correlation with the socioeconomic status of members of village milk cooperative society. Where as variable age (-0.141) showed negative relationship with socioeconomic status of members of village milk cooperative society. This clearly indicated that members of milk cooperative societies with high education, large family size, higher land holding, large herd size, higher annual income, more social participation, high risk orientation and more extension contact led to high socio-economic status. The findings are in line with the findings of Kale *et al.* (2011).

Table 1 : Distribution of members according to socioeconomic status (n=120)

Sr. No.	Socioeconomic status	Before membership		After membership		'Z' value
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Low	21	17.50	14	11.66	33.25**
2.	Medium	88	73.33	47	39.16	
3.	High	11	9.17	59	49.16	
	Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	
		Mean = 35.56	SD=12.86	Mean = 53.17	SD=15.82	

** indicates significance of value at P=0.01

Table 2 : Relationship between characteristics of the members with their socioeconomic status.(n=150)

Sr. No.	Variables	Coefficient correlation (r)
1.	Age	-0.141
2.	Education	0.303**
3.	Family size	0.552**
4.	Land holding	0.563**
5.	Herd size	0.365**
6.	Annual income	0.486**
7.	Social participation	0.376**
8.	Risk orientation	0.234*
9.	Extension contact	0.538**

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

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