



Research Article

## Contribution of the tribal farm women in livestock management

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**SUMMARY :** Women are the critical input in livestock management. Women's involvement in livestock production is a long standing tradition in India, where domestic animals have been an integral part of the family farming system. Although most of the work related to dairy farming is carried out by the women; their role has been ignored. Hence, the study on analysis of different roles performed by the rural women and the factors affecting them are of paramount importance to the planners, decision makers, governments and extension workers involved in the process of rural development. Keeping this fact in view, the present study has, therefore, been premeditated and undertaken in Navsari district of the South Gujarat with specific objectives. The frequency of involvement of tribal farmwomen was seen the highest in cutting and bringing a fodder followed by compost making, watering, feeding, milking to animals, cleaning of cattle shed and so on. The relationship between independent variables of the respondents and their involvement in animal husbandry was found negative for all of the independent variables except type of family. Selection of fodder and feed was dominantly decided by farmwomen followed by sale of milk and its products, whereas the decisions regarding sale and purchase of animal, selection of animal breed and keeping herd size of herd were taken jointly by family members.

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### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The census data of 2001 reflects the fact that out of the total 496 million of rural female population 23.9 per cent are workers and about 87 per cent female workers are found in Agriculture. Farm women are the backbone of the Indian agriculture and the animal husbandry enterprises are completely dependent on them. Animal husbandry is an allied activity of agriculture and thus it forms an integral part of the rural economy. It is a potential employment creating additional income to the rural poor particularly small and marginal farmers as well as agricultural labourers. Therefore, livestock enterprise has provided a strong support to Indian farmers. India is endowed with the largest livestock population in the world with 55 per cent buffaloes and 16 per cent of the cattle population. Women's involvement in livestock production is a long standing tradition in India, where domestic animals have been an integral part of the family farming system. Although most of the work related to dairy farming

is carried out by the women, their role has been ignored (Khanduri and Rukma, 2004). Hence, the study on analysis of different roles performed by the rural women and the factors affecting them are of paramount importance to the planners, decision makers, governments and extension workers involved in the process of rural development. Keeping this fact in view, the present study has therefore, been premeditated and undertaken in Navsari district of the South Gujarat with the following specific objectives. To analyze the role performed by rural Tribal women in Livestock Management enterprise, to examine the relationship with socio personal variables and the role performance of women in livestock management practices and to study the attachment of the tribal farm women in decision making related to the livestock management.

### RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present investigation was conducted in Navsari district of the Gujarat state, which is

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one of the tribal dominated tiny districts of the state. Six villages viz., Adda, Aat, Chhapra, Hansapore, Matwad and Mogar were randomly selected for the study. 20 tribal farm women were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. Thus, the total sample size was confined to 120 farm women. Data was collected by personal interview. The data was collected during the month of March 2005. Ex-Post-Facto research design was employed to analyze the data. The mean was obtained by the total number of score divided by total number of respondents. Coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between each of the independent variables and the dependent variable.

### OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation has been discussed below:

#### Contribution of the tribal farm women in livestock management:

The data presented in Table 1 regarding the involvement of tribal farm women in livestock management indicated that the highest mean score of involvement of tribal farm women was obtained in case of cutting and bringing a fodder. Other involvement of tribal farm women was seen in compost making, followed by watering and feeding to animal, milking, cleaning of cattle shed, selling of milk and milk products, bathing of animals, preparation of milk products, grazing of animals, taking animals for bull and veterinary services. Same was reported by Firdous *et al.* (2002).

**Table 1: Distribution of tribal farmwomen according to their contribution in livestock management (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Livestock management operations	Mean value	Rank
1.	Cutting and bringing a fodder	3.62	I
2.	Compost making	3.61	II
3.	Watering and feeding to animals	3.40	III
4.	Milking	3.22	IV
5.	Cleaning cattle shed	3.01	V
6.	Selling of milk and its products	2.23	VI
7.	Bathing animals	2.04	VII
8.	Preparation of milk products	1.64	VIII
9.	Grazing	1.63	IX
10.	Taking animal for bull service	1.57	X
11.	Taking the animal for veterinary service	1.48	XI

#### Relationship between dependent and independent variables:

Data presented in Table 2 reflect that age of the respondents was observed negative significant with their

involvement in livestock management. The result indicates that with increasing the age of the tribal farm women their involvement in livestock management was decreasing. Whereas the education of the farm women was negatively significant with their involvement in livestock management. It shows that educated tribal farm women had poor interest in livestock management related activities such as breeding, feeding, care and management of animal are time consuming and laborious job. Further, there was negative relationship between occupation of tribal farm women and their involvement in live stock management was observed. The same was reported by (Khanduri and Rukma, 2004). It was concluded that there was significant negative relationship between occupation and their involvement in livestock management. The 'r' value presented in Table 2 indicates that the herd size possessed by tribal farm women and their involvement in livestock management was observed negatively significant. It is suggestive that with increasing the herd size the involvement of them was decreasing in livestock management. It might be due to the fact that tribal farm women were engaged with multi dimensional activities like household, agriculture and animal husbandry. A perusal of the data presented in the same table indicated that there was negative significant relationship between land holding possessed by tribal farmwomen and involvement in animal husbandry. The results are similar with the results reported by Mrinali *et al.* (2004). It is obvious that the tribal farmwomen had big land holding was more engaged in various agricultural operations and less time avail for animal husbandry. It is concluded that the tribal farm women having big land holding was less involved in livestock management. There was negative significant relationship of family size with the participation of

**Table 2: Relationship between independent variable of the respondents and their contribution in livestock management (n=120)**

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
1.	Personal variables	
	Age	-0.8888*
	Education	-0.8411*
2.	Economical variable	
	Occupation	-0.3014*
	Herd size	-0.9464*
	Land holding	-0.8881*
3.	Social variables	
	Family size	-0.9322*
	Type of family	+0.8646*
	Number of children	-0.8036*
	Age of marriage	-0.8709*

\* indicates significance of value at P=0.05

**Table 3: Tribal farmwomen's contribution in the process of decision making for livestock management (n=120)**

Animal husbandry	Only self		Husband		Along with family (Joint decision)		Not related	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Selection of animal breed	07	5.83	29	24.17	72	60.00	12	10.00
Selection of fodder and feed	98	81.67	04	3.33	06	5.00	12	10.00
Sale and purchase of animals	13	10.83	15	12.50	78	65.00	14	11.60
Sale of milk and its products	63	52.50	08	6.67	18	15.00	31	25.8
Keeping size of herd	42	35.00	15	12.50	48	40.00	15	12.5

tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry. It was seen that the tribal farmwomen with large size were more engaged in household activities and they devoted less time in livestock management. A cursory look at the data in Table 2 show that there was positive significant relationship between type of family of tribal farmwomen and their participation in animal husbandry. It means that the less involvement of tribal farm women in animal husbandry was seen higher in case of joint family and less in case of nuclear family. Results revealed that there was negative significant relationship between the number of children and the involvement of tribal farm women in animal husbandry. The same was reported by (Khanduri and Rukma, 2004). Results revealed that the tribal farm women with less number of children, spared more time for livestock management. There was negative significant relationship between age at marriage and involvement in animal husbandry. It means the tribal farmwomen got married at early had more involvement in livestock management compared to tribal farmwomen got married at old age.

#### **Farmwomen's contribution in the process of decision making for livestock management:**

Data collected from the respondents regarding their involvement in decision making for animal husbandry are presented in Table 3. The results indicate that the selection of fodder and feed was dominantly decided by tribal farmwomen (81.67 per cent) followed by sale of milk and milk products (52.50 per cent). The decision regarding sale and purchase of animal (65.00 per cent), selection of animal breed (60.00 per cent) and keeping size of herd (40.44 per cent) were taken jointly by family members. The results are in the line of results

reported by Beck and Swanson (2003).

#### **Conclusion:**

The frequency of involvement of tribal farmwomen was seen the highest in cutting and bringing a fodder followed by compost making, watering, feeding, milking to animals, cleaning of cattle shed and so on. The relationship between independent variables of the respondents and their involvement in animal husbandry was found negative for all of the independent variables except type of family. Selection of fodder and feed was dominantly decided by farmwomen followed by sale of milk and its products, whereas the decisions regarding sale and purchase of animal, selection of animal breed and keeping herd size of herd were taken jointly by family members.

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