

## INVOLVEMENT OF TRIBAL DAIRY WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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### ABSTRACT

*The control of disease is important in animal husbandry practices. Resistance to disease improves animal welfare, makes livestock farming more efficient in terms of profit and quality food also helps to protect the people from zoonotic diseases too. However, the animal health has not received due attention in tribal areas that it deserves. In tribal areas, women play crucial and significant role in livestock rearing. Related data were collected with the help of personal interview technique from 100 samples from Dahod district of Gujarat. The study revealed that majority of the tribal dairy women actively involved in health care management practices of animal husbandry i.e. care of sick animal with mean score 2.42, care of new born calf (2.39), colostrums feeding to new born calf (2.37), care of pregnant animals (2.31) and weaning & management of Calf (2.32).*

**Keywords:** tribal dairy women, participation, animal husbandry, health care and management

### INTRODUCTION

Health is a major constraint to livestock production and development in rural and peri-urban communities where the half of the world's livestock population is found. Most of the communities in marginal areas affected with endemic pathogens, vectors and disease. According to Government of India report (GOI, 2005), only 5.1 per cent of farmers had access to modern livestock technologies against 40 per cent in agriculture. To accrue profit from animal husbandry and dairying efficient management is of utmost importance. Management is an art of judiciously using all the factors of production. Efficient management reduces the cost of production thereby increasing the profitability. In dairying the milk production not only depends on the best breeds but also on animal health and housing management.

Many research studies have indicated that responsibilities of dairy are almost completely shouldered by women. Women are generally responsible for the feeding, grazing, fodder collection, milking, processing, dung management, while men who manage the finances generally sale of milk and milk products (Sethi, 2010). Keeping this in view the study was carried out to know the involvement of tribal dairy women in health care management practices in animal husbandry.

### OBJECTIVE

To know the involvement of tribal dairy women in health care management practices of animal husbandry

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was purposively conducted in operational area of Pashu Vigyan Kendra, Limkheda Anand Agricultural university of Dahod district of Gujarat state. Multistage random sampling technique was used for the study. Total of 100 tribal dairy women were selected, two villages from each five taluks and ten respondents each from 10 villages were randomly selected for the study. The tribal respondents having at least one milch animal were selected for the study. The data were collected with the help of structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Data collected were analyzed statistically using frequency and percentage. The data included information about the existing animal health care and management practices followed by the tribal dairy farmers.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Participation of tribal dairy women in management practices

The major activity where women participated

**Table 1: Distribution of the dairy women according to their participation in management practices**

n=100

Sr. No.	Management Practices	Fully participated	Participated	Not at all	Total score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Cleaning of animal shed	41 (41.00)	41 (41.00)	18 (18.00)	223	2.23	V
2	Disposal of dung	35 (35.00)	32 (32.00)	33 (33.00)	202	2.02	VI
3	Preparing cow dung cake	05 (5.00)	39 (39.00)	56 (56.00)	149	1.49	IX
4	Washing & Grooming of animals	40 (40.00)	48 (48.00)	12 (12.00)	228	2.28	IV
5	Cleaning of Utensils	08 (8.00)	36 (36.00)	56 (56.00)	152	1.52	VIII
6	Milking	18 (18.00)	28 (28.00)	54 (54.00)	164	1.64	VII
7	Care of new born calf	47 (47.00)	45 (45.00)	08 (8.00)	239	2.39	I
8	Colostrum feeding to new born calf	48 (48.00)	41 (41.00)	11 (11.00)	237	2.37	II
9	Weaning & management of Calf	47 (47.00)	38 (38.00)	15 (15.00)	232	2.32	III
10	Maintaining of farm & Dairy records	1 (1.00)	18 (18.00)	81 (81.00)	120	1.20	XI
11	Culling of uneconomic animals	12 (12.00)	20 (20.00)	68 (68.00)	144	1.44	X

**Note :** Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

actively was management of livestock. The data in Table-1, pertaining to participation for cleaning of animal shed reveal that equally percentage (41.00 per cent) of dairy women fell under 'fully participated' as well as 'participated' group and 18.00 per cent of them fell under 'not participated at all' group.

Data in Table 1, regarding participation of dairy women for disposal of dung revealed that 35.00 per cent of the them were categorized under 'fully participated' group followed by 33.00 per cent and 32 per cent with 'not participated' and 'participated' group, respectively. Cow dung cake preparations were also one of the dairy farming practices studied. This activity was specially done for the fuel purpose. Here in this activity, only 5.00 per cent of dairy women were participated fully while, more than 50.00 per cent women could not participate and 39.00 per cent women were only participated at all.

As far as washing and grooming of animals is concerned, nearly half (48.00 per cent) of the dairy women fell under 'participated' category followed by "fully participated" and "not participated".

Data in Table1, regarding participation of dairy

women in cleaning of utensils revealed that majority (56.00 per cent) of the dairy women were found in the category 'not participated' and remaining 36.00 per cent were participated and only 8.00 per cent were fully participated in cleaning of utensils of animals. Similarly Rathod et al. (2011) observed the respondents majorly participated in milking of animals followed by their involvement in cleaning of milking utensils.

With regard to milking activity, it was observed that 47.00 per cent of tribal dairy women had fully participated, whereas 46.00 per cent with 'participated' and 7.00 per cent with 'no participated' group.

Dairy women are also taking good care of their new born calf. 47.00 per cent and 45 per cent of dairy women were found having 'fully participation' and participation in this activity, respectively. Only 8.00 per cent women had no participation in caretaking of new born calf.

It could be seen from the data presented in Table-1 that 48.00 per cent tribal farm women were found fully participated in colostrum feeding to new born calf followed by 41.00 per cent with participation and 11.00 per cent with no participation in colostrum feeding to new born calf.

From data in Table-1, it can be observed that 47.00 per cent of the dairy women were fully participated in the activity of weaning and management of calf, while 38.00 per cent and 15.00 per cent of them felt under ‘participated’ and ‘not participated’, respectively. In case of maintaining of farm and dairy records, vast majority (81.00 per cent) of the dairy women were not participated at all. With regards to culling of uneconomical animals, it was found that 68.00 per cent dairy women were not participated, whereas 20.00 per cent participated and only 12.00 per cent were fully participated.

Overall observation on participation of dairy women in animal husbandry practices related management activities show that care of new born calf with mean score 2.39 ranked first followed bycolo strums g to new born calf (2.37), weaning & management of Calf (2.32), washing &grooming of animals (2.28), cleaning of animal shed (2.23), disposal of dung (2.02), mlking (1.64), cleaning of Utensils (1.52), preparing cow dung cake (1.49), culling of uneconomic animals (1.44) and maintaining of farm & dairy records (1.44) with rank II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI respectively.

**Table 2: Distribution of the dairy women according to their item wise participation in health care management practices**

n=100

Sr. No.	Health care management Practices	Fully participated	Participated	Not at all	Total score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Taking animal for Vaccination	33 (33.00)	37 (37.00)	30 (30.00)	203	2.03	V
2	Deworming	05 (5.00)	31 (31.00)	64 (64.00)	141	1.41	VII
3	Care of sick animal	52 (52.00)	39 (39.00)	9 (9.00)	243	2.43	I
4	Taking animal for treatment	38 (38.00)	39 (39.00)	23 (23.00)	215	2.15	IV
5	Purchase of vet. Medicine	04 (4.00)	34 (34.00)	62 (62.00)	142	1.42	VI
6	Disposal of carcass	04 (4.00)	17 (17.00)	79 (79.00)	125	1.25	VIII
7	Care of new born	43 (43.00)	41 (41.00)	16 (16.00)	227	2.27	III
8	Care of pregnant animals	44 (44.00)	43 (43.00)	13 (13.00)	231	2.31	II

Note : Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

The data presented in Table 2, shows that 37.00 per cent of the dairy women fall under ‘participated’ category for taking animal for vaccination, while 33.00 per cent with fully participated group and 30.00 per cent with not participation.

The work of cleaning of animal shed, grooming of animals were performed by women which is in accordance with the findings of Puri (1971) and Rathod et al. (2011) who revealed that preparation of feed, grazing and washing of animals were mostly carried out by women.

**Participation of tribal dairy women in health care management practices**

Disease free and good health condition of dairy animal is prerequisite to the better animal productivity. Knowledge of commonly occurring animal diseases and preventive measures is of more significance for better productivity and profitability of dairy animals.

The women in their late middle and old age actively participated in health care as they had learnt the things by seeing and out of experience. Most of the respondents interviewed were of the view that they require lot of training and knowledge with regard to the health care aspects. These results are in confirmation with the results of Adhikari (1987) and Bhurtel (1996).

From data in Table 2, it can be observed that that majority of the dairy not participated in the activities of disposal of carcass, deworming and in purchasing of vet. Medicine and participated in care of pregnant animals and

new born.

Rathod et al. (2011) reported in his study that 91.66 per cent rural women were engaged in health care of pregnant animals followed by 89.16 per cent respondents looked after new born or young calves and care of sick animals (86.66%).

Item wise participation related to health care hierarchy, Care of sick animal rank first with mean score 2.43 followed by care of pregnant animals (2.31), care of new born (2.27), taking animal for treatment (2.15), taking animal for vaccination (2.03), purchase of vet. medicine (1.42), deworming (1.41) and disposal of carcass (1.25) with rank II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII, respectively.

The findings are in conformity with the findings of Rangnekar et al. (1992) and similar findings were also reported by Tripathi and Bhanja (2000) and Toppo et al. (2004).

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the above study that participation of dairy women in related to management activities, it was found that majority of dairy women were participated care of new born calf, weaning & management of Calf, washing & grooming of animals, cleaning of animal shed and disposal of dung were major areas of training. Looking to the various aspects of health care hierarchy, care of sick animal, care of pregnant animals, care of new born, taking animal for treatment and taking animal for vaccination were area where dairy women actively participated.

As dairy women were participated in dairy and animal husbandry enterprise, the extension functionary may organize specialized training programmes especially for tribal dairy women in the area of health care management practices. Various research and extension agencies have to collaborate and create effective region based strategies to involve tribal dairy women in general and health care management technologies. Further, Tribal dairy women should establish a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship with a licensed veterinarian to assist them in providing proper health care to

their herd.

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