

PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL FARM WOMEN IN DAIRY AND POULTRY FARMING

R.R.Prajapati¹, K.A.Thakkar² and M.R.Prajapati³

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in the tribal areas of Banaskantha district of the Gujarat state with a random sample of 200 tribal farm women. The participation of tribal farm women in each of the identified practices of animal husbandry was measured using three point continuum viz., full participation, moderate participation and no participation. In case of dairy farming related activities the farm women were found involving themselves in the activities viz., feeding animal (2.76 MS), milking (2.76 MS), watering animals (2.60 MS) and under poultry farming, keeping eggs for hatching (2.04 MS), rearing cocks for meat (2.12 MS) and rearing layers for eggs (1.16 MS) were the important activities in which maximum tribal farm women have participated.

INTRODUCTION

Women are the pillars on which the family unit stands but in reality tribal women present a picture of object poverty and exploitation both inside and outside the home. Traditionally, tribal women's roles are confined to household chores and farming activities, which in general engage them for longer hours than men each day. The tribal women have a lot of potential for the development but they are unable to identify their own strength. They can become a great resource in the development process if they are properly organized and mobilized to make them self-reliant by encouraging them to participate not only in household activities but in agricultural activities also. Women's participation is noticed in production, processing and generating household income in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry and minor forest products. Keeping this in view, an attempt is to be made systematically to study "Participation of Tribal Farm Women In Dairy Farming and Poultry Farming Related Activities" was under taken.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the tribal areas of Banaskantha district of the Gujarat state. Tribal dominated 2 talukas viz., Danta and Amirgadh covered under tribal sub-plan were purposively selected for the study. For selection of villages and respondents, multi-stage purposive sampling technique was employed. Total 20 tribal dominated villages, 10 from each taluka were selected. Tribal farm women from each village were selected using proportionate random sampling technique making a sample of 200 tribal farm women as respondents.

The participation of tribal farm women in each identified practice of dairy farming and poultry farming was measured on three point continuum viz., full participation, moderate participation and no participation with a score of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. For clear understanding of participation in each of the selected activities and to find overall participation, mean score for each practice and overall mean score covering all the practices were calculated.

1 Assistant professor, Directorate of Extension Education, S.D. Agriculture University, Sardarkrushinagar. e-mail: rrprajapati.sdau@gmail.com

2 Professor & Head, Department of Extension Education, Directorate of Extension Education, S.D. Agriculture University, Sardarkrushinagar

3 Professor, Department of Extension Education, Directorate of Extension Education, S.D. Agriculture University, Sardarkrushinagar

The data were collected by personal interview with the help of a well structured and pre-tested interview scheduled.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Animal husbandry related activities in the tribal area are generally performed by women. The assessment of participation of tribal farm women

with regard to different activities related to dairy farming was categorised in various aspects (i) feeding animal (ii) watering animal (iii) caretaking of animals (iv) grazing (v) milking (vi) curd making (vii) ghee making (viii) marketing of milk / curd / ghee and (ix) cowdung cake preparation. The findings on this aspect are depicted in Table 1.

Table 1: Participation of tribal farm women in dairy farming related activities

n = 200

Sr. No.	Activities	Participation			Mean score	Rank
		Full	Mode-rate	No		
1	Feeding animals	168 (84.00)	16 (08.00)	16 (08.00)	2.76	1.5
2	Watering animals	144 (72.00)	32 (16.00)	24 (12.00)	2.60	III
3	Caretaking of animals	104 (52.00)	72 (36.00)	14 (12.00)	2.40	IV
4	Grazing	00 (0.00)	40 (20.00)	160 (80.00)	1.20	VIII
5	Milking	176 (88.00)	00 (0.00)	24 (12.00)	2.76	1.5
6	Curd making	64 (32.00)	00 (0.00)	136 (68.00)	1.64	VI
7	Ghee making	40 (20.00)	08 (04.00)	152 (76.00)	1.44	VII
8	Marketing of milk / curd / ghee	24 (12.00)	152 (76.00)	24 (12.00)	2.00	V
9	Cowdung cake preparation	16 (08.00)	00 (0.00)	184 (92.00)	1.16	IX
Overall mean score					1.99	

Note: The figure in brackets indicates percentage.

With regards to feeding animals, it was found that 84.00 per cent tribal farm women participated fully and only 8.00 per cent participated moderately. Remaining 8.00 per cent women were found having no participation.

In the activity of watering animals, the full participation was observed among 72.00

per cent tribal farm women while, 16.00 per cent tribal farm women were found having moderate participation. Remaining 12.00 per cent women could not participated in watering animals.

Tribal farm women are also taking good care of their animals. Little more than half (52.00 %) and

about one-third (36.00 %) tribal farm women were found having full participation and moderate participation in this activity, respectively. Only 12.00 per cent women had no participation in caretaking of animals.

In grazing animals activity, only 20.00 per cent of tribal farm women were found moderately engaged. While, remaining 80.00 per cent women could not participated at all.

With regards to milking, it was observed that 88.00 per cent tribal farm women had full participation while, none had moderate participation. Remaining 12.00 per cent women were found having no participation.

Curd making is an activity done for home purpose. In this activity, nearly one-third (32.00 %) of the tribal farm women were observed under full participation category. While, nearly two-thirds (68.00 %) women could not participated.

In case of *ghee* making, only 20.00 per cent of the tribal farm women have involved themselves under full participation category, whereas, negligible *i.e.* 4.00 per cent tribal farm women have participated moderately in this activity. No participation was observed among remaining 76.00 per cent tribal farm women.

Marketing of milk / curd / *ghee* was also done by tribal farm women. The participation was 12.00 and 76.00 per cent under full participation and moderate participation category, respectively. While, only 12.00 per cent tribal farm women were found under the category of no participation

Cowdung cake preparation was also one of the dairy farming practices studied. This activity was specifically done for fuel purpose. Here in this activity, only 8.00 per cent of tribal farm women were participated fully while,

remaining 92.00 per cent women could not participated at all.

Overall observation on participation of tribal farm women in dairy farming related activities show that among the various sub-items of dairy farming related activities, feeding animals and milking were the most important areas having 2.76 mean score each. Hence, both were ranked 1.5. These two activities are important for milk production and require special care hence, were found carried out by women with full interest. Further better performance of both the activities generally gives high economic return. The third rank was assigned to the sub-area of watering animals with a mean score of 2.60. The fourth and fifth ranked items were; caretaking of animals (2.40 mean score) and marketing of milk / curd / *ghee* (2.00 mean score), respectively. The practices having poor participation of women (mean score less than overall mean score) were; curd making (1.64 mean score), *ghee* making (1.44 mean score), grazing (1.20 mean score) and cowdung cake preparation (1.16 mean score).

Thus, the farm women were found involving themselves in the dairy farming related activities in one way or other. Women by nature have good qualities viz., motherhood and affection hence they took good care not only for economic benefit but also rear the animals as their family members.

The involvement of women in dairy farming related activities was also reported by Hossain and Mishra (2002) and Sharma and Khandelwal (2002).

Under poultry farming, the tribal farm women were found participating in the activities like (i) keeping eggs for hatching (ii) rearing cocks for meat and (iii) rearing layers for eggs. The data regarding this were gathered and presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Participation of tribal farm women in poultry farming related activities

n = 200

Sr. No.	Activities	Participation			Mean score	Rank
		Full	Moderate	No		
1	Rearing layers for eggs	96 (48.00)	16 (08.00)	88 (44.00)	2.04	II
2	Rearing cocks for meet	112 (56.00)	00 (0.00)	88 (44.00)	2.12	I
3	Keeping eggs for hatching	16 (08.00)	00 (0.00)	184 (92.00)	1.16	III
Overall mean score					1.77	

Note: The figure in brackets indicates percentage.

It could be seen from the data presented in Table 2 that 48.00 per cent tribal farm women were found fully participated in rearing layers for eggs and only 8.00 per cent participated moderately. Remaining 44.00 per cent women could not participated at all.

With regards to rearing cocks for meet, it was observed that 56.00 per cent tribal farm women had full participation while, none had moderate participation. Remaining 44.00 per cent women were found having no participation.

Keeping eggs for hatching was the activity in which few tribal farm women were participated. Here in this activity, only 8.00 per cent of tribal farm women were participated fully. While, no participation was observed among 92.00 per cent tribal farm women.

The results on overall participation of tribal farm women clearly indicate that among the various activities of poultry farming, rearing cocks for meet was assigned first rank with a mean score of 2.12, followed by rearing layers for eggs with a mean score of 2.04. The participation in the activity of keeping eggs for hatching was poor (1.16 mean score) and hence was ranked third. The overall mean score of participation of tribal farm women in poultry farming was 1.77.

It can be thus concluded that maximum tribal farm women were participated in rearing cocks. This clearly indicate the sense of income generation

by tribal farm women through poultry farming. Further, the tribal mostly use cocks for the purpose to serve the special food to the guests and cocks are generally gives premier price resulting into high economic return.

Further it was observed that there was no systematic poultry farming, generally they kept poultry birds as a traditional activity to generate some income.

The women's participation in poultry farming related activities was also reported by Hossain and Mishra (2002).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the aforesaid discussion that 'Feeding animals' and 'Milking' in case of dairy farming related IRM activities and 'Rearing cocks for meet' and 'Rearing layers for eggs' in case of poultry farming related IRM activities were the important activities in which maximum tribal farm women have participated.

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