

Rural Women's Knowledge About Animal Husbandry Practices

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Since long the dairy farming remained as inseparable complementary enterprises to our Indian Agriculture. Though India is having the second largest cattle population in the world, Indian population did not get sufficient quantity of milk. So, there is a need to increase the milk production to fulfil the nutritional level requirements of individuals. This can be achieved by adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. Therefore, the best information about animal husbandry among cattle owners and art of management of dairy Cattle are more essential today than at any time in the past. The present study entitled, "Rural women's knowledge about animal Husbandry Practices" is aimed at to measure the knowledge of rural women about animal husbandry practices.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the personal and Socio economic characteristics of rural women.
- (2) To measure the knowledge level of rural women about animal husbandry practices.
- (3) To ascertain the relationship between the personal and

socioeconomic characteristics of rural women and their knowledge about animal husbandry practices.

METHODOLOGY

present study was conducted in Banaskantha district. Out of the eleven talukas of the district, Palanpur taluka was selected purposively, as the 'Banas dairy' is situated in the taluka. Secondly, the taluka is adjacent to the University Campus. Five villages were selected from the taluka. Using proportionate random sampling technique, 120 women having animal husbandry either as main or subsidiary occupation were selected at random from all the villages.

A knowledge battery consisting of 32 objective questions was prepared. The selected women were asked to answer each question. A score of one was assigned to 'Correct' answer. For incorrect answer, score assigned was zero.

Respondents were interviewed personally. Frequency, percentage and correlation of co-efficient were applied in order to draw the conclusions.

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FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**1 Personal and Socio-economic characteristics of rural women**

It can be seen from Table 1 that a little more than half (52.50 per cent) of the respondents were middle aged, whereas, 29.17 per cent and 18.33 per cent of the women belonged to young and old age group respectively. Table further show that 55.00 per cent women were illiterate,

and 20.00 per cent were educated upto primary level. It is sad to note that only 7.50 per cent women passed the S.S.C. examination. H.S.C. education was found only among three respondents. Data regarding family education indicated that 70.00 per cent families were in the medium category. Only 7.50 per cent families were found to be highly educated.

It was further observed that 65.00

Table 1 : Personal and socio-economic characteristics of respondents. (N=120)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (Upto 30yrs.)	35	29.17
		Adult (31-45 yas.)	63	52.50
		Old(Above 45 yrs.)	22	18.33
2.	Education	Illiterate	66	55.00
		Primary	24	20.00
		Middle	18	15.00
		S. S. C.	09	7.50
		H. S. C.	03	2.50
3.	Family education	Low (Upto 2)	27	22.50
		Medium (3-10)	84	70.00
		High (Above 10)	09	7.50
4.	Family type	Nuclear	78	65.00
		Joint	42	35.00
5.	Family size	Small (Upto 4)	24	20.00
		Medium (5-8)	87	72.50
		Large(Above 8)	09	7.50
6.	Land holding	Landless	08	6.67
		Small (Upto hec.)	42	35.00
		Medium (1 hec.-2.5 hec)	50	41.67
		Large (Above 2.5 hec.)	20	16.66
7.	No of milch Animal	Only one milch animal	36	30.00
		Two to four milch animals.	72	60.00
		Above four milch animals.	12	10.00
8.	Family Income (Annual)	Low (Upto Rs 7000)	21	17.50
		Medium(Rs.7001-21000)	78	65.00
		High ((Above Rs. 21000)	21	17.50

per cent women belonged to nuclear family. As a result their family size was medium (72.50 per cent).

Looking to landholding, table reveal that 35.00 per cent families were cultivating small holding, while 41.67 per cent families were found cultivating medium holding. Eight landless families were solely dependent on animal husbandry.

With regard to the milch animal reared by respondents, Table reveal that 60 per cent respondents had two to four milch animal. On other hand, 30 per cent respondents had

only one milch animal. Income from both the sources (farming and dairying) was found to be medium among 65.00 per cent families. Higher income was observed only among 17.50 per cent families.

2 Knowledge level of rural women.

As Discussed earlier, the theoretical knowledge score one can secured was ranging from zero to 32. However minimum knowledge score was 12 and maximum score was 28. Respondent, on the basis of their knowledge about animal husbandry practices were grouped into three categories. The results are depicted in Table. 2.

Table 2 : Knowledge level of rural women about animal husbandry parctices. (N=120)

Sr. No.	Knowledge level	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Low (12 to 17 score)	26	21.67
2.	Medium (18 to 23 score)	72	60.00
3.	High (24 to 28 score)	22	18.33

Table 3 : Relationship between selected characteristics of the rural women and their knowledge about animal husbandry practices. (N=120)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Co-efficient of Correlation 'r'
1.	Age	-0.048
2.	Education	0.496**
3.	Family education	0.198*
4.	Family Type	0.103
5.	Family Size	0.067
6.	Land holding	0.232*
7.	No. of milch animals	0.347**
8.	Annual income	0.501**

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

Table 2 visualise that 60.00 per cent women were found to have medium level of knowledge about animal husbandry practices. Nearly 22 per cent women were found to possess low knowledge. Remaining 18 per cent women observed having high knowledge about animal husbandry practices.

3. Relational Analysis.

Results regarding relationship between selected characteristics of the women and their knowledge about animal husbandry practices are depicted in Table 3.

It could be observed from Table 3 that the characteristics namely, education, no. of milch animals and annual income were found establishing significant and positive relationship with the knowledge level of rural women about animal husbandry practices at 0.01 level of significance. The relationship of

the characteristics viz, Family education and landholding with knowledge level was also positive and significant but at 0.05 level of significance. On the other hand, family type and family size has failed to establish significant relationship with rural women's knowledge about animal husbandry practices.

IMPLICATIONS

Animal husbandry as an occupation is the responsibility of the women. Care of animals, their feeding, milching etc. are being performed by the women. But, it is unfortunate to note that only 18 per cent women were found having higher knowledge about animal husbandry practices. It is for the extension agencies, dairy Co-operatives and training institutes to focus their attention towards this fact and concentrate their extension/ training efforts in updating the rural women's knowledge about animal husbandry practices.

**The true source of rights is duty. It wev all
discharge our duties, rights will not be far
to seek**

- GANDHI