

RESEARCH NOTE

Impact of Dairy Co-operative on Knowledge and Adoption of Milk Producers

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INTRODUCTION

Establishment of an institution influences the people associated with it. In case of milk co-operatives, this influence can be in terms of change of knowledge and adoption of improved animal husbandry practices. Sabar Dairy has been established in the year 1964 on co-operative basis in Sabarkantha District. It was felt necessary to know as to what extent the functioning of Sabar Dairy has helped the farmers to increase the knowledge and how far it helped the farmers to adopt improved animal husbandry practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Sabarkanta district of Gujarat State which was selected purposively. Population for the study consisted of two categories of the respondents i.e. milk producers of

dairy villages and control villages. Six dairy villages and six control villages were selected randomly for better comparison from different talukas. These talukas were selected by systematic sampling method. Fifteen milk producers were selected randomly from each of six selected dairy and control villages. Thus, the sample for this study was 180. The data were statistically analysed with the help of frequencies, percentages and 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of knowledge regarding Improved Animal Husbandry practices :

Distribution of respondents according to their level of knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices has been shown in Table 1.

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that,

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their level of knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices.

Level of knowledge	Milk producers			
	Dairy villages		Control villages	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Low (0 to 33 score)	0	0.00	35	38.89
Medium (34 to 66 score)	78	86.67	53	58.89
High (67 to 100 score)	12	13.33	2	2.22
Total	90	100.00	90	100.00

N = 180

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Table 2. Comparison between milk producers of dairy and control villages in respect of their knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices.

Milk producers	Number	Mean score	Sampling variance (s^2)	't' value
Dairy villages	90	14.38	10.80	10.79**
Control villages	90	8.66	14.20	

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

majority (86.67 per cent) of the respondents belonged to Dairy villages were found in higher level of knowledge whereas majority (58.89 per cent) of the respondents belonged to control villages were found in medium level of knowledge.

The 't' test was applied to know whether there was any significant difference in knowledge between milk producers of dairy and control villages regarding improved animal husbandry practices. The findings are presented in Table 2.

It is evident from table 2 that, there is a significant difference in knowledge regarding improved animal husbandry practices between milk producers of dairy and control villages. This finding was in support of the finding reported by Rao and Sohal (1976).

Level of adoption of Improved animal husbandry practices :

The difference between milk

producers of dairy and control villages with respect to adoption was calculated by mean score and the significant difference was statistically tested by using 't' test, the results of which are presented in Table 3.

As evident from Table 3, 't' value was found to be significant at 0.01 level of probability, indicating thereby that the milk producers of dairy villages had significantly higher adoption of improved animal husbandry practices than the milk producers of control villages. This finding was in support of the finding reported by Balasubhramaniyam and Knight (1982).

CONCLUSION

The conclusion emerging from this study is that, the milk producers of dairy villages had higher knowledge and adoption regarding improved animal husbandry practices as compared to milk producers of control villages.

Table 3. Comparison between milk producers of dairy and control villages in respect of their adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Milk producers	Number	Mean score	Sampling variance (s^2)	't' value
Dairy villages	90	30.11	19.50	15.76**
Control villages	90	20.18	16.70	

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.