

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF DAIRY DEMONSTRATION FARMERS IN ANAND DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted in Anand district of Gujarat with the objectives to study personal, socio-economic status of dairy animal owners, existing dairy husbandry practices, and economics of dairy farming on dairy demonstration farms. Respondents (dairy farm owner) were interviewed and the desired information was collected in the questionnaire (schedule). All DDF were managed by male majority of them were from middle age group (66 per cent) and belonging to general category (83.3 percent) and 83.3 per cent having joint family of large size (more than 4 members) with average family size of 6.33 members. All farmers having some land holding, 41.7 per cent farmers were having large land holding with an average land holding of DDF is 3.54 acres.*

**Keywords :** socio-economic status, dairy demonstration farmers

### INTRODUCTION

In the face of economic liberalization the sustenance of rural livelihood is currently at stake than ever before. Livelihood options are shrinking in rural areas in general and more so in eco-fragile regions, such as drought, desert prone, hilly areas and other under developed / backward districts. Rapidly growing markets for livestock products in general and dairy products in particular (owing to rise in per capita income) are opening new avenues for enhancing rural incomes. Dairy farming plays significant role in sustaining the rural livelihood. Livestock sector provides employment to 18 million people and nearly 70 per cent of them are women (Naidu, 2004). The dairy sector supports around 10 million members / farmers through one lakh cooperative societies existing in the country.

Gujarat is an important state in milk production and marketing in India on co-operative dairy system. Amul dairy had established about 176 Dairy Demonstration Farms (DDF) spread over 8 talukas covering 62 villages. These DDFs serve as production hubs for Amul dairy producing 43587 lit of milk per day. Socio-economic characteristics affect the behavioural pattern, level of enterprise, adoption level of improved dairy husbandry practices and management capability of the dairy animal owners in some way or other.

### OBJECTIVE

To know the socio-economic status of dairy demonstration farmers in Anand district

### METHODOLOGY

Twelve dairy farms having more than or equal to 25 dairy cows and completed minimum one year of operation were included in study. Respondents (dairy farm owner) were interviewed and the desired information was collected in the questionnaire (schedule). A questionnaire had been designed to study the socio-economic status of dairy demonstration farm owners, various management practices under which dairy animal are reared. The collected data was tabulated and subjected to statistical methods to draw meaningful inferences.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All dairy demonstration farms were managed by male. The age of DDF owner was ranging from 28 years to 56 years. The average year of DDF owner was about 44 years. Perusal of the data revealed that majority (66.7 per cent) dairy farmers were from middle age group followed by old (25 per cent) and young (8.0 per cent) age group. Similar findings were reported by Singh and Sastry (2002), Ray *et al.*, (2004), Gangil and Dabas (2005), Gill and Saini (2008), and Divekar and Saiyed (2009) that maximum number of respondents were belong to middle age group. There were variations in the findings. This might be due to the scale used to classify the respondents into different age groups and overall demographic structure of the regions.

**Table 1: Farm wise socio- economic status of Dairy Demonstration Farmers**

**n=12**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Farm 1	Farm 2	Farm 3	Farm 4	Farm 5	Farm 6	Farm 7	Farm 8	Farm 9	Farm 10	Farm 11	Farm 12
1	Age (year)	42	48	40	52	38	45	56	44	51	28	38	35
2	Education	Graduate	10 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Graduate	12 <sup>th</sup>	Graduate	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Graduate
3	Caste	General	General	General	General	General	General	General	General	OBC	OBC	General	General
4	Family Size	07	04	05	08	07	05	07	04	08	06	08	07
5	Family Type	Joint type	Nuclear	Joint type	Joint type	Joint type	Joint type	Joint type	Nuclear	Joint type	Joint type	Joint type	Joint type
6	Land Holding	3.5 acres	1acres	1.20 acres	2.2 acres	12 acres	5.3 acres	1.2 acres	4.3 acres	2.5 acres	2.2 acres	1.3 acres	5.8 acres
7	Vocational Diversification	Agri. + Dairy+ service	Agri. + Dairy	Dairy+ service	Agri.+ dairy	Agri. + Dairy	Agri. + Dairy+ service	Agri. + Dairy	Agri. + Dairy	Agri. + Dairy	Agri. + Dairy	Dairy + service	Agri. + Dairy+ service

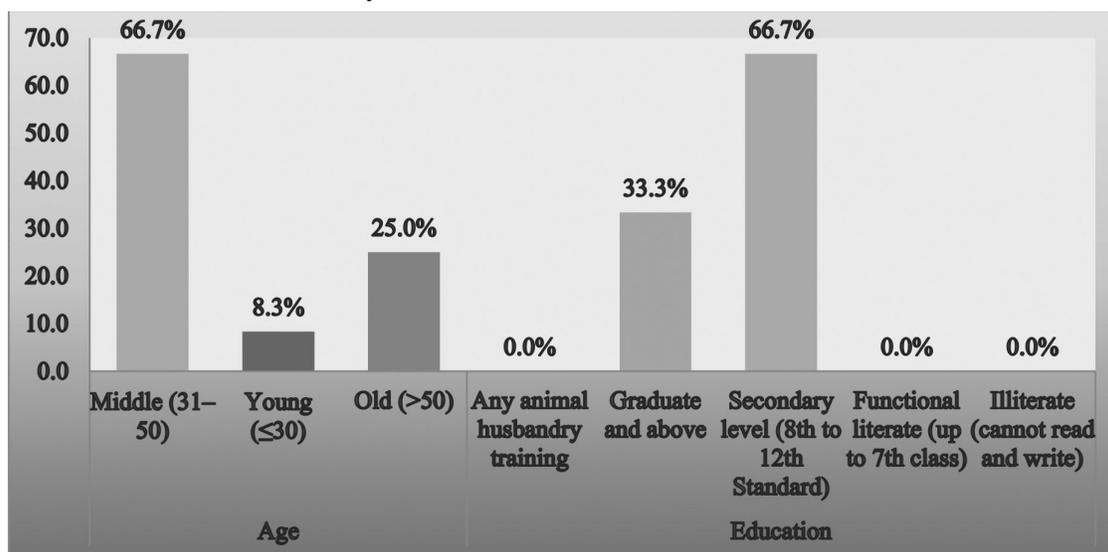
Most of DDF owner had education up to 12<sup>th</sup> while only four farmers were graduated. The data revealed that about 66.7 per cent of respondents had education up to secondary level while, 33.3 per cent of farmers were graduated (Fig. 4.1). None of them was functionally literate (up to 7<sup>th</sup> std.) or illiterate. From the above findings it could be concluded that all the dairy animal owners were literate. This will help farmer to adapt the new technology for increasing productivity of their farms. Similar findings were reported by Dixit *et al.*, (2006), Chowdhary *et al.*, (2006) and Divekar and Saiyed (2009) were most of respondents were literate.

The owner of ten DDF farm were from general category, while only two were from other back word category. This indicates that the majority of the owners (83.3 per cent) found to be from general category followed by other backward class 16.7 per cent. Similar results were found by Kumar *et al.*, (1999) where majority of respondents belong to general category. However, there were variations in the findings related with the caste of the dairy animal owners

in various parts of Gujarat and India due to the overall demographic structure of the regions.

The family size of DDF farm owners were ranging from 4 to 8 with an average family size of 6.33 members. In the present study, it was observed that 83.3 and 16.7 per cent of dairy demonstration farm owners had large (more than 4 member) and small (equal or less than 4 member) family size, respectively. Similar findings were reported by Singh *et al.*, (2004), Singh *et al.*, (2008) and Divekar and Saiyed (2009) that maximum respondents were had large family size.

Ten joint families and two nuclear families were having dairy demonstration farm. Out of total DDF owner 83.33 and 16.7 per cent were having joint and nuclear type family, respectively (Fig.4.2) Dhammu and Gill (2002), Shukla *et al.*, (2007), Halakatti *et al.*, (2007) and Divekar and Saiyed (2009) reported that, majority of respondents belongs to joint type family.



**Fig.1 Age and level of education of dairy farm owner**

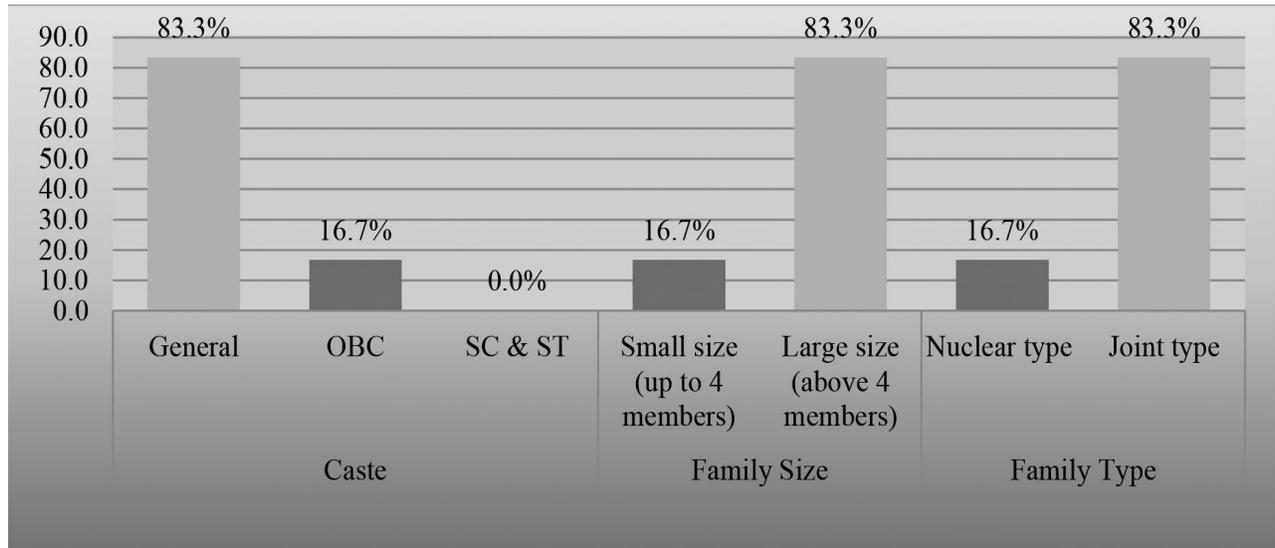


Fig. 2 : Cast, family size and family type of dairy farmer

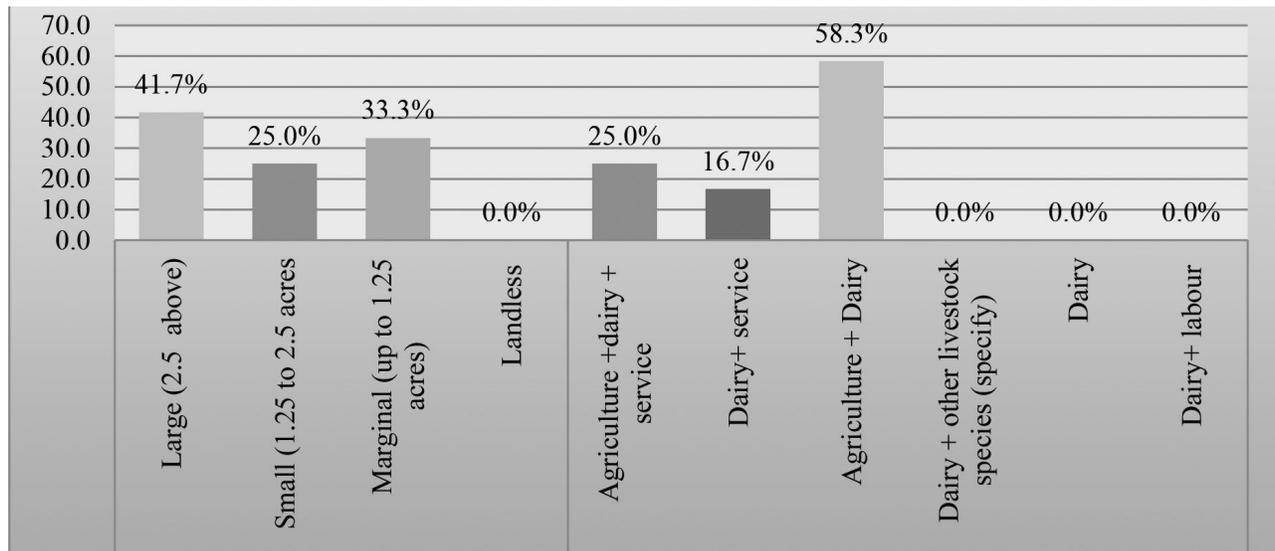


Fig. 3 : Land holding and vocational diversification of dairy owner

The land holding of DDF owners were ranging from 1 to 12 acres with average land holding 3.54 acres. Further classification it was found that about 41.7 per cent farmers were having large (above 2.5 acres) land holding area while, 25 and 33.3 per cent of farmers were having small (1.25 to 2.5 acres) and marginal (up to 1.25 acres) land holding area, respectively (Fig.4.3). The large land area holding is good for ensuring fodder supply round the year and availability of crop by-products which reduces cost of feeding. Similar type of results was reported by Prasad *et al.*, (2001), Singh and Sastry (2002), Vinaya *et al.* (2015), Vaidya *et al.* (2016), Vahora *et al.* (2016) and Kamani *et al.* (2017).

Dairy demonstration farm owner were practicing agriculture dairy and other service together. It was found

that Majority of the respondents (58.3 per cent) in the area of the study, practiced agriculture and dairy as source of their livelihood, while 25 and 16.7 per cent DDF owner were having dairy, agriculture and services and dairy and services as source of their livelihood respectively (Fig. 4.3).

### CONCLUSION

All dairy demonstration farms were managed by male of which 66.7 per cent were from middle age group followed by 25 per cent old and 8.0 per cent young age. All farmers were literate where 66.7 per cent had education up to secondary level and 33.3 per cent were graduates. About 83.3 per cent farmer found to be from general category followed by other backward class 16.7 per cent. Farmer having average family size of 6.33 members with 83.3 per cent large and

joint and 16.7 per cent small and nuclear family, respectively. 41.7 per cent farmers were having large land holding area while, 25 and 33.3 per cent of farmers were having small and marginal land holding area, respectively with average land holding 3.54 acres. Agriculture and dairy as source of their livelihood, practiced by 58.3 per cent farmers

All these characteristics affect the behavioural pattern, level of enterprise, adoption level of improved dairy husbandry practices and management capability of the dairy animal owners in some way or other.

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