

## Decision Making Pattern of Dairy Women Regarding Their Socio-Economic Development

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### ABSTRACT

*The women folk are considered the backbone of the nation and better half of the men in almost all spheres of community development. Rural women constitute about 50% of total rural population. They play a vital role in all spheres of economic life and contribute richly towards national income. Livestock rearing is an important means of income generation in villages for all categories of farmers in rural India. Milk production and processing of milk for product preparations play a vital role in India's agricultural economy. The government of India report indicates that 85 percent of rural women are engaged in livestock production. Participation in decision making certainly affects their efficiency in work and in the development of dairy enterprise. The study was under taken to determine the extent of participation of farm women in the dairy occupation. The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. Two villages were purposively selected from each taluka of Junagadh district having more number of members of dairy cooperative society. Ten farm women were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. Thus, 120 women were selected from twelve villages for the study. The study was clearly indicated that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level of participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively. In case of constraints faced by farm women while participation in decision making revealed that participation of women in decision making process secured a first rank in dairy practices followed by health care practices and profit utilization secured a second and third rank respectively.*

**Keywords:** Decision making, Co-operative society, Livestock, Dairy practices, Participation

### INTRODUCTION

Livestock enterprise provides employment and economic support to rural families who are landless and those possess some land. Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry activities are performed by women besides fulfilling their responsibilities as home makers (Randhawa and Chandra, 1993). It is a general fact that women are not lower than men in terms of intelligence, thinking, imagination, attitudes, courage and activities.

Dairy farming in Gujarat has vital role in providing not only nutritional security but also generating income and employment to large segment of rural people of the state. India is the largest Milk producer country among the world which is the prestigious matter for the country while Gujarat state has remarkable 5<sup>th</sup> rank with about 8.00 % contribution in total Milk production in all over the country since 2003-04.

This is the unique milestone for Gujarat. (28<sup>th</sup> survey report on estimate of major livestock products for the year 2010-11, Gujarat state). Promila Kanwar *et al.* (2003) revealed that women spent more time in farming activities. Farm women spent 15: 54 hrs/day and 16: 58 hrs/day for productive work during the slack and peak period, respectively. The time saved by farm women from farm activities during the slack period was diverted towards care of children, family members and house hold works.

The participation in decision making reflects the status of any individual which increases with the growing participation up to the final decision. Earlier, women were considered neither knowledgeable nor competent enough to participate in the decision making process. But the role and the status of women have been undergoing a continuous change in recent years. Women now play a vital role in decision making regarding householder resources which are

specifically used by them (Giriappa, 1988 and Nikhade, 1988). If the extension workers know clearly what are the decision making pattern, who makes decision, whether the decision are taken at individual level or joint decisions are taken, then the advisory work will becomes easier and systematic. The study was under taken on following objectives.

**OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To develop and measure participation of farm women in decision making process with respect to animal husbandry practices.
- (ii) Constraints faced by farm women while participation in decision making

**METHODOLOGY**

Dairy and farming are main occupations in the area under study. In these areas, livestock plays a significant role for socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. Farm women are associated to their husband in various practices related to farm and has greater role in decision making process. Thus, the timely and judicious decision making in various animal husbandry practices have a direct bearing on the development of the dairy sector. Empowerment of women in decision making is a need of hour in an agrarian country like India. The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. The problem was conducted under *ex-post-facto* research design. A multistage random sampling technique was used for the study. In Junagadh district, six talukas were purposively selected where maximum number of dairy cooperative society existence. Two villages were purposively selected from each taluka having more number of members of dairy cooperative society.

Present study, “decision making” of farm women with respect to animal husbandry practices were quantified by developing an index called “Decision Making Index” (DMI) which is the dependent variable for the study. It include these variable: Breeding practices, Feeding practices, Fodder production Management practices, Milk making product, Marketing practices, Housing facilities, Health care practices, Daily practices, Financial practices, Profit utilization.

$$\text{Decision-making Index (DMI)} = \frac{R1}{M1} \times W1 + \frac{R2}{M2} \times W2 + \dots + \frac{Rn}{Mn} \times Wn$$

R1, R2.....Rn = score received by respondents for each indicator

M1, M2....Mn = Maximum score one can get for each indicator

W1, W2....Wn = Weightage score of each indicator received from experts

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The data in Table 1 revealed that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively.

**Table 1: Distribution of farm women according to their extent of participation in decision making in relation to animal husbandry practices n=120**

Sr. No.	Extent of participation	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low level participation (up to 20.99 score)	22	18.33
2	Medium level participation (in between 21.00 to 23.62 score)	75	62.50
3	High level participation (above 23.62 score)	23	19.17

Mean =11.15

S.D. = 0.65

It can be inferred that great majority (81.67 per cent) of the farm women had medium to high level participation in decision making with respect to animal husbandry practices. This might be due to the medium level of extension participation, social participation, scientific orientation and economic motivation.

The data in Table 2 indicated that the most important constraints faced by the farm women in decision making process in animal husbandry practices were: costly management (97.92 percent) ranked first, followed by lack of self-confidence in decision (95.00 per cent) and lack of technical know-how about breeding, feeding, management and health care on milch animals (93.75 per cent) were ranked second and third, respectively. High cost of milch animal (85.42 per cent), social/cultural norms (83.34 per cent) and poor educational background (80.00 per cent) were ranked fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

More than half of the farm women constraints faced in dominancy of other family members (79.17 per cent), busy schedule due to house hold activities (53.34 per cent) and small size of land holding (50.42 per cent).

**Table 2: Constraints faced by farm women while participation in decision making** n=120

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percent	Rank
1	High cost of milch animal	85.42	IV
2	Costly management	97.92	I
3	Lack of technical know-how about breeding, feeding, management and health care on milch animals	93.75	III
4	Busy schedule due to household activities	53.34	VIII
5	Social/cultural norms	83.34	V
6	Dominancy of other family members	79.17	VII
7	Less contact with Extension workers	47.92	X
8	Lack of self confidence in decision	95.00	II
9	Poor educational background	80.00	VI
10	Unsuitable climate for cross bred cow	37.50	XV
11	Loan procedure is too much tedious	40.84	XIII
12	Artificial insemination centre being far away	37.08	XVI
13	Lack of veterinary dispensary facility	39.58	XIV
14	Non availability of vaccine in time	23.34	XX
15	High cost of balanced concentrates	46.67	XI
16	Unavailability of adequate water	41.25	XII
17	Small size of land holding	50.42	IX
18	Cattle feed not supplied by dairy co-operative society	32.50	XVIII
19	Non availability of improved fodder crop seeds	30.84	XIX
20	Lack of training in animal husbandry practices	33.34	XVII

Very less constraints faced by women in less contact with extension workers (47.92 per cent), high cost of balanced concentrates (46.67 per cent), unavailability of

adequate water (41.25 per cent), loan procedure is too much tedious (40.84 per cent), Lack of veterinary dispensary facility (39.58 per cent), Unsuitable climate for cross bred cow (37.50 per cent), artificial insemination centre being far away (37.08 per cent), lack of training in animal husbandry practices (33.34 per cent), cattle feed not supplied by dairy co-operative society (32.50 per cent, non availability of improved fodder crop seeds (30.84 per cent) and non availability of vaccine in time (23.34 per cent).

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level of participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively. The major constraints faced by farm women were costly management, lack of self confidence in decision and lack of technical know-how about breeding, feeding, management and health care on milch animals.

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