

## Personal and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Livestock Keepers in Dahod District

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### ABSTRACT

*Pashu Vigyan Kendra at Limkheda is in establishment phase; hence it is essential to study the personal and socio-economical characteristic of the livestock keepers so that appropriated training modules can be developed. Data were collected from a randomly selected sample of 350 Livestock keepers of Dahod district of Gujarat. Majority of the livestock keepers were found in the old and middle aged group and most of them were illiterate, belonged to ST caste having joint family system with medium family size having membership in one organization and had agriculture with animal husbandry as a major occupation with small and marginal size of land holding possess more than 4 animals having more than 20 years of dairy experience, annual income up to ₹ 50000/- and share of animal husbandry to its 11 to 20 per cent total annual income having kaccha house facilitate with mobile, fan, cycle, radio and television with medium level of extension contact and extension participation.*

**Keywords:** Livestock keepers, Personal, Socio-economic characteristics

### INTRODUCTION

India is the largest milk producer in the world; however India has poor quality of milk with low productivity. Gujarat ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the milk production of the country. Dahod has a large tribal population having agriculture and animal husbandry as major source of livelihood. The cows and buffalos are major milk producing animals in the district. The animal owners are not aware about the importance of scientific animal husbandry practices and hence milk productivity is very low. The success to sustain and enhance milk production entirely depends on farmers' knowledge about scientific animal husbandry practices coupled with regular advice, constant follow up, timely reminder and good coordination to take action on matters of their interest. The transfer of modern animal husbandry practices to the Livestock keepers with pre-conceived thought of traditional animal keeping calls for a well developed and organized training programme for the farmers. Training is a critical input and also an integral part for quick transfer of technology and way to improve their agriculture, animal husbandry and uplift their socio economic condition. Thus, the importance of training as an indispensable instrument for human resources development at any level cannot be ignored. Farmers training

programme can be taken as the most suitably designed programme to meet the present day complex extension requirements of taking the full technology in the shortest possible time to large number of farmers. Keeping in view the above reality government of Gujarat started Pashu Vigyan Kendra at Limkheda of Dahod district to train animal keepers in scientific dairy farming. The centre is in establishment phase, hence it is essential to study the personal and socio-economical characteristic of the Livestock keepers so that appropriated training modules can be developed and training programmes can be conducted accordingly and also serve as bench mark for future evaluation of the scheme.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in operational area of Pashu Vigyan Kendra, Limkheda. All Seven Talukas of Dahod districts were selected for the study. Two villages were selected randomly from each Taluka and 25 Livestock keepers were randomly selected from each village, thus making the total sample of 350 Livestock keepers. A well structured pre- tested Gujarati version interview schedule was prepared in consultation with dairy, veterinary and extension experts. The data were collected through personal interview

method. By using descriptive statistics the data was analyzed by calculating simple percentage.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Profile of the livestock keepers**

**Personal characteristics of livestock keepers**

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that majority (56.00 Per cent) of the Livestock keepers belonged to old age group, followed by 37.14 per cent with middle age and 6.86 per cent were from young age group. Nearly 40 per cent of the Livestock keepers are illiterate, followed by 37.14 per cent were of them having primary education and very less (4.00 per cent) had education 11 and above standard. The possible reason for this might to that young and middle age group livestock keepers migrate for work to another district as well as Dahod district fall in under tribal area so unaware an important of higher education and

It can be observed from the data presented in Table: 1 that half (50.86 per cent) of the Livestock keepers had high level of experience, followed by medium and low level of experience in dairy husbandry.

**Table 1: Personal and Socio-economical characteristics of Livestock keepers** n=350

Sr. No.	Personal Characteristics	Frequencies	Per cent
1	<b>Age</b>		
	Young (below 35 years)	24	06.86
	Middle (between 36 to 50 years)	130	37.14
	Old (Above 50 years)	196	56.00
2	<b>Education level</b>		
	Illiterate	144	41.14
	Primary (1 <sup>st</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> std.)	130	37.14
	Secondary (8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> std.)	62	17.72
	Higher secondary (11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> std.)	12	3.43
	Graduation and above	02	0.57
3	<b>Experience</b>		
	Low I (Up to 10 years)	60	17.14
	Medium (in between 10 to 20 years)	112	32.00
	High (above 20 years)	178	50.86
	<b>Socio- economical Characteristics</b>		

4	<b>Caste</b>		
	Schedule Caste	87	24.86
	Schedule Tribe	182	52.00
	Other backward caste	52	14.86
	General	29	08.28
5	<b>Family Types</b>		
	Joint family	269	76.87
	Nucleus family	81	23.14
6	<b>Family size</b>		
	Small family ( up to 4)	42	12.00
	Medium family(5 to 8)	178	50.86
	Large family (more than 9)	130	37.14
7	<b>Social participation</b>		
	No membership	71	20.28
	Membership in one organization	210	60.00
	Membership in more than one organization	59	16.86
	Position holder	10	02.86
8	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Only animal husbandry	02	00.57
	Agriculture+ animal husbandry	140	61.39
	Animal husbandry+ labour	34	40.00
	Agriculture+ animal husbandry+ labour	150	42.87
	Agriculture+ animal husbandry+ service	24	06.86
9	<b>Land holding</b>		
	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	114	32.57
	Small (1.01 to 2.0 ha)	156	44.57
	Medium 2.01 to 4.00)	68	19.43
	Large (Above 4.00 ha)	12	03.43
10	<b>Animal possession (milch)</b>		
	Up to 2	40	11.43
	3 to 4	112	32.00
	More than 4	198	56.57
	<b>Types of animal possessed</b>		
	Buffaloes only	141	35.84
	Cows+ Buffaloes	162	40.27
	Cows only	47	23.89
	<b>Types of Breed</b>		
	Desi breed	112	86.82
	Cross breed	17	13.18

11	<b>Annual income</b>		
	Up to ₹ 50000/	140	40.00
	₹ 50,001 to 1,00,000	136	38.86
	₹ 1,00,001 to 1,50,000	42	12.00
	₹ 1,50,001 to 2,00,000	24	6.86
	Above ₹ 2.00,001	8	2.28
12	<b>Contribution of animal husbandry to total annual income</b>		
	Up to 10 per cent	5	1.43
	11 to 20 per cent	210	60.00
	21 to 30 per cent	105	30.00
	31 to 40 per cent	20	5.71
	Above 40 per cent	10	2.86
13	<b>Type of house</b>		
	Kaccha	178	50.86
	Mix	123	35.14
	Pakka	49	14.00
14	<b>Agricultural implements</b>		
	Hoes and harrows	335	95.71
	plough	325	92.86
	Hand sprayer	260	74.29
	Cart	189	54.00
	Winnower	168	48.00
	Electric motor	111	31.71
	Thresher	52	14.86
	Chaff cutter	10	2.86
	Oil engine	15	4.29
	Tractors	5	1.43
15	<b>House hold items</b>		
	Mobile / telephone	285	81.42
	Fan	300	85.71
	cycle	238	68.00
	Radio	154	44.00
	Television	176	50.29
	Motor cycle	123	35.14
	Refrigerator	45	12.86
	Gobar gas	14	4.00
	Washing machine	2	0.57
	Ata maker	1	0.03
	Computer	33	9.43
	Car/jeep	14	4.00
16	<b>Extension contact</b>		
	Low	145	41.43
	Medium	175	50.00
	High	30	8.57

17	<b>Extension participation</b>		
	Low	158	45.14
	Medium	176	50.29
	High	16	4.57

### Socio-Economic Characteristics Of Livestock Keepers

The data presented in Table 1 indicate that more than half (52 per cent) of the Livestock keeper belonged to other schedule tribe followed by schedule cast category. General category is only 8.28 per cent.

More than three fourth (76.87 per cent) of the Livestock keepers had joint family. Regarding size of family majority (50.86 per cent) of respondent belonged to the middle sized families i.e. 5 to 8 members, while 37.14 per cent of them belonged to large size families having above 9 members and 12.00 per cent belonged to small size family having up to 4 members. It can be observed from the data presented in Table: 1 that three fifth (60 per cent) of the Livestock keeper belonged to the occupation category of animal husbandry with agriculture. Only 0.57 % of Livestock keepers belonged to only animal husbandry occupation.

It can be observed from the Table that 44.57 per cent of the Livestock keepers small farmers, while 32.57 per cent of them were small farmers and 19.43 per cent were medium farmers. Only 3.43 per cent were large farmers with land holding above 4.00 ha.

The data presented in Table 1 show that more than half (56.57%) of the Livestock keepers possessed more than 4 milch animals followed by 32 % per cent and 11.43 per cent who possessed 3 to 4 milch animals and up to 2 milch animals respectively. Further more than two-fifth (40.27 per cent) of them had buffalos and cows, 35.84 per cent had buffalos only and rest 23.89 per cent possessed cows only. Among the cows, 86.82 per cent possessed desi cows, while 13.18 per cent possessed cross bred cows only.

The data presented in Table 1 show that about 40 per cent of the Livestock keepers had annual income up to ₹ 50000/- , followed by 38.86 per cent of them had annual income ranging from ₹ 50001/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- and 12.00 per cent had annual income ranging from ₹ Rs. 1,00000/- to ₹ 1,50000/- and only 2.28 per cent Livestock keepers had annual income above ₹ 2,00000. The data show that exactly 60% of the Livestock keepers earned 11 to 20 percent of their total annual income from animal husbandry followed by 30 per cent, Livestock keepers who earned 21 to 30 per cent of

their total annual income from animal husbandry.

The data depicted in Table 1 indicate that half of Livestock keepers possessed *kaccha* house followed by 35.14 per cent and 14.00 per cent of them who had mix and *pakka* house, respectively.

The data in Table indicate that most of the Livestock keeper possessed hoes and harrows (95.71 per cent), plough (92.86 per cent), hand sprayers (74.29 per cent). Half of them possessed carts (54 per cent) and winnower (48 per cent), however less than 3% possessed chaff cutter, oil engine and tractor. The data depicted in table 1 reveal that majority of the Livestock keepers possessed mobile /land line phone (81.42 per cent) and fan in their homes (85.71 per cent) and very less Livestock keepers possessed gobar gas/ gas connection, washing machine, Ata maker, computer and car/jeep

It is apparent from the data in Table 1 that half of the Livestock keepers were found to have medium level of extension contact, followed by 41.43 per cent of them with low level of extension contact. Half (50.29 per cent) of the Livestock keeper were found to have medium level of extension participation, where as 4.57 per cent Livestock keepers were found to have high level of extension participation.

The data with respect to social participation are presented in Table 1 which revealed that majority of Livestock keepers (60.00 per cent) had membership in one organization, while 20.28 per cent, 16.86 per cent and 2.86 per cent of them had no membership in any organization, membership in more than one organization and were position holders, respectively.

## CONCLUSION

Majority of the Livestock keepers were found in the old and middle aged group and most of them were illiterate, belonged to ST caste having joint family system with medium family size having membership in one organization and had agriculture with animal husbandry as a major occupation with small and marginal size of land holding possess more than 4 animals having more than 20 years of dairy experience,

annual income up to ₹ 50000/- and share of animal husbandry to its 11 to 20 per cent total annual income having *kaccha* house facilitate with mobile, fan, cycle, radio and television with medium level of extension contact and extension participation.

## IMPLICATIONS

Majority (56.00 per cent) of the livestock keepers belonged middle to old age group, so Government and non government take initiate to create some income generating activities and also to make awareness regarding the higher level of education in particular Dahod district.

Livestock keepers of Dahod district had joint family and belonged to middle to large size families having more than 4 members in families, so family planning programmes should be implement.

Most of the livestock keepers belonged to the occupation category of animal husbandry with agriculture and they are marginal to small farmers having land holding 1.00 ha to 2.00 ha. and possessed more than 4 milch animals. So, extension functionaries should be given more emphasis to organize training programme on improved agriculture production technology as well as scientific animal husbandry practices.

Livestock keepers possessed mobile /land line phone (81.42 per cent) and television in their homes, so extension functionaries should be used these instruments for dissemination of improved technology.

## REFERENCES

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