 https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2022.si.0006

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF DAIRY FARMERS AND THEIR CONSTRAINTS IN ADOPTION OF IMPROVED DAIRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in selected villages from two Panchayat Samities i.e. Akola and Barshitakli of Akola district in Maharashtra State. An exploratory design of social research was used for present study. A random sample of 100 dairy farmer were selected as respondents from these two panchayat samities, those who have five years of experience in dairy farming and have more than four milch animal. The data was collected from them and used for analysis and interpretation. The results revealed that, 44.00 per cent of them were in middle age group category, nearly above one third (34%) were educated upto high school level (8th std. to 10th std.), near about half i.e. 48 per cent of the dairy farmers possessed Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.0 ha) category of land holding. The annual income of the 45 per cent and 44 per cent dairy farmers were have upto Rs. 50000/- and Rs. 50001 to Rs. 1,00,000/-, respectively. Majority of them (66%) have 7-12 years of experience in the dairy farming and 74 per cent possessed 5-10 milch animals. More than fifty per cent of the dairy farmers i.e. 56 per cent lived in joint family system and 42 per cent of them have 6-11 members in their family. Majority of the dairy farmers 64 per cent and 60 per cent were in medium category of economic motivation and scientific orientation category, respectively. More than half of the dairy farmers (56%) observed in low category of socio economic status. The relational analysis showed that the variables like land holding, annual income, herd size, economic motivation, scientific orientation and knowledge about improved dairy management practices were found highly significant with socio-economic status of the dairy farmer. It clearly had shown that as these variables increases, socio-economic status of the dairy farmer increases.

Keywords : *socio economic status, knowledge, adoption, constraints, dairy farmers*

INTRODUCTION

Dairying is a potential source of gainful employment, creating additional income to rural people, particularly landless farm labourers, marginal and small farmers who are resource deficit. India has made remarkable strides in the area of dairy development. India has largest livestock population in the world. India is continued to remain the largest producer of milk in the world. It produces 92 million tonnes of milk annually, which is 15 per cent of world output. Dairy accounts for 7 per cent of national income and 26 per cent of total agricultural activity of India (Tajpara *et al.,* 2020; Thorat *et al.,* 2021 and Mahammad *et al.,* 2022).

The rapid growth of milk production in India has been mainly because of the increase in the number of animals rather than that of the improved productivity. However the maximum milk is produced from selected pockets of the most of the states of the country. It is also reported that Maharashtra state generates about 1.6 crore litres of milk every day, out of which Kolhapur district of western Maharashtra alone is producing about 20 lakh litres of milk. As against this, Vidarbha region produces only 80,000 litres of milk per day. To overcome this situation Maharashtra Govt. launched Vidarbha Development Programme Package (VDPP) in the year 2004 to increase the milk production in Vidarbha region.

Surve (2007) reported that the factors like low productivity of local breeds, inadequate knowledge about balanced feeding and low conception rate through AI are the major constraints in dairy farming. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To examine the socio-economic status of the dairy farmers

(2) To find out the constraints faced by them in adopting improved dairy management practices

METHODOLOGY

An exploratory design of social research was used in the present investigation as the study aimed at ascertaining the socio-economic status of dairy farmers and to find out the constraints faced by them in adoption of improved dairy management practices in the selected village. The present investigation was carried out in the five villages namely Loni, Nimbi, Malkapur, Chandur and Shivapur of Akola Panchayat Samiti and five villages namely Kanheri sarap, Alanda, Sarkinhi, Hatola and Wizora of Barshitakali panchayat samiti. From each selected village, ten dairy farmers were randomly selected as respondents, who are adopting dairy farming continuously since last five years and have more than four milch animals. In all, total 100 dairy farmers were randomly selected from ten villages of Akola and Barshitakali panchayat Samiti.

The socio-economic status was referred to the position of the respondent with reference to the prevailing average standard of cultural position, effective income, material possession and participation in group activities of the community. The socio-economic status of the respondents was measured with the help of scale developed and standardized by Thakare and Ingle (2004). The following categories of the respondents were formed on the basis of their total weighted socio-economic status score obtained.

Sr. No.	SES Category	Score range
1	Very low	Upto 5.21
2	Low	5.22 to 8.37
3	Medium	8.38 to 11.52
4	Medium-High	11.53 to 14.67
5	High	Above 14.67

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of dairy farmers

The results regarding profile of the dairy farmers revealed that, 44.00 per cent of them were in middle age group category, nearly above one third (34%) were educated upto high school level (8th std. to 10th std.), near about half i.e. 48 per cent of the dairy farmers possessed Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.0 ha) category of land holding. The annual income of the 45 per cent and 44 per cent dairy farmers were have upto ₹ 50000/- and ₹ 50001 to ₹ 1,00,000/-, respectively. Majority of them (66%) have 7-12 years of experience in the dairy farming and 74 per cent possessed 5-10 milch animals. More than fifty per cent of the dairy farmers i.e. 56 per cent lived in joint family system and 42 per cent of them have 6-11 members in their family. Majority of the dairy farmers 64 per cent and 60 per cent were in medium category of economic motivation and scientific orientation category, respectively. More than half of the dairy farmers (56%) observed in low category of socio economic status.

Socio economic status of dairy farmers

It could be seen from Table 1, that more than half of the respondents (56.00%) had low level of socio-economic status, followed by equal number of respondents were had very low and medium level of socio-economic status. Very less number of respondents (02.00%) belonged to medium-high category of socio-economic status and no any dairy farmers had high level of socio-economic status.

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to SES

(n=100)

Sr. No.	Category	Number	Percent
(i)	Very Low (Below 05.21)	21	21.00
(ii)	Low (05.22 to 08.37)	56	56.00
(iii)	Medium (08.37 to 11.52)	21	21.00
(iv)	Medium-High (11.53 to 14.67)	02	02.00
(v)	High (Above 14.67)	00	00.00

Relationship between profile of dairy farmers and their socio economic status

The discussion about the relationship of the profile of dairy farmers with socio-economic status is given below. The data in Table 2 revealed that the variables age, education, dairy farming experience, family type and family size were found non-significantly correlated with the socio-economic status of the dairy farmer. Whereas, the variables like land holding, annual income, herd size, economic motivation, scientific orientation and knowledge were found highly significant with socio-economic status of the dairy farmer. It clearly indicated that as these variables increases, socio-economic status of the dairy farmer was also increases. This means land holding, annual income, herd size, economic motivation and scientific orientation of the dairy farmers has played a vital role in changing their socio-economic status of the dairy farmer.

The above results are in accordance with the results reported by Kumar *et al.* (2015), Prasad *et al.* (2017), Pushpa *et al.* (2015) and Sathyanarayan *et al.* (2010)

Table 2: Coefficient of correlation of profile of dairy farmers with their Socio economic status

(n=100)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	r value
X_1	**Age**	0.009^{NS}
X_2	**Education**	0.089^{NS}
X_3	**Dairy Farming Experience**	0.195^{NS}
X_4	**Land holding**	0.511**
X_5	**Annual Income**	0.784**
X_6	**Herd Size**	0.514**
X_7	**Family Type**	0.178^{NS}
X_8	**Family Size**	0.165^{NS}
X_9	**Economic Motivation**	0.344**
X_{10}	**Scientific Orientation**	0.506**
X_{11}	Knowledge	0.377**

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS-Non Significant

Constraints faced by the dairy farmers in adoption of improved dairy management practices

The constraints faced by the dairy farmers in various areas of the dairying were recorded and are presented in the Table-3.The data presented in Table 3 clearly indicated that majority of the dairy farmers were perceived as main constraints in adoption of improved dairy management practices like lack of veterinary services in villages for quality milk production (98%), High cost of feed and fodder (90%), Lack of finance to invest in dairy business for quality milk production (84%), Lack of green fodder round the year (82%), Non availability of grazing land (82%), Poor knowledge about scientific animal husbandry practices and dairy farming (75%), Less interest shown by the youth in dairy farming (74%) and non-availability of government schemes for dairy cattle rearing (70%).

Table 3: Constraints faced by the dairy farmers in adoption of improved dairy management practices (n=100)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percent	Rank
1	Lack of veterinary services in villages for quality milk production	98	98.00	I
2	High cost of feed and fodder	90	90.00	II
3	Lack of finance to invest in dairy business for quality milk production	84	84.00	III
4	Lack of green fodder	82	78.00	IV
5	Non availability of grazing land	82	75.00	V
6	Poor knowledge about scientific animal husbandry practices and dairy farming	75	75.00	VI
7	Less interest shown by youth in dairy farming	74	74.00	VII
8	Non-availability of government schemes for dairy cattle rearing	70	70.00	VIII
9	Lack of nutritious feed for quality milk production	66	66.00	IX
10	Costly Veterinary services	66	66.00	X
11	Lack of necessary space required for tying the milking animals	58	58.00	XI
12	Knowledge of mastitis in dairy animals	56	56.00	XII
13	Inadequacy of labour	52	52.00	XIII
14	Not getting expected price to milk produced	52	52.00	XIV

More than half (66%) of the dairy farmers were reported that the lack of nutritious feed for quality milk production and costly veterinary services followed by lack of necessary space required for tying the milking animals (58%), knowledge of mastitis in dairy animals (56%), inadequacy of labour (52%) and not getting expected price to milk produced (52%).

Therefore, majority of the dairy farmers suggested about the need for training on improved dairy farming and Cooperative societies should give more remunerative prices for milk and milk products. Majority of the farmers opined that youth were not interested in carrying out dairy farming for their livelihood. This was due to lower credit support for dairy farming and increasing cost of production. It could be also suggested by them that arrangements should be made to provide green fodder and dry fodder in adequate quantity at reasonable price to the dairy farmers, particularly during off season, and to overcome fodder deficits, the farmers should be encouraged to take up fodder cultivation.

Similar findings also reported by Gandasagare and Karnajkar (2009), Inderpreet *et al.* (2011), Jana *et al.* (2016), Sonpasare *et al.* (2010) and Surkar *et al.* (2014).

CONCLUSION

The present study concluded that more than half of the dairy farmers observed in low category of socio economic status. The variables like land holding, annual

income, herd size, economic motivation, scientific orientation and knowledge about improved dairy management practices were found highly significant with socio-economic status of the dairy farmer. The trend indicated that as these variables score increased, the socio economic status was increased.Further the majority of the dairy farmers were perceived as main constraints in adoption of improved dairy management practices like lack of veterinary services in villages for quality milk production, High cost of feed and fodder, Lack of finance to invest in dairy business for quality milk production, Lack of green fodder round the year, Non availability of grazing land, Poor knowledge about scientific animal husbandry practices and dairy farming.

POLICY IMPLICATION

Therefore, it is recommended that in order to enhance the adoption and increase in socio economic status of the dairy farmers in the study area, the government and agricultural extension services should give a hand to the dairy farmers by improving on the constraints identified in this study which would in turn significantly improve the productivity as well as boost the socio economic status of the dairy farmers.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very much thankful my organization Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola who made this work possible by providing services for completion of this project.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict between author.

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Received : July 2022 : Accepted : October 2022