

## Socio-Personal Characteristics of Farm Women in Dairy Occupation

V.S. Parmar<sup>1</sup> and O.P.Sharma<sup>2</sup>

1 P.G.Student, Department of Extension Education, N.M.College of Agriculture,NAU,Navsari - 396450

2 Associate Professor,Dept.Extn.Education, Vanbandu Vet. CollEge,NAU,Navsari - 396450

Email : vparmar801@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*Animal husbandry now occupies the major part in income generation at rural level. Women are playing the major role for its success. The present study was carried out in Navsari district of Gujarat state. For the present study total five villages were selected randomly from Navsari taluka of Navsari district. The data were collected with help of well-structured interview schedule following personal interview methods. It was found that majority of the farm women were from middle age group, up to secondary and high secondary level of education and medium family size, farm women had medium social participation, used medium sources of information and medium level of knowledge about dairy occupation, farm women were found with marginal land holding, medium sized milch animals and medium experience in dairy occupation.*

**Keywords:** Dairy occupation, Farm women, Socio-personal characteristics

### INTRODUCTION

Livestock sector is a prominent sector among agriculture and allied activities in India. India is the world's single largest milk producing country with share of about 14 per cent milk production. In the dairy development map of India, Gujarat occupies a place of pride. Women are considered to be pioneer in all sorts of development. The contribution of women in agriculture estimated to be about 50-60 per cent. In many places entire livestock management looked after by women. Keeping in view the present investigation entitled Socio-personal characteristics of farm women in dairy occupation in Navsari district of south Gujarat was undertaken with the objective to assess the Socio-personal characteristics of dairy farm women,

### METHODOLOGY

Navsari district of Gujarat state is one of the tribal dominated districts of the Gujarat State. For the present study total five villages were selected randomly from Navsari taluka of Navsari district viz Italva, Mogar, Nagdhara, Chhapra, Unn were randomly selected for the study. Ten farm women were

selected randomly from each village having dairy occupation. Thus, random samples of 50 dairy farm women were selected for the study. The respondents were contacted at their home, at their farm in the month of May; 2013. By using descriptive statistics the data was analysed by calculating simple percentage.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table-1 revealed that majority (68.00 Per cent) of the farm women belonged to middle age group followed by 22 Per cent with young age and 10 Per cent were from old age group were having 48.00 per cent of the farm women were educated up to secondary and higher secondary level followed by 30.00 per cent of them were primary, 12.00 per cent of them illiterate and 10.00 per cent were graduate.

Regarding size of family majority (80.00 per cent) of the farm women belonged to the large sized families' i.e. 4-7 members, while 14.00 per cent of them belonged to small size families having up to 4 members and 6.00 per cent of them belonged to large family having above 7 members.

**Table 1 : Socio-personal characteristics of farm women in dairy occupation** n=50

| Sr. No. | Socio-personal Characteristic   | No. | Per cent |
|---------|---|-----|----------|
| 1       | <b>Age</b>  |     |          |
|         | Young age (up-to 30 years)  | 11  | 22.00    |
|         | Middle age (31 to 55 years)   | 34  | 68.00    |
|         | Old age (Above 55 years)  | 05  | 10.00    |
| 2       | <b>Education</b>  |     |          |
|         | Illiterate (No formal education)  | 06  | 12.00    |
|         | Primary (up-to 7 <sup>th</sup> standard)                                    | 15  | 30.00    |
|         | Secondary & Higher secondary (8 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> standard) | 24  | 48.00    |
|         | Above higher secondary  | 05  | 10.00    |
| 3       | <b>Size of Family</b>   |     |          |
|         | Small family (up to 4 members)  | 07  | 14.00    |
|         | Medium family (4 -7members)   | 40  | 80.00    |
|         | Large family (above 7)  | 03  | 6.00     |
| 4       | <b>Land holding</b>   |     |          |
|         | Landless  | 15  | 30.00    |
|         | Marginal (up-to 1ha)  | 26  | 46.00    |
|         | Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)   | 05  | 10.00    |
|         | Medium large (above 2.0 ha)   | 07  | 14.00    |
| 5       | <b>Social participation</b>   |     |          |
|         | No membership   | 06  | 12.00    |
|         | Member in one organization  | 41  | 82.00    |
|         | Member in more than one   | 02  | 4.00     |
|         | Holding portion   | 04  | 8.00     |
| 6       | <b>Experience</b>   |     |          |
|         | Less (up to 10 years)   | 09  | 18.00    |
|         | Medium (Between 11 to 20 years)   | 30  | 60.00    |
|         | More (Above 20 years)   | 11  | 22.00    |
| 7       | <b>Extent of sources of information</b>                                     |     |          |
|         | No used (Zero score)  | 00  | 00       |
|         | Less used (up to 10 score )   | 07  | 14.00    |
|         | Medium used (between 10 to 20 score)  | 37  | 74.00    |
|         | More used (20 and above)  | 06  | 12.00    |
| 8       | <b>Herd size</b>  |     |          |
|         | Small (up to 2 milch animals)   | 11  | 22.00    |
|         | Medium (3– 8 milch animals)   | 32  | 64.00    |
|         | Large (More than 8 milch animals)   | 07  | 14.00    |
| 9       | <b>knowledge level</b>  |     |          |
|         | Low   | 06  | 12.00    |
|         | Medium  | 36  | 72.00    |
|         | High  | 08  | 16.00    |

Table 1 further show that majority (46.00 per cent) of the respondents were with marginal land holding i.e. up to 1.00 ha followed by 30.00 per cent with landless and 14.00 per cent with medium size of land holding and 10.00 per cent of the respondents were small farmers. It was also concluded that majority (82.00 per cent) of the respondents had member in one organization followed by 12.00 per cent with no membership, 4 members in more than one and 8.00 per cent of the respondents were having holding portion.

It was revealed that majority 60.00 per cent of the respondents were found with medium followed by 22.00 per cent with more (above 20 years) experience and 18.00 per cent of them had less level of experience in dairy occupation were having that majority (74.00 per cent) of the farm women used medium sources of information for obtaining information about dairy occupation, whereas 14.00 Per cent and 12.00 Per cent of them used less and more sources of information, respectively.

It was observed that that three fourth (64.00 Per cent) of the farm women had medium sized milch animals followed by 22.00 Per cent had small sized milch animals. A small proportion (14.00 per cent) of them had large sized milch animals.

It was also revealed that that three fourth (72.00 Per cent) of the respondents were found with medium level of knowledge about dairy occupation, whereas 16.00 Per cent and 12.00 Per cent respondents were having with high and low level of knowledge, respectively.

### CONCLUSION

Majority of the farm women were from middle age group, up to secondary and high secondary level of education and medium family size with marginal land holding, medium sized milch animals and medium experience in dairy occupation. Furthermore farm women had medium social participation, used medium sources of information and medium level of knowledge about dairy occupation.

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