

ATTITUDE OF YOUNGER DAIRY FARM WOMEN TOWARDS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AS AN OCCUPATION

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ABSTRACT

Livestock is an important component of farming system in India. It is more popular among the marginal and small farmers as more than 62 per cent of marginal household directly associated with livestock sector. It has the potentiality to overcome poverty, household which are associated with livestock has less chance to fall into poverty. The main focus of the investigation is on decision making ability among the farm women of Navsari district of South Gujarat. Three talukas namely Navsari, Gandevi and Vansda taluka were selected for the study. Respondents selected from six villages with simple random sampling methods. Thus, total 360 young farm women were selected for the study. The ex-post facto research design was followed. Majority of the respondents were found with medium level of attitude about animal husbandry as occupation. The education, occupation, annual income, herd size, types of ruminant kept and experience of animal husbandry found to be positive and significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district. Whereas age, type of family, land holding, and marital status were found to be non significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district.

Keywords : animal husbandry, attitude, dairy farmer, farm women, occupation

INTRODUCTION

Livestock sector is prominent sector among agriculture and allied activities in India. The livestock sector alone contributes nearly 25.6 % of value of output at current prices of total value of output in agriculture, fishing & forestry sector. The overall contribution of livestock sector in total GDP is nearly 4.11 % at current prices during 2018-19 (Anon., 2019). The per capita availability has increased from 233gm per day in 2004-05 to 394 gm per day in 2018-19. The largest producer of milk is Uttar Pradesh with 16.3 % of the total milk production, while Gujarat stands as the fifth that produce 7.7 % of the total milk produced in the country (Anony.,2019)

Livestock systems operate under a wide range of environmental conditions, causing production to be increasingly affected by climate change. A quarter of the global economic impact caused by climate-related extremes was absorbed by the agriculture sector, where in livestock, next to the crop subsector, faces most of the total damage and loss (FAO,2015). Share of dairy income to total income had a positive and significant effect on total family income which showed the importance of dairy is much more in marginal and land less household than larger farmers (Yasmeen *et al.*, 2020). Women are generally responsible for the feeding, grazing, fodder collection, milking,

processing, dung management, while men who manage the finances generally sale of milk and milk products (Sethi, 2010). Hence, the present study was carried out to know the attitude level of farm women about animal husbandry as occupation.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To know the attitude of young farm women about animal husbandry as occupation
- (2) To ascertain the relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristics of younger farmwomen with their attitude in animal husbandry as occupation.

METHODOLOGY

Navsari district consist of six talukas from which three talukas namely Navsari, Gandevi and Vansda taluka were selected for the study. From each taluka six villages were selected with simple random sampling method, and from each village, twenty young farm women (i.e. below 35 years age) were selected with purposive random sampling method. Thus, total 360 young farm women were selected for the study. The data were collected by the researcher with the help of a well structured interview schedule by face to face method of interview technique. The descriptive statistical tools like frequency, average and percentage were used for analysis of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Table 1 : Profile of dairy farm women**

(n=360)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percent
A	Age		
	Younger (16-25 years)	107	29.80
	Middle (25-30 years)	104	28.90
	Old (>30 years)	149	41.30
B	Education		
	Primary Education (I-VIII)	00	00
	Secondary Education (IX-X)	149	41.30
	Higher Secondary Education (XI-XII)	123	34.20
	Graduation and above	88	24.50
C	Type of family		
	Nuclear	279	77.50
	Joint	81	22.50
D	Occupation		
	Agril + A.H	360	100.00
	Labour	107	29.72
	Home makers	360	100.00
	Govt.Jobs/ Business	107	29.72
E	Marital status		
	Married	300	83.40
	Unmarried	44	12.20
	Widow	00	00.00
F	Annual income		
	Low (up to ₹ 50000)	14	03.90
	Medium (₹ 50001 to 100000)	228	63.30
	High (> ₹100000)	118	32.80
G	Land holding		
	Landless	10	02.80
	Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)	255	70.80
	Small (2.5 to 5.0 acres)	95	26.40
	Large (above 5.0 acres)	00	00.00
H	Herd size		
	Small herd size (up to 2)	251	69.80
	Medium herd size (3to 4)	89	24.70
	Large herd size (>4)	20	05.50
I	Types of ruminant kept		
	Small Ruminants (Goat & Sheep)	38	10.55
	Large Ruminants (Cow & Buffalo)	360	100
J	Experience in animal husbandry		
	Low (3 to 5 years)	80	22.20
	Medium (6 to 10 years)	198	55.00
	High (> 10 years)	82	22.80

The data presented in table -1 majority of farm women (41.30 per cent) belonged to >30 years age group followed by 29.80 per cent in 16-25 years age group and 28.90 per cent in 25-30 years age group. Majority (41.30 per cent) of the respondents had secondary level education, 34.20 per cent had higher secondary level education,

followed by 24.50 per cent had “graduation and above level” of education. Majority of the respondents (77.50 per cent) had nuclear type of family; only 22.50 per cent had joint family. All respondents were engaged with main occupation i.e. agriculture with animal husbandry with house hold activities. Nearly one third (29.72) have labour and Govt.

job with their main occupation. In the majority (63.30 per cent) of the respondents belonged to medium (50001 to 100000) income group followed by higher income (>100000) group and low income group (up to 50000) with 32.80 and 03.90 per cent respectively. The results are in agreement with Shafi *et al.* (2021a & 2021b), Vahora, *et al.*, (2016), Vaidya *et al.*, (2016) and Shyam Singh *et al.*, (2013).

The table 1 also shows that majority (70.80 per cent) of the respondents belonged to marginal land holding followed by small land holding group (26.40 per cent) and 2.80 per cent were found landless. In the majority (69.80 per cent) of the respondents had small herd size, followed by medium herd size (24.70 per cent) and 5.50 per cent of respondents have large herd size. The data depicted in table 1 said that all the respondents were keeping large ruminants where as 10.55 per cent were also keeping small ruminants and inferred that more than half of the respondents (55.00 per cent) have medium level of experience, followed by 22.80 and 22.20 per cent have higher and lower level of experience in animal husbandry sector.

Attitude towards animal husbandry as occupation

It is observed from table-2 that majority (60.60 per cent) of the respondents were found with medium level of attitude about animal husbandry as occupation, followed by 29.70 per cent with high and 09.70 per cent with low level of perception about animal husbandry as occupation, respectively. The indicating resource fullness has a role in positive attitude development towards as an occupation. Perhaps formally educated dairy farmers acquire more scientific value system there by changing their attitudes significantly for enterprise.

The might be due to variations in socio-economic and psychological characteristics of dairy farm women in selected talukas in Navsari district.

Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their perception about animal husbandry as Occupation (n=360)

Sr. No.	Level of attitude	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	35	09.70
2	Medium	218	60.60
3	High	107	29.70

Association between selected socio economic characteristics of young dairy farm women and their attitude about animal husbandry as occupation

The data in table 2 revealed that the education

, occupation, annual income, herd size, types of ruminant kept and experience of animal husbandry found to be positive and significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district. Whereas age, type of family, land holding, and marital status were found to be non significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district.

Table 3: Association between selected socio economic characteristics of young dairy farm women and their attitude about animal husbandry as occupation (n=360)

Sr. No.	Explanatory Variables	Coefficient of correlation ('r' value)
X ₁	Age	-0.254 ^{NS}
X ₂	Education	0.787**
X ₃	Type of family	0.180 ^{NS}
X ₄	Occupation	0.781*
X ₅	Marital status	0.195 ^{NS}
X ₆	Annual income	0.542*
X ₇	Land holding	-0.214 ^{NS}
X ₈	Herd size	0.571*
X ₉	Types of ruminant kept	0.707**
X ₁₀	Experience of animal husbandry	0.643*

NS=non-significant

** Correlation is significant at the 0.001 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.001 level (2-tailed)

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study revealed that majority of dairy farm women had medium level of favourable attitude towards animal husbandry occupation. The education, occupation, annual income, herd size, types of ruminant kept and experience of animal husbandry found to be positive and significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district. Whereas age, type of family, land holding, and marital status were found to be non significant correlation with perception about animal husbandry as occupation by young dairy farm women in south Gujarat district. State veterinary extension functionary should conduct skill based training at grassroot level in order to create awareness about scientific livestock production technologies. Effort should be made to manipulate the attitude desirable positive direction by providing short term trainings as per the felt needs of dairy farm women. National Commission of Women (NCW) was collaborating with agricultural universities across India to

identify and train women associated with dairy farming and allied activities in different aspects such as value addition, quality enhancement, packaging and marketing of dairy products, among others. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) announced recently was first of its kind scheme to support private sector players in livestock sector.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest

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