

PARTICIPATION OF FARM WOMEN IN DAIRY OCCUPATION**R. U. Chaudhari¹, V. G. Tala² and Sruthi C. O.³**

1, 2 & 3 Ph.D. Scholar, Dept. of Agricultural Extension and Communication, CPCA, SDAU, S. K. Nagar - 385 506

Email: rajatchaudhari68.rc@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Farm women's extent of participation in dairy occupation affects their efficiency in the development of their dairy occupation. However, adequate attention is not being paid to encouraging them to supplement their family income through the development of occupational skills and proficiency. The present study was conducted in the Banaskantha district of Gujarat state. From Banaskantha district, four talukas were selected randomly. Among them, three talukas, four villages, and from one taluka, three villages were selected, constituting 15 villages, and ten farm women were selected randomly from each village having a dairy occupation, making a sample of 150 farm women. Overall participation of farm women in dairy occupation was found to be 65.04%. Among different aspects, management contributed the highest, followed by milk and milk products, feeding aspects, breeding aspects, and general aspects, and it was observed the majority of farm women were found to have a medium level of participation, with 69.33 per cent. The independent variables, like social participation, size of land holding, source of information, and knowledge, were highly significantly correlated with the participation of the farm women in dairy occupations. Whereas age, education, experience in dairy occupation, herd size, cattle shed, and milk yield were non-significantly correlated with the participation of the farm women in dairy occupation. The size of families was found to be negative and non-significant with the participation of the farm women in dairy occupation.

Keywords: dairy occupation, participation, farm women**INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture and its allied sectors are the backbone of the Indian economy and an important occupation for most of the Indian families. The contribution or share of agriculture and allied sectors in GDP/GVA during 2018-19 was 17.10 per cent and alone livestock was 5.10 per cent Anonymous (2020-21). A woman is the nucleus of a family, particularly in rural India. For the rural women, the day starts early in the morning with the responsibilities of fetching water, fodder, and fuel; cooking food and looking after the livestock and children. Promila *et al.* (2003) revealed that farm women spent 15:64 hrs/day and 16:58 hrs/day for productive work during the slack and peak periods, respectively. In many places, the entire livestock management is looked after by women only. Still, there is no recognition for their hard work, just because their work is not evaluated in terms of money. They help in farm operations, take their animals to distant lands for grazing, washing, milking, fodder, breeding management, and sale of milk, if necessary, by taking it to the market, and so in addition, they perform the functions related to house management. Even though adequate attention is not being paid to encourage them to participate in various programmes on the dairy occupation for their efficiency in work in the development of the dairy occupation. Therefore, a present study entitled "Participation of farm women in

dairy occupation" was undertaken.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the participation index of farm women in different aspects of dairy occupation
- (2) To study the extent of participation of farm women in dairy occupation
- (3) To ascertain the relationship between the profile of dairy farm women and their extent of participation in dairy occupation

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the Banaskantha district of Gujarat state. Banaskantha district has fourteen talukas, *viz.* Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Kankrej, Dhanera, Dantiwada, Amirgadh, Danta, Vav, Tharad, Suigam, Bhabhar, Deodar, and Lakhni. Out of which four talukas, *viz.*, Palanpur, Deesa, Dantiwada, and Amirgadh, were selected purposively on the basis of the maximum number of dairy cooperative societies. A total of 150 farm women were selected for the present study. From each village, 10 farm women were selected. An ex post facto research design was used for the study. The data was collected before the structured interview schedule. The collected data was classified, tabulated,

analyzed, and interpreted to make the findings meaningful. Statistical measures such as frequency, percentage, mean score, standard deviation, participation index, and coefficient of correlation were used in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, effort was made to determine the participation of farm women in different aspects of dairy occupation.

Participation index of farm women in different aspects of dairy occupation

Participation of farm women in dairy occupation was decided under different aspects, *i.e.*, general, breeding, feeding, milk and milk products, and management. In all, 40 statements were prepared under the sub-aspects, *viz.*, general-8, breeding-5, feeding-6, milk and milk products-10, and management-11.

On the basis of the total participation score of an individual farm woman, the participation index was calculated by using the following formula.

$$\text{Participation index} = \frac{\text{Participation score of farm women}}{\text{Maximum possible participation score of farm women}} \times 100$$

Table 1: Distribution of farm women on the basis of their participation index (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Different aspects	Participation index
1	General	54.81
2	Breeding	59.02
3	Feeding	69.78
4	Milk and milk products	70.40
5	Management	71.19
Overall participation		65.04

The data observed in Table 1 that farm women had an overall participation index in dairy occupation was found to be 65.04 per cent. However, farm women had the largest participation index (71.19%) in the aspect of management, followed by milk and milk products (70.40%), feeding aspects (69.78%), breeding aspects (59.02%) and general aspects (54.01%). Similar findings have been reported by Ogdand and Hembade (2014), Jahan and Khan (2016), Mahammad et al. (2021), Mahammad et al. (2022), Bora et al. (2023), Naik et al. (2024), Swami et al. (2024), Ghasura et al. (2024), Pandey et al. (2024), Patel et al. (2024), and Chaudhary et al. (2024).

Extent of participation of farm women in dairy occupation

The farm women were classified according to their overall extent of participation into three groups, *i.e.*, low, medium, and high, on the basis of mean and standard deviation. The data in this regard are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of farm women on the basis of their extent of participation (n=150)

Sr. No.	Extent of participation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low extent of participation	21	14.00
2	Medium extent of participation	104	69.33
3	High extent of participation	25	16.67
Total		150	100.00
S.D. = 14.03 \bar{X} = 77.70			

It is observed in Table 2 that more than two-thirds (69.33%) of farm women had a medium extent of participation, followed by 16.67 per cent and 14.00 per cent of them having a high and low extent of participation in dairy occupation, respectively. Similar findings have been reported by Islam *et al.* (2019), Khare and Singh (2019), and Patel *et al.* (2022).

Relationship between the profile of dairy farm women and their extent of participation in dairy occupation

Table 3: Relationship between profile of dairy farm women and their extent of participation in dairy occupation (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficients (r values)
A Personal variables		
X ₁	Age	0.118 ^{NS}
X ₂	Education	0.017 ^{NS}
X ₃	Experience in dairy occupation	0.061 ^{NS}
B Social variables		
X ₄	Size of family	-0.100 ^{NS}
X ₅	Social participation	0.211 ^{**}
C Economical variables		
X ₆	Size of land holding	0.289 ^{**}
X ₇	Herd size	0.109 ^{NS}
D Communicational variables		
X ₈	Source of information	0.821 ^{**}
E Psychological variables		
X ₉	Knowledge	0.506 ^{**}
F Situational variables		
X ₁₀	Cattle shed (type of byre)	0.089 ^{NS}
X ₁₁	Milk yield	0.041 ^{NS}

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability;
 ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability and
 NS: Non-significant.

The data presented in Table 3 show that out of eleven independent variables, only four variables, namely, social participation, size of land holding, source of information, and knowledge, were significantly correlated with the participation of the farm women in dairy occupation. This finding was supported by Islam *et al.* (2019), Kalsariya *et al.* (2019), and Thorat *et al.* (2016).

CONCLUSION

From this investigation, it can be concluded that the overall participation of farm women in dairy occupation was found to be the largest in the aspect of management, followed by milk and milk products, feeding, breeding, and general with a medium extent of participation. Social participation, size of land holding, source of information, and knowledge were highly significantly correlated with the extent of participation of the farm women in dairy occupation. So farm women should be motivated to participate in various extension activities for the economic upliftment of their standard of living through dairy occupation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- (1) The peripatetic training for one or two days at the village level should be organized to educate farm women on livestock management and dairy technology.
- (2) The extension agencies should strengthen the group media, like demonstrations, discussions, meetings, and organized study tours for farm women to answer their problems in dairy occupation.
- (3) Intensive training on this dairy aspect should be advocated at grass root level so that participation of farm women could be enhanced.
- (4) Those factors that influence the participation of farm women should be reckoned with while designing any programme or plan for communication.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest among researchers.

REFERENCES

Anonymous (2020-21). National Accounts Statistics-2019, Central Statistical Organisation, Govt. of India. Retrieved from <https://www.nddb.coop/information/stats-/GDPcontrib>

Bora, Pallabi and Das, Pallabi (2023) Participation of gender in paddy cultivation practices. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 36(2):11-17. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2023.36.2.0003>.

Chaudhary, V. M., Patel, U. M. and Jadav, S. J. (2024) Adoption of dairy farmers about scientific dairy husbandry practices. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 38(2):126-130. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2024.38.2.0020>.

Ghasura, R. S., Rani, Durgga V. and Singh, R. R. (2024) Dairy farmers' views on overcoming barriers to adopting climate change adaptation strategies. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 37(2):195-200. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2024.37.2.0033>.

Islam, M. S., Islam, Md. M. and Billah, Md. M. (2019). Exploring women participation in small-scale dairy farming: a case of Paikgachha Upazila, Khulna, Bangladesh. *Asian Journal of Research in Animal and Veterinary Sciences*, 3(4): 1-13.

Jahan, N. and Khan, N. (2016). To study the participation of farm women in various agriculture and allied activities. *International Journal of Home Science*, 2(2): 180-186.

Kalsariya, B. N., Rankja, N. J. and Parmar, S. J. (2019). Relationship between the gender-wise profile of respondents with their participation in farm and livestock activities. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 30(2): 110.

Khare, P. and Singh, U. R. (2019). Participation of rural women in animal husbandry activity. *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry*, 8(3): 2897-2901.

Mahammad Shafi R. Sk, Chauhan N. B. and Vinaya Kumar H. M. (2021). Responsible factors to encourage dairy farmers' sons to avail training on animal husbandry. *Guj. J. Ext. Edu.* 32 (1): 202-205.

Mahammad Shafi R. Sk, Chauhan N. B. and Vinaya Kumar H. M. (2022). Qualities responsible to shape the family dairy farming skillfulness amongst the sons of practising dairy farmers. *Guj. J. Ext. Edu.* 34 (1): 30-33. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2022.34.1.0006>

Naik, R. M., Chaudhary, K. L. and Sharma, O. P. (2024) Professionalism in management of primary dairy cooperatives. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 37(1):178-182. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoee.2024.37.1.0030>.

Ogdand, G. G. and Hembade, A. S. (2014). Studies on the participation of women in decision-making

- about dairy occupation in Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. *International Journal of Current Research Academic Review*, 2(8): 367-372.
- Pandey, S., Ponnusamy, K. and Manasa, K. (2024) Adoption level of improved dairy farming practices by resource poor dairy farm households. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 38(2):59-65. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoe.2024.38.2.0010>.
- Patel, S. B. and Patel, P. N. (2024) Profile of farm women involved in dairy occupation and their suggestions to overcome the constraints. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 38(2):111-116. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoe.2024.38.2.0018>.
- Patel, S. B., Vyas, H. U. and Mistry, H. H. (2022). Participation of farm women in dairy occupation. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 34(2): 25-27.
- Promila, K., Yadav, D. and Sharma, N. (2003). Time use pattern of hill farm women, a study in Himachal Pradesh. *Himachal Journal of Agricultural Research*, 29(1-2): 84-88.
- Swami, Shreeja P., Patel, U. M. and Chaudhari, R. U. (2024) Knowledge of dairy farmers about periparturient diseases in bovine. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 37(1):188-191. <https://doi.org/10.56572/gjoe.2024.37.1.0032>.
- Thorat, G. N., Vahora, S. G. and Ramjiyani, D. B. (2016). Participation of tribal dairy women in animal husbandry. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*, 27(2): 162.

Received : February 2025 : Accepted : April 2025