

Training Needs of Tribal Women of Sabarkantha District Regarding Animal Husbandry Practices

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in sabarkantha district of Gujarat state. Rural women play a great role in decision making process of farm matter, performed many of the farm operations and undertaken many responsibilities concerning care and management of farm animals. Keeping in view in mind, the study entitled "Training Needs of tribal women of Sabarkantha District regarding animal husbandry practices." was undertaken with an objective to determine the training need of dairy farm women in dairy farming practices. On the basis of mean score obtained for various areas of dairy farming, the dairy women showed interest in various aspects of dairy farming practices. For breeding practices, artificial insemination and Pregnancy diagnosis were the main aspects need to be training. With respect to feeding practices, Time and frequency of feeding and advantage of homemade live stock feed. In fodder production, silage making and selection of fodder crops were the important sub-area in which women demanded training. In management practices, Individual animal housing, Replacement of stock by at home weaning system or artificial system, was most important. In animal health care practices Sterility treatments and Precaution against parasitic disease were the important areas for which women asked for training.

Keywords : Breeding, Feeding, Management, Training needs, Animal health care

INTRODUCTION

Dairying is one of the important enterprises, which supports the rural households by providing gainful employment and steady income. The importance of milk and milk products for the physical development and well being of human beings is universally recognized. In India, women's involvement in livestock management is a longstanding tradition and dairy farming has been an integral part of homestead farming system. Although much of the work related to livestock farming is carried out by women. The word "training", is accepted as a synonym for all of the forms of knowledge, skill, and attitudinal development which one need to keep pace with the accelerating life involvement and the enlarging concepts of man's capabilities. Training need in dairy farming practices like breeding, feeding, fodder, management, animal health care, are necessary to improve the productivity of dairy cattle and thereby making dairy-farming a more profitable enterprise. In Sabarkantha district, rural women mostly rearing Mehsani buffalo and crossed breed cows for milk production purpose.

Dairy development is not feasible unless rural women are trained in scientific dairy farming. For making training more effective, it should be based on the felt needs of the trainees. The training without need based, may have a little impact on bringing desirable change in the clientele system.

OBJECTIVE

To find out the training needs of tribal women of Sabarkantha district in dairying.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in Sabarkantha district. In Sabarkantha district, dairy farming is being practiced in all talukas in varying degrees. Of the 13 talukas of the district, 4 talukas are tribal dominating with low economic development. Among them two talukas viz; Khedbrahma and Bhiloda were selected purposively. Ten villages from each taluka were selected purposely in which milk production was maximum. Thus, total twenty villages were selected. From

each village five tribal women respondents were selected randomly for the study. Thus, total sample comprising 100 tribal women which are involved in dairying.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Training need in breeding practices

The data pertaining to training need of tribal women with respect to breeding practices are presented in Table 1 revealed that the milk production depends largely on type of breed and breeding practices. According to the need hierarchy, the respondents assigned first rank to 'artificial insemination' (2.59 mean score) followed by 'pregnancy diagnosis' (1.90 mean score) and 'breeding practices' (1.87 mean score). The sub-items viz., 'reproductive efficiency of dairy animals' (1.78 mean score), 'selection of breed' (1.66 mean score), and 'selection of adult animal and dairy heifers' (1.60 mean score) was ranked fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

Table 1: Training needs of rural women with respect with to breeding practices n=100

Sr. No.	Sub items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Artificial Insemination	2.59	I
2	Pregnancy diagnosis	1.90	II
3	Breeding programme	1.87	III
4	Reproductive efficiency of dairy animals	1.78	IV
5	Selection of breed	1.66	V
6	Selection of adult animal and dairy heifers	1.60	VI
7	Rearing of cows	1.11	VII
8	Heat detection	1.08	VIII
9	Post partum coverage	1.04	IX

Remaining sub-items of the breeding practices were perceived by the dairy farm women as less important as their mean scores were less than average mean score 1.62. This finding is in line with those of Fulzele and Meena (1995) and Durga Rani and Subhadra (2009), who reported that selection of breed, was a most needed area of training and Raju *et al.* (1999) who reported that selection of animals was one of the most needed areas of training.

Training need in feeding practices

Feeding practices play a vital role in dairy farming, as feeds affected the milk production. So far as training need is concerned with respect to this aspect, some of the items are utmost important.

Table 2 : Training needs of rural women with respect with to feeding practices n=100

Sr. No.	Sub items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Time and frequency of feeding	1.85	I
2	Advantage of homemade live stock feed	1.75	II
3	Feeding schedule of dry animals	1.73	III
4	Advantage of live stock feed manufactured by District Union.	1.46	IV
5	Selection of feed	1.30	V
6	Feeding schedule of young calves	1.23	VI
7	Advantage of live stock feed manufactured by private companies	1.17	VII
8	Feeding schedule of young heifers	1.13	VIII
9	Feeding schedule of pregnant animal	1.09	IX
10	Feeding of milch animal	1.01	X

The data depicted in Table 2 revealed that the highest mean score for training need as desired by dairy farm women was 'time and frequency of feeding' (1.85 mean score) ranked first followed by 'Advantage of homemade live stock feed' (1.75 mean score) and 'Feeding schedule of dry animals' (1.73 mean score). The mean score for the sub-items 'feeding schedule of pregnant animal' and 'feeding of milch animal' was 1.09 and 1.01, respectively. Similar results were reported by Durga Rani and Subhadra (2009).

Training needs in fodder production

Fodder crops are the important sources of animal food supply. The data presented in Table 3 revealed that among the various sub-items of fodder production, 'silage making' was the most important item and ranked first by respondents for the purpose of training (mean score 3.00).

Table 3 : Training needs of rural women with respect with to fodder production n=100

Sr. No.	Sub items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Silage making	3.00	I
2	Selection of fodder crops	1.43	II
3	Storage of fodder products	1.15	IV
4	Cultivation of fodder crops	1.10	V
5	Drying of fodder products	1.03	VI

The second rank was assigned by the respondents to the sub-area of ‘selection of fodder crops’ with a mean score of 1.43 followed by storage of fodder products, cultivation of fodder crops and drying of fodder crops with a mean score of 1.15, 1.10 and 1.03, respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that ‘silage making’ was the major area in which respondents asked for training. Durga Rani and Subhadra (2009) stated the need to the dairy women for training to fodder production.

Training needs in management practices

Management practice is one of the important aspects of dairy farming. The data presented in Table 4 revealed that among the various sub-items of management practices, ‘individual animal housing’ was the most important areas ranked first by the respondents for the purpose of training. The mean score for the item was 3.00.

Table 4: Training needs of rural women with respect with to management practices n=100

Sr. No.	Sub items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Individual animal housing	3.00	I
2	Replacement of stock by at home weaning system or artificial system	2.96	II
3	Replacement of stock through purchase	2.33	III
4	Castration	1.57	IV
5	Dehorning	1.33	V
6	Raising the replacement stock by feeding colostrums	1.22	VI
7	Up keeping of the various records	1.12	VII
8	Group animal housing	1.00	VIII
9	Cafepan animal housing	1.00	IX
10	Raising replacement stock by natural system	1.00	X

The second rank was assigned to the sub-area of ‘replacement of stock by at home weaning system or artificial

system’ with a mean score of 2.96. The third and fourth ranked items were ‘replacement of stock through purchase’ and ‘castration’ with a mean score of 2.33 and 1.57, respectively. Rest was considered least important by the respondents and their mean score was below average mean score of 1.65.

Training needs in animal health care practices

Animal health care practice plays a vital role in dairy farming. Parasites and various diseases affected the health of animals, which influence the quality and quantity of milk.

Table 5 : Training needs of rural women with respect with to animal health care practices n=100

Sr. No.	Sub items of training	Mean score	Rank
1	Sterility treatments	2.17	I
2	Precaution against parasitic disease	2.06	II
3	Vaccination schedule	1.80	III
4	Treatment against contagious diseases	1.36	IV
5	Treatment against common diseases	1.15	V
6	control of parasites	1.06	VI

The data depicted in Table 5 indicated that according to need hierarchy, among the various sub-items of animal health care, ‘sterility treatment’ was assigned first rank with a mean score of 2.17 followed by ‘precaution against parasitic disease’ and ‘Vaccination schedule’ with mean score of 2.06 and 1.80, respectively. The rank assigned to the sub-items, viz., treatment against contagious disease, treatment against common disease and control of parasites were fourth, fifth and sixth were considered least important for training. The results are in par with the findings of Fulzele and Meena (1995), Raju *et al.* (1999), Lalitha and Seethalakshmi (1999), Sujaths and Nanjaiyan (1999), Umarani and Thangamani (2000), Das and Mishra (2002), Gupta and Tripathi (2002) and Durga Rani and Subhadra (2009).

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it can be concluded that in various breeding practices, artificial insemination and Pregnancy diagnosis were the main aspects need to be training. With respect to feeding practices, time and frequency of feeding and advantage of homemade live stock feed were the major sub-areas of training. In fodder production, silage making is the important sub-area in which women demanded training. In management practices, individual animal housing

and replacement of stock by at home weaning system or artificial system were most important. In animal health care practices sterility treatments and precaution against parasitic disease were the important areas for which women asked for training.

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