

DECISION MAKING OF FARM WOMEN IN DAIRY OCCUPATION

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ABSTRACT

Farm women's decision making in dairy occupation affects their overall efficiency in the development of dairy occupation but adequate attention is not being paid for the economic development of farm women and to encourage them to avail training facilities on dairy management practices for supplementing their family income through development and application of occupational skills and proficiency. The present study was conducted in Banaskantha district of Gujarat state. From Banaskantha District, four talukas were selected randomly. From selected three taluka, four villages each and from one taluka three villages were selected constituting 15 villages and ten farm women were selected randomly from each village having dairy occupation making a sample of 150 farm women. Overall decision making of farm women in dairy occupation was found largest in the aspect of feeding followed by milk and milk products, breeding, management and general aspects. It was observed that majority of farm women were found medium level of decision making in dairy occupation. The independent variable like social participation, source of information, knowledge and size of land holding were highly significant while, herd size was significantly correlated with the decision making of the farm women in dairy occupation.

Keywords: decision making, farm women, dairy occupation

INTRODUCTION

Farm women constitute the most important productive work force in the Indian agricultural economy. Agriculture and its allied sectors contribution in GDP/GVA during 2018-19 was 17.1 per cent and alone livestock was 5.1 per cent Anonymous, (2020-21).

Dairy occupation is an integral part of rural agricultural economy (Thakur *et al.*, 2020). Farm women play an important role in performing agricultural, family and dairy husbandry practice and share the responsibility of generating family income. 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 (Thakur and Patel, 2020). They help in farm operation, take their animals on distant lands for grazing, washing, milking, fodder, breeding management, sale of milk, if necessary by taking it to the market and so on in addition, perform the functions related to house management. Therefore, it has been considered worthwhile to get a clear picture and understanding about decision-making pattern of farm women with respect to dairy occupation. Therefore, present study entitled "Decision making of farm women in dairy occupation" was undertaken.

OBJECTIVE

To study farm women in decision making about dairy occupation

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Banaskantha district of Gujarat state. From Banaskantha District, four talukas were selected randomly. From selected three taluka, four villages each and from one taluka three villages were selected constituting 15 villages and ten farm women were selected randomly from each village having dairy occupation making a sample of 150 farm women. The present study was confined to "Ex-post facto" research design as the independent variables have already operated in the study area. Interview schedule was prepared on the basis of objective on the subject. The data were collected through face to face interview and by direct observation method. The statistical tests, percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation and Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation were used for analysis the data of the investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Decision making index of farm women in dairy occupation:

In this study, effort was made to determine whether decision making of farm women differs in different aspects of dairy occupation. For this purpose, decision making index of farm women in different aspects of dairy occupation was worked out. The data in this regard are given in Table 1.

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

Sr. No.	Different aspects	Decision making index
1	General	60.04
2	Breeding	68.27
3	Feeding	70.83
4	Milk and milk products	69.80
5	Management	65.03
Overall decision making		66.79

It can be observed from the data presented in Table 1 that farm women had an overall decision making in dairy occupation was found 66.79 per cent. However, farm women had the largest decision making (70.83%) in the aspect of feeding followed by milk and milk products (69.80%), breeding aspects (68.27%), management aspect (65.03%) and general aspect (60.04%). Similar result have been reported by Shreyansh, (2018).

Decision making of farm women in dairy occupation

The farm women were classified based on score of decision making in dairy occupation is depicted Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of farm women on the basis of score of decision making (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Decision making score	Frequency	Percent
1	38 to 40	04	02.67
2	41 to 45	23	15.33
3	46 to 50	30	20.00
4	51 to 55	36	24.00
5	56 to 60	37	24.67
6	61 to 65	18	12.00
7	66 and above	02	01.33

The data obtainable in Table 2 show that 24.67 % of farm women had highest decision making score (56 to 60) followed by 24.00 % farm women with 51 to 60 decision making score and 20.00 % farm women with with 46 to 50 decision making score.

Further, the farm women were also classified according to their overall decision making in dairy occupation with 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 3.

Table 3: Distribution of farm women on the basis of their decision making (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Decision making	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low level of decision making	29	19.33
2	Medium level of decision making	101	67.34
3	High level of decision making	20	13.33
S.D. = 6.87		\bar{X} = 53.20	

The data obtainable in Table 3 show that three-fifth (67.34%) of farm women had medium level of decision making in dairy occupation followed by 19.33 per cent and 13.33 per cent of them had lower and higher level of decision making in dairy occupation, respectively. These finding have been reported by Ahuja *et al.*, (2017), Manthekar and Nigade, (2018) and Patel, (2020).

Relationship between characteristics of farm women with the decision making in dairy occupation

Table 4: Relationship between personal, socio-economic, communicational, psychological and situational characteristics of farm women with their decision making (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficients (r values)
I	Personal variables	
	X ₁ Age	0.080 ^{NS}
	X ₂ Education	0.063 ^{NS}
	X ₃ Experience in dairy occupation	0.134 ^{NS}
II	Social variables	
	X ₄ Size of family	0.033 ^{NS}
	X ₅ Social participation	0.131 ^{NS}
III	Economical variables	
	X ₆ Size of land holding	0.293 ^{**}
	X ₇ Herd size	0.166 [*]
IV	Communicational variables	
	X ₈ Source of information	0.594 ^{**}
V	Psychological variables	
	X ₉ Knowledge	0.360 ^{**}
	X ₁₀ Participation	0.667 ^{**}
VI	Situational variables	
	X ₁₁ Cattle shed (Type of byre)	0.078 ^{NS}
	X ₁₂ Milk yield	0.097 ^{NS}
* Significant at 0.05 level of probability;		
** Significant at 0.01 level of probability and		
NS: Non Significant.		

In order to find out the relationship between personal, socio-economic, communicational, psychological and situational characteristics of farm women with the decision making in dairy occupation, coefficient of correlation was worked out. The data in this regard are presented in Table 4.

Out of twelve independent variable, only four variables namely, participation, source of information, knowledge and size of land holding were highly significant while, herd size was significantly correlated with the decision making of the farm women in dairy occupation. Remaining independent variable were found non significant.

CONCLUSION

From this investigation, it can be concluded that overall decision making of farm women in dairy occupation was found largest in the feeding aspects followed by milk and milk products, breeding aspect, management aspect and general aspect with medium level of decision making in dairy occupation. Participation, source of information, knowledge and size of land holding were highly significant while, herd size was significantly correlated with the decision making of the farm women in dairy occupation. So, the extension agencies, dairy cooperatives and training institutes should focus their attention more on farm women for enhancing their efficiency and skill in decision making related to dairy activities.

POLICY IMPLICATION

- (1) Factor affecting decision making process of farm women may be reckoned, while designing any programmes communication relates to animal husbandry to boost decision making ability of farm women.
- (2) The extension agencies, dairy cooperatives and training institutes should focus their attention more on farm women for enhancing their efficiency and skill in decision making related to dairy activities.
- (3) Intensive training on this dairy aspect should be advocated at grass root level so that decision making of farm women could be enhanced.
- (4) The cost of essential inputs should be subsidized for farm women to accelerate decision making process.

- (5) The study showed that farm women mostly took decision about feeding, management, milk and milk products, while they were not independent in taking decision about the economic aspects of dairy. If they were involved in taking decision in economic aspects, certainly they would have worked whole heartedly for success and development of dairy occupation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest

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