

## PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG GENERATION OF PRACTISING DAIRY FARMERS IN FAMILY DAIRY FARMING

**Mahammad Shafi R. Sk.<sup>1</sup>, N. B. Chauhan<sup>2</sup> and Vinaya Kumar H. M.<sup>3</sup>**

1 Ph.D. Scholar, 2 Professor and Head (Retd.), 3 Assistant Professor,  
Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, B. A. College of Agriculture, AAU, Anand, Gujarat 388110  
Email : shafiagri23@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*The practical exposure or participation offered to the young generation about various tasks related to the occupation is the perfect way to develop family occupational employability or workability. In the occupation like animal husbandry, the young generation must have to practice various tasks on the field on a regular basis if they really want to succeed as adopters of family animal husbandry occupation. The dairy farmers' sons as a future generation are also expected to have the practical exposure related to animal husbandry connected operations to be more successful dairy farmers of the next generation of the family. Considering this, the present study was conducted on a random sample of 200 sons of dairy farmers of Anand and Kheda districts of Gujarat to examine factors influencing the participation of the young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming. The study concludes that great majority (94.50 per cent) of the young generation of practising dairy farmers in the middle Gujarat had high to a very high level of participation in animal husbandry related operations. The study also reveals that the level of participation in animal husbandry related operations of the young generation of dairy farmers was positively and significantly correlated with their age, marital status, herd size, annual income, scientific orientation and attitude towards farming as a dependable occupation, while it was noticed negatively and significantly correlated with their fathers' education. It shows that the degree of participation of animal husbandry related operations amongst the young generation of dairy farmers was noticed more vigorous amongst those, who had relatively older age, married marital status, bigger herd size, higher annual family income, less educated fathers, high level of orientation towards scientific approaches of life and positive feelings towards farming as an occupation.*

**Keywords:** participation, family dairy farming, young generation

### INTRODUCTION

The famous proverb says that practice makes a man perfect. It shows us the significance of constant exposure or participation to perform tasks and activities involved in any job to learn dimensions of successful occupation. There is no option of continuous hard work for success on the job or occupation. It is said that for the newcomers in any occupations, realistic participation given to them in various tasks related to the occupation is the perfect way to develop occupational employability or workability. In the occupation like animal husbandry, the young generation must have to practice and participation in various tasks on the field on a regular basis if they really want to succeed. Nobody can perform well in his field if he does not practice or participate in tasks on a regular basis because knowledge is a great thing but if the practice or work exposure is not done, knowledge cannot take newcomers to their goal. In fact, animal husbandry as a livelihood can be rightly learned simply by the regularity of performing the related operations practically (Shafi *et al.*, 2021a & 2021b). Considering the

impact of exposure to animal husbandry related operations to be a practical successful dairy farmer, participation in animal husbandry related operations has been considered as the key factors to develop the new generation of practising dairy farmers.

### OBJECTIVES

- (1) To study the level of participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming
- (2) To study the factors associated with participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming

### METHODOLOGY

The current investigation was conducted in well-recognized milk-producing Anand and Kheda districts of the state. From each selected Anand and Kheda district, five Talukas and from each Taluka and two villages from each Taluka, thus finally twenty random villages were selected. Ultimately, a random sample of a total of 200 sons of

practising dairy farmers was selected for the study. The data were gathered individually using an interview schedule. To study, the participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming, they were asked to show their level of exposure for 31 animal husbandry related items or operations in four continuum, viz. ‘regularly done as needed’, ‘often done’, ‘done rarely’ and ‘never done’ and scores of 3, 2, 1 and 0 were assigned, respectively to quantify this variable. The final score of participation was obtained by adding the scores of all items. They were classified in five groups, viz. very low (Up to 18.6 score), low (above 18.6 to 37.2 score), medium (above 37.2 to 55.8 score), high (above 55.8 to 74.4 score) and very high (above 74.4 to 93 score) participation in animal husbandry related operations. The scales developed by Patel *et al.*, (2009) and Ramjiyani, (2014) were used to measure selected independent variables. The coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Level of participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming

The evidence seen in Table 1 signifies that slightly more than half (54.00 per cent) of the young generation of dairy farmers had a very high level of participation in animal husbandry related operations, followed by 40.50, 5.00 and 0.50 per cent of them were with high, medium and low levels of participation in about animal husbandry related operations, whereas none of them was very low level of participation in about animal husbandry related operations.

**Table 1: Participation in animal husbandry related operations by young generation of dairy farmers** (n= 200)

Sr. No.	Overall exposure related to A. H. operations	No.	Per cent
1	Very Low (Up to 18.6 score)	00	00.00
2	Low (above 18.6 to 37.2 score)	01	00.50
3	Medium (above 37.2 to 55.8 score)	10	05.00
4	High (above 55.8 to 74.4 score)	81	40.50
5	Very high (above 74.4 to 93 score)	108	54.00

Thus, it can be concluded that a great majority (94.50 per cent) of the young generation of dairy farmers had high to a very high level of participation in animal husbandry related operations. The Charotar area of middle Gujarat situated between the Mahi and Narmada rivers covered by Anand and Kheda districts is known for its progress in

farming and dairy farming. The modern irrigated farming, well-established animal husbandry, dynamic leaders and vibrant cooperative sector have made the people and farmers of this area hardworking, innovative and progressive. The farmers and farmwomen of this area have great significance and awareness regarding usefulness of dairy farming to improve economic conditions. The family members involved in animal husbandry have a tendency to motivate their young generations to adopt and participate in dairy farming from their childhood. Thus, the dairy farmers’ sons from the early days of life understand the importance of animal husbandry. Such situation might have played a crucial role for having high to a very high level of overall participation in animal husbandry related operations amongst the very big majority of the young generation of dairy farmers. The result of the study does not with the findings of Khatri (2020)

### Factors associated with participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming

#### Personal factors

It can be seen that in case of the personal factors, the relationship of age and marital status were positively and significantly correlated with the participation of animal husbandry related operations of young generation of dairy farmers, while fathers’ education was negatively and significantly correlated, however variables like education and distance of native from district place were non-significantly correlated with their participation with animal husbandry related operations. It shows that the degree of participation of animal husbandry related operations of young sons of dairy farmers was noticed more vigorous amongst those, who had comparatively older age, married marital status and low literate fathers. The result matches with the findings of Khatri, (2020) and Sabapara, (2020). It can be said that slightly older sons of the dairy farmers after finishing their formal education at the age of around twenty-five tried to take more interest in family occupation development generating actions and specially after marriage they became more responsible towards the occupation and tried to participate seriously in economic activities.

#### Economic Factors

It can be noticeable that amongst the economic factors, herd size and annual income of the young generation of dairy farmers were positively and significantly correlated with their participation in animal husbandry related operations, while landholding and occupation were non-significantly correlated with their participation in animal husbandry related operations. This shows that those having a bigger herd size in the family and higher annual family

**Table 2: Factors associated with participation of young generation of practising dairy farmers in family dairy farming.** (n= 200)

Sr. No.	Factors	Correlation Coefficient (r)
<b>A</b>	<b>Personal Factors</b>	
X <sub>1</sub>	Age	0.463**
X <sub>2</sub>	Education	-0.129
X <sub>3</sub>	Marital Status	0.429**
X <sub>4</sub>	Father's education	-0.209**
X <sub>5</sub>	Distance from district	0.089
<b>B</b>	<b>Economic Factors</b>	
X <sub>6</sub>	Landholding	0.098
X <sub>7</sub>	Herd size	0.270**
X <sub>8</sub>	Annual income	0.153*
X <sub>9</sub>	Occupation	-0.024
<b>C</b>	<b>Social and Communicational Factors</b>	
X <sub>10</sub>	Type of family	0.084
X <sub>11</sub>	Social participation	-0.058
X <sub>12</sub>	Farm media exposure	-0.011
X <sub>13</sub>	Extension contact	0.030
<b>D</b>	<b>Psychological Factors</b>	
X <sub>14</sub>	Achievement motivation	0.075
X <sub>15</sub>	Self confidence	0.123
X <sub>16</sub>	Scientific orientation	0.192**
X <sub>17</sub>	Economic motivation	0.125
X <sub>18</sub>	Attitude towards farming	0.199**

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability

income were with a high degree of participation in animal husbandry related operations. The result of the study matches the findings observed by Khatri, (2020) and Sabapara, (2020). The probable reason is obvious that to manage a bigger herd size associated animal husbandry, they need more manpower and resources for the effective outcome and management, such requirements might have motivated heads of the big herd size associated farm families to attract new generations of their families to take interest and participate actively to manage big herd size productively and effectively. The heads of the high family income-oriented dairy farming adopting families might have motivated their young members to participate actively in animal husbandry operations to sustain the level of income up to the expected level.

### Social and communicational factors

It can be understood that type of family, social participation, farm media exposure and extension contact as social and communicational variables were noticed non-significantly correlated with the participation of the young generation of dairy farmers in animal husbandry related operations. It demonstrates that the degree of exposure of animal husbandry related operations of the young dairy farmers was detected similarly better with the irrespective type of their family, level of social involvement, liveliness to utilize farm mass media and association with extension agencies and agents.

### Psychological Factors

It can be seen that amongst the psychological factors, scientific orientation and attitude towards farming were positively and significantly correlated with the participation of the young generation of dairy farmers in animal husbandry related operations, while factors like achievement motivation, self-confidence and economic motivation were non-significantly correlated with their participation in of animal husbandry related operations. It shows that the degree of participation in animal husbandry related operations of the young dairy farmers was noticed more vigorous amongst those, who had high regards towards scientific approaches of life and positive feelings towards farming as an occupation. The result of the study matches with the finding of Khatri, (2020). The result indicates that a high degree of the feeling to apply scientific ways of living life and operating business scientifically with a positive attitude towards farming as livelihood occupation had connected youths significantly to participate actively in the various operations of animal husbandry. It shows that rural youth have understood the significance of science for the development of modern farming and dairying incorporating scientific innovations while participating in animal husbandry operations.

### CONCLUSION

The study concludes that a great majority (94.50 per cent) of the young generation of practising dairy farmers in middle Gujarat had high to a very high level of overall participation in animal husbandry related operations. The study also reveals that the level of participation of animal husbandry related operations of the young generation of dairy farmers was noticed positively significant with their characters viz. age, marital status, herd size, annual income, scientific orientation and attitude towards farming, while it was noticed negatively and significantly correlated with their fathers' education. It shows that the degree of participation in animal husbandry related operations of the young generation

of dairy farmers was observed more vigorous amongst those, who had relatively older age, married marital status, bigger herd size, higher annual income, low literate fathers, high level of orientation towards scientific approaches of life and positive feelings towards farming as an occupation.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest

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