

## QUALITIES RESPONSIBLE TO SHAPE THE FAMILY DAIRY FARMING SKILLFULNESS AMONGST THE SONS OF PRACTISING DAIRY FARMERS

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### ABSTRACT

*The professionals of the scientific dairy farming have a strong observation that until and unless practical ability or skilfulness to execute modern methods and operations of animal husbandry, just possession of theoretical information about the package of practices of dairy farming is not enough to get the expected return for newcomers to manage family dairy farming as an occupation. Considering this, the current research was carried out on a random sample of 200 young sons in-between the age of 18 to 35 of practising dairy farmers of Anand and Kheda districts of Gujarat. The study examined the qualities responsible to shape the family dairy farming skilfulness amongst the sons of practising dairy farmers as the new generation to handle the dairy farming occupation. The research clearly states that the majority (91.00 per cent) of the dairy farmers' sons had a high to a very high level of skilfulness to handle animal husbandry related operations. The results of the correlation coefficients indicate that skilfulness to handle animal husbandry operations and activities was observed superior amongst those sons who had relatively older age above 25 years, married matrimonial status, the bigger size of family landholding and maintained the bigger size of the herd by their parents, to some extent low educated fathers as well as encouraging mindset towards farming as an occupation.*

**Keywords:** responsible qualities, family dairy farming skilfulness, dairy farmers' sons

### INTRODUCTION

The experts of scientific dairy farming have a strong opinion that until and unless practical ability or skilfulness to execute and operate modern methods and various operations of animal husbandry, just primary awareness about the package of practices of dairy farming is not enough to get the expected level of return from dairy farming (Shafi *et al.*, 2021a & 2021b). The skilfulness is the mental and practical capability to employ knowledge effectively in to practice through effective performance. In dairy farming, animal husbandry practitioners have to complete many tasks on a daily basis, no two days are exactly similar to handle the dairy farming. Maintaining the equipment and tools used in dairy farming is a regular task, so basic mechanical skills are important to animal husbandry practitioners. In addition to this, there are many mental and physical activities (Chauhan *et al.*, 2017) associated with animal husbandry occupation; farmers have to put into operation using their skills. Considering this, a study on dairy farmers' sons was undertaken to examine the capability of the new generation of dairy farming.

### OBJECTIVES

(1) To study the insight of the sons of practising dairy

farmers about their skilfulness related to different animal husbandry operations

(2) To study qualities responsible to shape the family dairy farming skilfulness amongst the sons of practising dairy farmers

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted on a random sample of a total of 200 young sons of practising dairy farmers between the age of 18 to 35 years. They were randomly and proportionally selected from 20 villages, out of which 10 villages were from Anand and 10 villages were from Kheda districts of Gujarat. The insight of the sons of practising dairy farmers about their skilfulness related to different animal husbandry operations was measured based on their perception about practical ability to carry out or operate total 31 tasks related to dairy farming. These tasks were related to various operations, handling of machinery, equipment, hand managing tools and value additions and processing related tasks of the dairy farming. The respondents were asked to show their ability to do them in tree continuum viz. 'can do with full confidence', 'can do with less confidence' and 'cannot do' and the scores of 2, 1 and 0 were assigned. The final score was obtained by adding

scores of all 31 items. Thereafter, they were classified into five categories viz. very high skilfulness (above 49.6 to 62 score), high (above 37.2 to 49.6 score), medium (above 24.8 to 37.2 score), low (above 12.4 to 24.8 score) and very low (up to 12.4 score) level of skilfulness to handle animal husbandry. To measure various independent variables, scales developed by Patel *et al.*, (2009) and, Patel *et al.* and Chauhan, (2008) were used. The coefficient of correlation was worked out to see the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The Dairy farmers' sons according to their skilfulness related to different animal husbandry related operations

The facts given in Table 1 indicate that nearly the six-tenth (57.50 per cent) of the dairy farmers' sons had a very high level of skilfulness to handle animal husbandry relates activities, followed by 33.50 and 9.00 per cent of them were with a high and medium level of the overall skilfulness related to handling animal husbandry relates activities, whereas none of them was with a low or very low level of overall skill related to handling animal husbandry relates activities.

**Table 1: Dairy farmers' sons according to their skill related to animal husbandry (n= 200)**

Sr. No	Skill related to A. H	Number	Per cent
1	<b>Very Low</b> (Up to 12.4 score)	00	00.00
2	<b>Low</b> (above 12.4 to 24.8 score)	00	00.00
3	<b>Medium</b> (above 24.8 to 37.2 score)	18	09.00
4	<b>High</b> (above 37.2 to 49.6 score)	67	33.50
5	<b>Very high</b> (above 49.6 to 62 score)	115	57.50

Thus, it can be concluded that a huge majority of the dairy farmers' sons had high to very high levels of skilfulness to handle animal husbandry relates activities. The area covered by Anand and Kheda districts is known as the Charotar. This area is predominantly known as the area of irrigated farming, high milk productions and animal husbandry. The devoted leaders like Shri Sardar Patel, Shri Tribhuvandas Patel, famous social entrepreneur Dr. Verghese Kurien and many other leaders through their cooperative efforts have motivated the farmers of this area since the independence to go for animal husbandry by creating a conducive and farmers-friendly marketing, medical and animal feed supplying situation to adopt dairy farming. Thus, the dairy farmers' sons and daughters from childhood have realized the significance

of this occupation. Such understanding and realization might have played a significant role for having high to very high levels of skilfulness to perform animal husbandry related activities amongst the huge (91.00 per cent) majority of the dairy farmers' sons. The result of the study is in partially concurrence with the findings of Onima, (2017).

### The qualities responsible to shape the family dairy farming skilfulness amongst the sons of practising dairy farmers

The result shown in Table 2 indicates the influencing personal, economic, social, communicational and psychological qualities of the dairy farmers' sons on their skilfulness to handle animal husbandry related operations.

#### Personal characteristics

It can be observed that within the personal characteristics, characters like age, marital status were significantly correlated with the skilfulness related to animal husbandry activities of the dairy farmers' sons, while fathers education was negatively significant with the skill related to animal husbandry activities of the dairy farmers' sons, whereas, education and distance from district place did not show any significant relationship with the skilfulness related to animal husbandry of the dairy farmers' sons.

It shows that the level of skilfulness related to animal husbandry was noticed more competent amongst those, who had relatively older age, married matrimonial status and who were sons of low educated fathers. The result of the study is in matching the findings observed by Singh, (2010) and Khatri, (2020). The more years of the association since childhood with animal husbandry and awareness developed from the practising fathers and older family members till the age of 35 years, feeling developed to be settled after married status, more years of practical exposure of doing various dairy farming connected activities while helping their parents and positivity in term of enthusiasm to stay and work in village area might have played the significant role for having the superior degree of skilfulness related to animal husbandry among majority of them.

#### Economic characteristics

It can be noticed that within the economic characteristics, landholding and herd size were positively significant with the skilfulness related to animal husbandry of the dairy farmers' sons, while annual income and occupation did not show any significant relationship with their skilfulness related to animal husbandry. It shows that the bigger size of family landholding and herd size have created favourable situation to learn skilfulness about dairy farming operations.

**Table 2: The profile characteristics influencing with skills related to animal husbandry of the dairy farmers' sons (n= 200)**

Sr. No	Characteristics	Correlation Coefficient (r)
<b>A Personal Characteristics</b>		
X <sub>1</sub>	Age	0.483**
X <sub>2</sub>	Education	0.002
X <sub>3</sub>	Marital status	0.445**
X <sub>4</sub>	Father's education	-0.168*
X <sub>5</sub>	Distance from district	0.070
<b>B Economic Characteristics</b>		
X <sub>6</sub>	Landholding	0.158*
X <sub>7</sub>	Herd size	0.140*
X <sub>8</sub>	Annual income	0.126
X <sub>9</sub>	Occupation	0.012
<b>C Social and communicational Characteristics</b>		
X <sub>10</sub>	Type of family	0.108
X <sub>11</sub>	Social participation	-0.085
X <sub>12</sub>	Farm media exposure	0.084
X <sub>13</sub>	Extension contact	0.134
<b>D Psychological Characteristics</b>		
X <sub>14</sub>	Achievement motivation	0.039
X <sub>15</sub>	Self confidence	0.074
X <sub>16</sub>	Scientific orientation	0.135
X <sub>17</sub>	Economic motivation	0.104
X <sub>18</sub>	Attitude towards farming	0.244**
* Significant at 0.05 level of probability		
** Significant at 0.01 level of probability		

As it is natural that more manpower, practical exposure and involvement are needed for any individual to maintain more number of milch animals and land holding. Thus, whoever dairy farmers' family had bigger size of the herd and land holding, younger members of their family are motivated, forced or sometimes requested by the elder members to give their time, involvement and help to manage the family occupation of the animal husbandry. Such inspiration, exposure, association and participation created by the elder members might have helped youths of the family to learn animal husbandry related skills.

**Social and communicational characteristics**

As far as the social and communicational characteristics are concerned, none of the social and communicational characteristics viz. type of family, social participation, farm media exposure and extension contact

were significant with the skills related to animal husbandry activities of the dairy farmers' sons. This implies that, none of the social and communicational characteristics of the dairy farmer's sons exhibited noticeable role in inculcating enough confidence to perform various animal husbandry related activities with a satisfactory degree of skill. The result of the study is in fulfilling the findings Singh, (2010).

**Psychological characteristics**

It can be observed that amongst the psychological characteristics, attitude towards farming was positively and significant relationship with the skilfulness related to animal husbandry of the dairy farmers' sons, while achievement motivation, self confidence, scientific orientation, economic motivation were non-significantly correlated with the skilfulness to handle related animal husbandry activities of the dairy farmers' sons. This indicates that positive feelings amongst the young dairy farmers towards the farming as an occupation have made them more positive, enthusiastic and active in learning skilfulness to handle dairy farming related operations. It is very obvious that dairy farming and farming are two side of the same coin and both complement each other. Person who is really positive toward farming will always think constructive towards dairy farming considering the fact that both occupations have capacity to harmonize each other. This was the reason why dairy farmers' sons with positive attitude towards farming were found more active and more skilful in handling the animal husbandry operations.

It is obvious that the dairy farmers' sons felt that farming can provide a sustainable source of revenue, they have the pride to engage in it, they also believed that farming is an effective way to utilize natural resources and villages cannot prosper unless rural youth cannot utilize the local resource to develop an attitude towards farming as an occupation. For this effective management of farm resources, skill is much need to use them effectively and effective utilization makes the youth interest in developing a positive attitude towards a farming.

**CONCLUSION**

The study concludes that the great majority (91.00 per cent) of the practising dairy farmers' sons were with highly to very highly skilfulness to handle animal husbandry related operations. The skilfulness to handle animal husbandry operations amongst the dairy farmers' sons as adopters of next generation of family dairy farming were observed better amongst those, who were married sons of low educated fathers with above 25 years of age, who had married marital status, bigger size of family landholding and herd size in family along with positive attitude to recognize farming as

dependable occupation.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest among researchers.

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