

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF FARM WOMEN ABOUT CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Livestock keeping has been practiced as a way of life by the farmers of our country from generation to generation. Dairy farming is recognized only next to agriculture as a source of income to the dairy farm women. A study was conducted in Rajkot and Amreli district of Gujarat state to assess the knowledge level of respondents regarding clean milk production practices and to ascertain the association between the characteristics of trained and untrained farm women and their level of knowledge. A sample of 240 respondents was selected for present study. Majority of the trained farm women were from medium level of knowledge, while 18.33 per cent and 12.50 per cent of the trained farm women were from high and low level of knowledge. In case of untrained farm women majority of the farm women were from medium level of knowledge while 28.33 per cent and 14.17 per cent of the untrained farm women were from low and high level of knowledge. There was positive and highly significant relationship between education, experience in dairy farming, extension participation, risk orientation and their knowledge of trained farm women. While, in case of untrained farm women education, experience in dairy farming, extension participation, risk orientation had positive and significant relationship with knowledge.

Keywords : level of knowledge, relationship, dairy farm women, clean milk production

INTRODUCTION

Livestock keeping has been practiced as a way of life by the farmers of our country from generation to generation. Dairy farming is recognized only next to agriculture as a source of income to the dairy farm women. The dairy farm industry's principal product is milk, which is primarily produced for human nourishment. A dairy farmer seeks to get the most milk out of his or her herd. Farmers must also provide clean milking requirements in order for milk to be fit for consumption. Milk can act as carriers for the transmission of germs and other microbes in the absence of proper milking procedures. As a result, infected milk can readily promote illness threats in the public throughout manufacturing, processing, and marketing. Milk that is unfit for human consumption is a financial loss for the farmer who produces it.

Clean milk is described as milk from a healthy dairy animal with a normal flavour, no dirt or filth, an allowed limit of germs, and basically no adulterants, pathogens, different poisons, aberrant residues, pollutants, or metabolites. Disease transmission through food is one of the leading causes of illness in many nations. Zoonosis is the natural transmission of illnesses and infections between vertebrate animals and

humans. Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Salmonellosis, and other zoonotic illnesses can be transmitted through milk.

Clean milk does not mean making the milk free from extraneous matters by passing it through sieve or muslin cloth. It actually refers to raw milk produced in the udders of healthy dairy animals, handled under sanitary conditions, and containing only the permitted amount of pathogens and chemicals. In clean milk production methods, there are primarily four elements to consider: animal hygiene, milking hygiene, equipment hygiene and processing hygiene.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To assess the knowledge of trained and untrained farm women about clean milk production practices
- (2) To ascertain the association between the characteristics of trained and untrained farm women and their level of knowledge about clean milk production practices

METHODOLOGY

“Ex-post facto” research design was applied for this study. Kerlinger, F. (1969) stated that “Ex-post facto” design is worthy to apply when the independent variable has already acted upon. The study was conducted in Rajkot and Amreli

district of Gujarat state. The sample of the study was selected by multistage simple purposive sampling technique. Three talukas from each district were selected. From the Rajkot district, Dhoraji, Upleta and Jamkandorna were selected purposively for the study of farm women. From the Amreli district, Amreli, Babara and Liliya were selected purposively. Because from this taluka's farm women were undergone training for clean milk production from the KVK. From each selected taluka, two villages were selected purposively. Total 12 villages were selected for the study of farm women. From each selected village 10 trained and 10 untrained farm women were selected for the study of farm women. Total 240

respondents were selected purposively for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level about clean milk production practices

In the present study knowledge refers to know-how about different clean milk production practices adopted by the dairy farm women. Adequate knowledge is essential to dairy farm women for the successful and profitable dairy farming. It was therefore thought necessary to obtain information from the dairy farm women about the knowledge of clean milk production practices. The data regarding level of knowledge are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of dairy farm women according to their level of knowledge

(n=240)

Sr. No.	Level of knowledge	Category of farm women			
		Trained (n=120)		Untrained (n=120)	
		Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low < Mean – S.D.	15 (up to 67.19)	12.50	34 (up to 50.02)	28.33
2	Medium Mean ± S.D.	83 (67.20 to 93.28)	69.17	69 (50.03 to 73.99)	57.50
3	High >Mean + S.D.	22 (above 93.28)	18.33	17 (above 73.99)	14.17
Mean = 80.23 62.01					
SD = 13.04 11.98					

It can be observed from the Table 1.1 that majority (69.17 per cent) of the trained farm women were from medium level of knowledge regarding clean milk production practices, while 18.33 per cent and 12.50 per cent of the trained farm women were from high and low level of knowledge regarding clean milk production practices respectively. In case of untrained farm women majority (57.50 per cent) of the farm women were from medium level of knowledge regarding clean milk production practices, while 28.33 per cent and 14.17 per cent of the untrained farm women were from low and high level of knowledge regarding clean milk production practices respectively.

The probable reason might be that most of the trained farm women were educated, so they could easily understand and acquire skills and knowledge from dairy training programme. Other reasons might be that the respondents were from medium extension participation and high innovativeness. These facts might have helped to be trained farm women in acquiring medium knowledge about

clean milk production practices. Lacking of above aspects was found in case of untrained farm women. The results are in agreement with Khokhar (2007), Nehete (2010), Upadhyay (2010), Singh (2015) and Soni and Verma (2019).

Association between level of knowledge about clean milk production practices and selected independent variable of the respondents

In the present investigation the knowledge of clean milk production practices of the respondents was considered as dependent variables. The selected characteristics were considered as independent variables. The correlation coefficient (r value) was used with a view to find out the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The research hypothesis in null form was derived for testing association and their significance on zero order correlation.

The data related to relationship between knowledge of clean milk production practices and the characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Correlation between knowledge about clean milk production practices followed by the farm women and the profile of respondents

(n=240)

Sr. No.	Independent variable	'r' – Value	
		Trained farm women (n=120)	Untrained farm women (n=120)
X ₁	Age	-0.1839*	-0.1795*
X ₂	Education	0.2626**	0.1810*
X ₃	Experience in dairy farming	0.3227**	0.1944*
X ₄	Size of family	0.1038 ^{NS}	0.0940 ^{NS}
X ₅	Annual income	0.2123*	0.0043 ^{NS}
X ₆	Size of land holding	0.1064 ^{NS}	0.1118 ^{NS}
X ₇	Social participation	0.2156*	0.0270 ^{NS}
X ₈	Extension participation	0.2725**	0.1840*
X ₉	Mass media exposure	0.1818*	0.1037 ^{NS}
X ₁₀	Risk orientation	0.2808**	0.2071*
X ₁₁	Innovativeness	0.2063*	0.1239 ^{NS}
X ₁₂	Market orientation	0.1832*	0.1105 ^{NS}

NS= Non-significant

*= Significant at 0.05 level

**= Significant at 0.01 level

There was negative and significant association of the knowledge of both trained and untrained farm women with their age. In case of trained farm women, among the independent variables the education, experience in dairy farming, extension participation and risk orientation had positive and highly significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices. While, in case of untrained farm women education, experience in dairy farming, extension participation and risk orientation had positive and significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices.

The remaining characters like annual income, social participation, mass media exposure, innovativeness and market orientation had positive and significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices in trained farm women. While in case of untrained farm women annual income, social participation, mass media exposure, innovativeness and market orientation had non-significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices.

In case of trained farm women size of family and size of land holding had non-significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices.

This result is in line with Anilkumar (2008) and

Chauhan (2008), Thakeret *et al.* (2020) and Shafi *et al.* (2021).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded majority of the farm women were from medium level of knowledge about clean milk production practices. Results revealed that the trained farm women had more knowledge as compare to untrained farm women. There was negative and significant association of the knowledge of both trained and untrained farm women with their age. In case of trained farm women, there was positive and significant relationship between education, experience in dairy farming, annual income, social participation, mass media exposure, extension participation, innovativeness, market orientation, risk orientation and knowledge about clean milk production practices. While, in case of untrained farm women education, experience in dairy farming, extension participation and risk orientation had positive and significant relationship with knowledge about clean milk production practices.

IMPLICATIONS

The study facilitate in knowing the characteristics of the dairy farm women and it would help to serve as guideline for policy makers, planners and extension workers to implement such type of study.

The dairy farm women background factors that influence the adoption of clean milk production practices must be reckoned within any programme of rural development. The finding indicated that knowledge, education and annual income were the prominent variable influencing the adoption of clean milk production practices of dairy farm women. Therefore, extension workers should concentrate to increase the level of knowledge, education and annual income for promotion of dairy technology.

Subject matter specialists, veterinary doctors, agricultural extension officers should visit the village and guide them to solve the problems of the dairy farm women in accordance with resources availed with dairy farm women and to sustained their credibility.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest among researchers.

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