

PARTICIPATION OF SONS OF DAIRY FARMERS IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Dholka and Dhandhuka talukas of Ahmedabad district in Bhal region. Total 220 son of dairy farmers' who practicing animal husbandry were selected randomly. Study was carried out to know the participation level of the sons of dairy farmers in animal husbandry practices as many farmers were leaving the animal husbandry. Ex post facto research design was used for the study. Pre-structured Gujarati version interview scheduled was prepared and used for the collection of data. Cent percent of the sons of dairy farmer involved in the breeding practices while none of the son of dairy farmer involved in other managemental practices like castration and dehorning of animal which indicated that breeding practice was most important among all the animal husbandry practices. Sons of dairy farmer had medium level of participation in animal husbandry. Age of son, father's education, land holding, extension contact, self-confidence and attitude of participant towards animal husbandry as an occupation had positive correlation with participation level of sons in animal husbandry practices.

Keywords: dairy farming, animal husbandry, participation

INTRODUCTION

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), about 45.76% of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied sector during 2022-23 (Anonymous, 2022). The shift in workforce from primary (agriculture) sector to secondary and tertiary sectors is a normal phenomenon of the development process experienced by countries across the world and the same is true for India as well. Agriculture contributes around 15% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in the total economy and has been growing at 4.3% during last six years (Anonymous, 2023). For dairy farming to remain successful and sustainable over the long run, sons of dairy farmers must actively participate in dairy farming practices (Shafi *et al.*, 2022). Sons who are actively involved in the farm's daily operations contribute a distinct viewpoint and in-depth knowledge of the industry that are crucial to its success. Dairy farms can gain from the generational transfer of knowledge and experience by incorporating boys in all facets of the dairy farming, including financial planning, equipment maintenance, and herd management. Another significant advantage of involving sons of dairy farmers in dairy farming activities is the opportunity for them to learn

valuable skills and knowledge that are essential for success in the animal husbandry. By working closely with experienced family members and industry experts, sons are able to absorb a wealth of knowledge and experience that would be impossible to gain through formal education alone.

The challenges and complexities associated with animal husbandry, such as disease outbreaks, climate change, and market fluctuations, can deter the new generation from pursuing a career in this field. Raising animals requires a significant amount of knowledge, skills, and resources to ensure their health and well-being, which can be intimidating for young people who may lack experience or support systems in this area. (Cheng *et al.*, 2022) The unpredictability of agricultural markets and the physical demands of farm work further contribute to the perception of animal husbandry as a risky and unappealing profession.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the participation of sons of dairy farmer in animal husbandry practices
- 2) To explore the relationship between the son's profile and their participation in animal husbandry

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat state. Two Talukas viz., Dholka and Dhandhuka were purposively selected for the study in *Bhal* region. Thereafter, five villages from each Taluka were selected purposively. 220 dairy farmers’ sons were selected by random sampling from selected villages. Based on the objectives of the study, pre-structured Gujarati version interview scheduled was prepared and used for the collection of data. Questions related to participation in animal husbandry practices summed into major practices like breeding practices, purchasing of feed, fodder and animals etc. Ex post facto research design was used in the present study. The descriptive statistics was calculated for the analysis and Pearson’s correlation coefficient were used for the interpretation of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is cleared from the data presented in Table 1 that sons of the dairy farmers participated in all the animal breeding practices (100.00 mean per cent score), followed by selling and buying related practices (76.45 mean per cent score), replacement of stock (75.00 mean per cent score), profit utilization related activities (68.95 mean per cent score), rearing of calves (59.66 mean per cent score) and about feed, fodder (55.82 mean per cent score), daily routine practices (53.09 mean per cent score), maintaining various records of animal husbandry (45.43 mean per cent score) and animal product related practices (12.07 mean per cent score), respectively may be because sons were in their learning phase so they had categorise different animal husbandry practices according to their importance so breeding placed on the first place in comparison to other practices. Present result is very well supported by Bayola, (2001), Kena *et al.*, (2022) and Chaudhary *et al.*, (2024)

Table 1: Distribution of dairy farmer sons according to their practice wise participation in dairy farming

(n = 220)

Sr. No.	Practices	Mean % Score	Rank
1	Breeding Practices	100.00	I
2	About selling and buying related practices	76.45	II
3	Replacement stock	75.00	III
4	Profit utilization related	68.95	IV
5	Rearing the calves	59.66	V
6	About feed (concentrated mixture) and fodder	55.82	VI
7	Daily routine practices	53.09	VII
8	Maintaining various records of animal husbandry	45.43	VIII
9	About animal products	12.07	IX
10	Other management practices (Castration and dehorning)	00.00	X

Overall participation of sons of dairy farmers in dairy farming practices

The data mentioned in Table 2 portrayed that great majority (83.18 per cent) of the sons of dairy farmers had medium level of participation in dairy farming activities,

followed by 16.82 per cent of them had high level of participation in dairy farming activities, respectively. None of them were fall under very low, low and very high level of participation in dairy farming activities, reason for that may be they had just started to involve in animal husbandry. Present result is in accordance with Pandey *et al.* (2024)

Table 2: Distribution of dairy farmer sons according to their overall participation in dairy farming

(n = 220)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Very low (Up to 27.2 score)	00	00.00
2	Low (Between 27.21 to 54.4 score)	00	00.00
3	Medium (Between 54.41 to 81.6 score)	183	83.18
4	High (Between 81.61 to 108.8 score)	37	16.82
5	Very high (Above 108.8 score)	00	00.00

As depicted in Table no. 3 data shows that as age, father’s education, land holding, extension contact, self confidence and attitude toward animal husbandry as an occupation and participation level of sons of dairy farmers’ had positive correlation which is very well supported by

Kunasekaran *et al.* (2012), Muatip and Sugiarto, (2016), Shafi *et al.*, (2022), Pandey *et al.*, (2023), Patel *et al.*, (2023), Ghasura *et al.*, (2023). Education, annual income and herd size of dairy farm had negative correlation with the level of participation by the sons of dairy farmer which is in line with

Shafi *et al.*, (2022), means individual respondents age and their father's education plays very important role to increase son's participation in different activity.

Table: 3 Correlations between participation of sons of dairy farmer in animal husbandry practices and their profile (n=220)

Sr. No.	Profile	Correlation
X ₁	Age	0.090
X ₂	Education	- 0.064
X ₃	Father's education	0.076
X ₄	Land holding	0.028
X ₅	Annual income	- 0.025
X ₆	Herd size	- 0.089
X ₇	Extension contact	0.045
X ₈	Self confidence	0.094
X ₉	Attitude toward animal husbandry as an occupation	0.087

No significant difference was observed

CONCLUSION

Sons of dairy farmer gave more importance and participate in breeding practices in comparison to other management practices.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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