

Original Research Article

Participation and Decision Making Pattern of Farm Women in Dairy Occupation

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Participation,
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The present study was conducted with the specific objective “To study the extent of participation of farm women in decision making about dairy occupation”. For the study, Ashti taluka of Beed district was selected purposively from Marathwada region. As regards with the participation of farm women in making decisions it was observed that 62.50 per cent of respondents were from medium decision making category followed by 20.83 per cent in low decision making category and 16.67 per cent in high decision making category.

Introduction

Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy. More than seventy three per cent of the total population of India is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Dairy occupation is well knit to agricultural system and has become an integral part of rural economy. It has emerged as a potential source of gainful employment for the rural poor. Women are playing a pivotal role both in agriculture and dairying. The contribution of women in agriculture is roughly estimated to be about 50-60 per cent. In many places, the entire livestock management is looked by women. They help in farm operations, take their animals on distant lands for grazing, look after the sale of milk, if necessary by taking it to the market and in addition, perform the functions related to house management. Chakravarty (1975) revealed that, an active

farm women spends eight to nine hours of a day on the farm particularly when it is peak period of agricultural season. In order to perform these functions more smoothly and effectively, adequate knowledge of livestock management and dairy technology is essential for farm women.

The knowledge and skill of farm women in dairy occupation and their participation in decision making certainly affects their efficiency in work and in the development of dairy enterprise.

Objectives

To study the extent of participation of farm women in decision making about dairy occupation

To explore the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of farm women with decision making

Materials and Methods

From the Beed district Ashti taluka was selected purposively as significant part of farm women were involve in dairy enterprises. Ten villages from Ashti taluka were selected by lottery method.

Twelve respondents from each village were selected, while selecting the respondents following criteria was followed. 1. Respondents should be female. 2. She should be performing significant role in dairy occupation. In this way 120 respondents were selected. The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of pre-tested schedule. Ex-post facto research design was used for the present study.

Results and Discussion

The data from Table 1 revealed that majority of farm women (80.84 %) did not participate in decision making as regards with selection of breeds of animal and 66.67 per cent not involved in decisions of selection of milking animal. Whereas 23.33 per cent farm women were involved in joint decisions related to selection of animals.

Further it is observed that in borrowing loans for purchase of fodder and construction of byre, 86.67 per cent and 81.67 per cent farm women did not involve in decisions. Whereas 13.33 per cent farm women were involved in joint decisions related to construction of byre.

It is further noticed that farm women 77.50 per cent and 85.00 per cent did not involve in sale and purchase decisions of animal.

Whereas 15.83 per cent farm women were involved in joint decisions related to purchase of animal.

It is showed that farm women took independent decisions regarding feeding that 45.84 per cent farm women involved in feeding animal according to their status, 37.50 per cent farm women took decisions regarding preparing of feed mixtures and 30.00 per cent farm women decided about bringing fodder from fields. Also 55.00 per cent farm women involved in joint decision about bringing fodder and 51.66 per cent farm women involved in joint decision about preparing feed mixture while, 33.33 per cent farm women involved in joint decision about feeding animal according to their status. Whereas 50.00 per cent farm women did not took decision regarding purchase of feed. So it clearly states that women took decisions about feeding activities was considerable.

Information regarding breeding showed that 82.50 per cent farm women did not participate in decisions regarding deciding method of conception while, 12.50 per cent were involved in joint decision.

It is also revealed that 86.67 per cent farm women are not involved in decisions about vaccination and 73.34 per cent farm women are not involved in decisions about treatment by veterinary doctor.

Considerable proportion of farm women (20.83 %) involved in joint decisions with family members regarding consultation with veterinary doctor.

Further Table 1 showed information about milk and milk product that 81.66 per cent of farm women did not take decisions about deciding dairy co-operative to which milk to be sold and 71.67 per cent of farm women did not involve in fixing rate of milk.

Table.1 Distribution of farm women according to their extent of participation in decision making about dairy occupation

(N=120)

Sr. No.	Particulars of participation	Independent decision		Joint decision		No decision	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
A General							
1	Selection of milking animal	12	10.00	28	23.33	80	66.67
2	Selection of breed	07	05.83	16	13.33	97	80.84
B Borrowing loan							
1	Procurement of fodder	04	03.33	12	10.00	104	86.67
2	Construction of byre	06	05.00	16	13.33	98	81.67
C Sale and purchase							
1	Purchase of animals	08	06.66	19	15.83	93	77.50
2	Culling of animals	05	04.16	13	10.84	102	85.00
D Feeding							
1	Bringing of fodder	36	30.00	66	55.00	16	15.00
2	Preparing feed mixture	45	37.50	62	51.66	13	10.84
3	Purchase of feed	08	06.66	52	04.33	60	50.00
4	Feeding animal according to their status	55	45.84	40	33.33	25	20.83
E Breeding							
1	Deciding method of conception	06	05.00	15	12.50	99	82.50
F Care at the time of calving							
1	Treatment by veterinary doctor	07	05.83	25	20.83	88	73.34
2	Vaccination	04	03.33	12	10.00	104	86.67
G Milk and milk product							
1	Fixing milk rate	16	13.33	18	15.00	86	71.67
2	Deciding about dairy co-operative	10	08.34	12	10.00	98	81.66
H Milk product							
1	Preparation of curd	65	54.16	40	33.33	15	12.50
2	Preparation of butter milk	58	48.33	35	29.16	27	22.51
3	Butter	60	50.00	22	18.34	38	31.66
4	Preparation of ghee	55	45.83	37	30.83	28	23.34
I Investment of money							
1	Invest in occupation	08	06.66	22	18.34	90	75.00
2	Used for family need	10	08.33	18	15.00	92	76.66

Table.2 Distribution of farm women according to their extent of participation in decision making about dairy occupation

(N=120)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low decision making (up to 14)	25	20.83
2	Medium decision making (15 to 27)	75	62.50
3	High decision making (28 and above)	20	16.67
	Total	120	100.00

X = 20.85

S.D. = 06.99

Table.3 Relationship between socio-economic characteristics of Farm women with decision making

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Coefficient of correlation
1	Age	-0.843**
2	Education	0.815**
3	Land holding	0.296**
4	Family size	-0.797**
5	Social participation	0.199*
6	Experience	0.292**
7	Source of information	0.760**
8	Herd size	0.241**

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

** Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Table.4 Multiple regression analysis of decision making of farm women in dairy occupation

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Regression coefficient	S.E.	't' value
1	Age	-0.137	0.061	-2.215
2	Education	0.522	0.182	2.867**
3	Land holding	0.254	0.203	1.252
4	Family size	-0.717	0.195	-0.285
5	Social participation	-0.037	0.079	-0.024
6	Experience	-0.013	0.052	-0.015
7	Source of information	0.510	0.215	0.196*
8	Herd size	-0.066	0.259	-0.024

R² = 0.800

F = 55.43

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

** Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Whereas 15.00 per cent of farm women took joint decision regarding fixing rate of milk. 13.33 per cent farm women took independent decision regarding fixing rate of milk.

But about preparation of milk and milk product 54.16 per cent women took decision independently to prepare curd, 50.00 per cent about butter, 48.33 per cent about preparation of butter milk and 45.83 per cent decided preparation of ghee taking independent decisions while joint decisions regarding preparation of curd i.e. 33.33 per cent, preparation of ghee 30.83 per cent and preparation of butter milk 29.16 per cent. It clearly indicated that farm women did not

involve in selling of milk and deciding prices of milk but they are solely involved in preparation of milk and milk product.

Further Table 1 showed information regarding investment of money from occupation that 76.66 per cent and 75.00 per cent farm women did not involve in taking decision whether to invest in family need and occupation respectively.

From Table 2 it is seen that 62.50 per cent of farm women were hailing in medium decision making category followed by 20.83 per cent farm women in low decision making category and 16.67 per cent farm women in high decision making category. It

implies that in general farm women had medium to low decision making ability in dairy occupation.

From Table 3, it is evident that out of eight independent variables, age and family size were negatively significant at 0.01 level of significance whereas education, land holding, experience, source of information and herd size had positive and significant relationship at 0.01 level with decision making. While social participation had positive and significant relationship at 0.05 level with decision making.

It was evident that selected eight independent variables had contributed 80.00 per cent of variation in decision making of the farm women.

The variables like education and source of information observed to be crucial in determining the variation in decision making in dairy occupation.

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