



Socio-Economic Status of Rural Women Dairy Farmers in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT

Women play a significant role in agriculture and contribute one-third of labour force required for farming and animal husbandry related operations. They play an important role not only in maintaining their home, but also managing their farms and animals, depending upon the situational, personal, and socio-economic characteristics of the family. It is very estimated that during peak period, women work for 8-9 hours in agriculture and 4 hours in household activities. The study was conducted in the Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. Data were collected from 120 Rural women using a structured interview schedule. 30 women farmers were chosen from each selected villages thus constituting a sample size of 120 by simple random method. 91.67 % of the selected rural women were had Medium farm (0.8 to 6.1 acre), higher % of the respondents (57.50%) were having their income in the medium range between Rs. (41636 to 68304). The equal majority of General and OBC each 34.17% of the selected rural women, The majority of the respondents (65.00%) belonged to the middle age group (between 39 to 59 years). The most of selected rural women (52.50%) were having a primary level of education. The majority (81.67%) of the rural women belonged to nuclear family & 85.83 % of the respondents were having a medium size of family. Social participation majority of the respondents (57.50%) belong to the medium participation group. Majority of the respondents contact neighbors for gaining information about Dairy farming. The majority of the respondents (76.67%) were having 08 to 16 years experience in Dairy farming & (65.00%) had medium herd size having 4 to 8 animals.

Keywords: Farming, Animal husbandry, Socio-economic, Social Participation

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INTRODUCTION

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women, as they not only constitute nearly half of its population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. The contribution of women to national development in the current context and its potential is of greater significance. The involvement of Indian women in national progress at all levels is indisputable reality although the degree of involvement varies from time to time and region to region. The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they not only constitute nearly half of the population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. The crucial role of women in agriculture, allied occupations, and household activities has however been grossly underestimated and undervalued. The National data collection agencies accept the fact that there is a serious under-estimation of women's contributions as workers. India is predominantly an agrarian society where animal husbandry forms the backbone of the national economy. Animal husbandry development in India has assumed a much broader role in the overall economy than so far envisaged as an integral part of expanding and diversifying agriculture [1]. Through the update of modern agricultural technologies, India has moved from an era of chronic food shortages and "begging bowl" status up to the 1960s to food self-sufficiency and even food exports. Since 1950, the productivity gains are nearly 3.3 times in food grains, 1.6 times in fruits, 2.1 times in vegetables, 5.6 times in fish, 1.8 times in milk, and 4.8 times in eggs. [3]. Increasing population, urbanization, and sustained rise in per capita

income are fuelling rapid growth in demand for animal food products in India [2]. Chhattisgarh has been endowed with the plenitude of bio-diversity and natural ecosystems.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted during the year 2017 in the Surguja district of the Chhattisgarh state. The Chhattisgarh state consists of 27 districts, out of which the Surguja district was selected purposively. Out of a total of seven blocks in Surguja only One block namely Ambikapur was selected purposively for the present study from Ambikapur block, 4 villages were selected based on maximum availability of animal husbandry in the villages. In this way, the villages, Sakalo, Sargawan, Bhitthi Kalan, Mendra Kalan from Ambikapur block were selected for the study. A list of farm families who are engaged in Dairy farming was prepared. From the list of each selected village, 30 farm families were selected randomly. In this way, a total of 120 farm families ($30 \times 4 = 120$), were selected as respondents for the collection of data. The data were collected by personal interviews with the help of a pre-tested structure Interview schedule. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean score, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings on the age of the respondents are presented in Table.no.1 the majority of the respondents (65.00%) belonged to the middle age group (between 39 to 59 years). However, 34.17 % of the respondents were of the young age group (<39 years), whereas, 0.83% of the respondent belonged to old age group (> 59 years). The equal majority of General and OBC each 34.17% of the selected rural women, followed by 25% of the respondents were

belonging to ST and 6.67% of the respondents belonged to the SC category. It can be concluded that the equality of the respondents belonged to both General and OBC. presented in Table.no.02. The most selected rural women (52.50%) were having a primary level of education followed by 23.33% were middle passed 14.17% were illiterate and only 10% women were high school passed and none women had degree above certificate or qualification. The findings concluded that most of the respondents in the study had a primary level of education presented in (Table no.03). The majority (81.67%) of the rural women belonged to the nuclear family followed by 18.33 % belonged to the joint family presented in Table no.04. However 85.83 percent of the respondents were having a medium size of family (3 to 7 members), followed by 13.33 percent of the respondents had the large size of family (above 7 members) and only 0.83 percent of the respondents had small size of family (up to 3 members) presented in Table.no.05.

Social participation majority of the respondents (57.50%) belongs to medium participation group followed by 25% respondents belonged from low participation group only 17.50 % responds belonged to high participation group that are represented in Table no.06. 91.67 % of the selected rural women were had Medium farm (0.8 to 6.1 acre), followed by 08.33 percent of the respondents had above 6.1 acre of farm size (large farmers). None of the respondents in the study area belonged to having up to (small farmers) (0.8acre) presented in Table.no.07. It is very difficult to assess the average annual income of each individual, as they are not maintaining any records. The attempt was made to collect the annual income of the respondents through discussion and interpretative from different angles. The distribution of the respondents according to their annual income is presented in Table no 08. A higher percentage of the respondents (57.50%) were having their income in the medium range between Rs. (41636 to 68304), followed by 24.83 percent of respondents had their annual income in high the range Rs 68304 Rs while; only 21.67 percent of the respondents had obtained income up to Rs. 41696. The majority of the respondents contact neighbours for gaining information about Dairy farming is presented in Table.no.09. The experience of Dairy farming practices by the respondents are presented in Table.no.10 the majority of the respondents (76.67%) were having 08 to 16 years of experience in the Dairy farming practices because the majority of the respondents in the study area were under the middle age group, followed by 12.5 percent of the respondents had up to 8 years of experience and 10.83% of the respondents had above 16 years of experience about Dairy farming practices. The maximum number of the respondents (65%) had medium herd size (4 to 8 animals), followed by 20.83 percent of the respondent's small herd size (up to 4 animals) and only 14.17 percent of the respondents had large herd size (above 8 animals). It can be concluded that the majority of the respondents belonged to medium herd size (4 to 08 animals) presented in Table. No 11.

Table.1 Age of the respondents involved in Dairy farming.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Young (<39)Age	41	34.17
Middle(>39 to<59)Age	78	65.00
Old(>59)Age	1	0.83

**Table.no.02. Caste of respondents involved in Dairy farming
n=120**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
General	41	34.17
OBC	41	34.17
SC	8	6.67
ST	30	25
Total	120	100

Table no.03 Education of the respondents involved in Dairy Farming.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate(1)	17	14.17
Primary	63	52.50
Middle	28	23.33
High school	12	10
Degree	0	0
Total	120	100

**Table.no.04. Family of Respondents involved in Dairy Farming
n=120**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Joint	22	18.33%
Nuclear	98	81.67%
Total	120	100%

$\bar{X}= 1.82$ $SD=0.39$

**Table.no.05. Family members size of respondents involved Dairy Farming
n=120**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Small (<3)	1	0.83
Medium (>3 to <7)	103	85.83
Large(>7)	16	13.33
Total	120	100

mean=5 S.D=2

**Table.no.06 Respondents in Social Participation
n=120**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low(<7.2)	30	25
Medium (7.2 to 9.3)	69	57.50
High(>9.3)	21	17.50
Total	120	100%

$\bar{X}=8.25$ $SD= 1.02$

Table..07. Farm Size of Respondents involved in Dairy Farming

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Small(<0.8)acre	0	0
Medium (0.8to6.1)	110	91.67
Large(>6.1)acre	10	08.33
Total	120	100%

mean =3.46 S.D=2.67

Table.08. Annual Income of Respondents involved in Dairy Farming
n= 120

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low(Rs<41696)	26	21.67
Med.(Rs41636 to 68304)	69	57.50
High (Rs68304)	25	24.83
Total	120	100%

\bar{X} = 55000 SD= 13304

Table.09. Communication Source of respondents for Dairy Farming
n=120

Category	Mean	Rank
Friends	3.18	V
Neighbours	3.38	I
Relatives	3.10	VI
Village leaders	3.37	II
Progressive farmers	2.90	IX
Village Pradhan/ Sarpanch	3.07	VII
Village Teachers	2.48	XI
Input suppliers	2.25	XIV
Milk vendor	3.22	IV
Youth club	1.85	XX
Panchayat	3.34	III
Extension officers	2.84	X
Veterinary officers	2.48	XI
Dairy cooperative	1.93	XVI
Ag. University Expert	1.91	XVIII
Demonstration	1.92	XVII
Training camp	1.60	XXIV
Dairy Mela	1.88	XIX
Field day	1.73	XXII
Leaflet/Folders	1.78	XXI
News paper	2.02	XV
Radio/T.V	2.55	XII
Mobile	2.42	XIII
Krishi Mela	2.99	VIII
Internet	1.61	XXIII

Table.10. Experience of Respondents in Dairy farming
n =120

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low(< 08) Years	15	12.50
Medium08to16 years	92	76.67
High>16 years	14	10.83
Total	120	100%

\bar{X} = 12 SD= 4

Table.11.Herd Size of Respondents**n=120**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low(<4) animals	25	20.83
Medium(4 to 8) animals	78	65.00
High(>8) animals	17	14.17
Total	120	100%

$$\bar{X} = 6 \quad SD = 2$$

CONCLUSION

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women. The Chhattisgarh state is rich in livestock wealth. Very meager work has been done for analyzing rural women decision making process and participation in Dairy farming in the Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. The majority of the respondents in the study area belonged to the middle age group. The majority of the respondents in the study area are educated up to primary educated. The majority of the respondent's annual income medium range. The similar study on other enterprise needs to be undertaken to investigate the knowledge level of respondents in different agro-climatic zone of Chhattisgarh.

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