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Profile characteristics of the farm women in adoption of improved animal husbandry practices in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

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Abstract

Animal husbandry implies as the second largest remuneration and is likely to be the instruments of future growth and development of the agricultural sector in rural areas. Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry are performed by women besides their responsibilities as home makers. Women play an important role in animal husbandry activities as manager, decision makers and skilled workers. Yet women are, generally, underrepresented in education, policy and decision-making levels. So, keeping this in view present study was conducted on profile characteristics of farm women. The study was conducted in two districts viz. Junagadh and Gir somnath in south Saurashtra region of Gujarat. Total 12 villages from four talukas and two talukas from each district were selected randomly for the study. From each selected village, 10 farm women were selected. Thus, total sample size was 120 respondents. The finding of the research study revealed that in case personal and socio-economic characteristics, more than two-third (67.50 per cent) of farm women belonged to middle age group, functionally to primary level of education (70.84 per cent), medium and large size of family (76.66 per cent) and medium and high level of dairy experience (85.00 per cent). Three-fifth respondents had small to semi-medium land holding (60.84 per cent), less than half (43.34 per cent) of women were having medium size herd, medium level annual income (64.16 per cent) and less than half (46.67 per cent) of farm women had low social participation. With reference to communication characteristics, majority of farm women (61.66 per cent) had medium level of extension participation and mass media exposure (60.84 per cent). Majority (58.34 per cent) of farm women had medium and high level of economic motivation, medium level of risk orientation (55.84 per cent) regarding to adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

Keywords: profile characteristics, participation animal husbandry, farm women

Introduction

Animal husbandry is an integral component of Indian agriculture supporting livelihood of more than two-thirds of the rural population. The adage of "except the cry of the animal nothing goes waste" is perfectly valid looking to the role of animal husbandry in agrarian economy.

In the dairy development map of India, Gujarat occupies a place of pride. India is the largest milk producer country among the world which is the prestigious matter for the country, while Gujarat state has remarkable 4th rank with 7.79 per cent contribution in total milk production in all over the country. Gujarat state had contributed 1.55 per cent milk towards the whole world's milk production in the year 2010. This is the unique milestone for Gujarat (Anon., 2016) [1]. Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry are performed by women besides their responsibilities as home makers and caring of animals is considered as an extension of domestic activities. It is estimated that 600 million poor livestock keepers in the world, around two-thirds are women and most live in rural areas (Thornton *et al.*, 2002). It is evident that the women are playing a dominant role in the livestock production and management activities. The credit of growth in the livestock sector goes to women but the crucial role of women in agriculture and allied activities has been grossly under estimated and undervalued. Differences in socio-economic condition of the livestock farmers could possibly be a reason for this. In these contexts, the present study was undertaken on Profile characteristics of the Farm Women in Adoption of improved Animal Husbandry practices in Saurashtra Region of Gujarat.

Research methodology

The study was conducted in two district i.e. Junagadh and Gir somnath in south Saurashtra

region of Gujarat. Purposive random sampling was used to for selection of respondents. Total 120 respondents, by selecting 10 from each selected village were taken by using random sampling technique with a condition that the respondent has been rearing animals on their farm at least 3 years or having herd. Ex-post facto research design was followed. Interview schedule was prepared to study these parameters that was pretested and translated in Gujarati. The data of this study were collected through personal interview. Data were coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed using the software. The presentation of data was done to give pertinent, valid and reliable answer to the specific objectives. Frequencies, percentage, mean, standard deviation and Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (r) were worked out for meaningful interpretation.

Result and Discussion

In the present study, it means the decisions to use appropriate improved practices in dairy farming for production

maximization and reduce drudgery regarding to different animal husbandry practices. In the present investigation, the data regarding the adoption of improved practices of animal husbandry by farm women were collected and are presented in Table 1.

Personal Characteristics

Age

The findings depicted in Table 1 indicate that more than two-third (67.50 per cent) of the farm women belonged to middle age group followed by 18.34 per cent with old age and 14.16 per cent were from young age group.

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that majority of the farm women belonged to middle age group. The probable reason might be that this age is considered to be an actively working age of the farm women and being responsible for maintaining their families. Result is supported by Chaturvedi (2014) ^[5], Jadav & Joshi (2018) ^[10] and Christian & Chauhan (2019) ^[6].

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to Profile characteristics of the Farm Women in Adoption of improved Animal Husbandry practices (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Profile characteristics of the Farm Women in Adoption of improved Animal Husbandry practices	frequency	percent
I	Age		
1	Young age (Up to 35 year)	17	14.16
2	Middle age (36 to 50 year)	81	67.50
3	Old age (Above 50 year)	22	18.34
II	Education		
1.	Illiterate	20	16.67
2.	Functionally Literate	49	40.84
3.	Primary (up to 7th std.)	36	30.00
4.	Secondary (8th to 10th std.)	7	5.83
5.	Higher Secondary (11th to 12 std.)	4	3.34
6.	Graduate	2	1.66
7.	Post-Graduate	2	1.66
III	size of family		
1	Small size of family (up to 4 members)	28	23.34
2	Medium size of family (5 to 6 members)	60	50.00
3	Large size of family (above 6 members)	32	26.66
IV	Experience		
1	Low experience (up to 19.09 score)	18	15.00
2	Medium experience (19.10 to 37.01 score)	80	66.67
3	High experience (above 37.01 score)	22	18.33
V	land holding		
1	Landless (no land)	05	04.16
2	Marginal land holding (up to 1 ha)	19	15.83
3	Small land holding (1.1 to 2 ha)	36	30.00
4	Semi-medium land holding (2.1 to 4 ha)	37	30.84
5	Medium land holding (4.1 to 10 ha)	20	16.67
VI	Herd size		
1	Small herd size (up to 5 animals)	23	19.16
2	Medium herd size (6 to 10 animals)	52	43.34
3	Large herd size (Above 10 animals)	45	37.50
VII	Annual income		
1	Low annual income (up to ₹ 50,000/-)	40	33.34
2	Medium annual income (₹ 50,001/- to ₹1,00,000/-)	77	64.16
3	High annual income (above ₹1,00,001/-)	3	2.50
VIII	social participation		
1	Low social participation (Less than 1.20 score)	56	46.67
2	Medium social participation (1.20 to 4.21))	47	39.16
3	High social participation (above 4.21 score)	17	14.17
IX	Annual income		
1	Low annual income (up to ₹ 50,000/-)	40	33.34
2	Medium annual income (₹ 50,001/- to ₹1,00,000/-)	77	64.16
3	High annual income (above ₹1,00,001/-)	3	2.50
XI	Extension participation		

1	Low extension participation (less than 2.13 score)	26	21.67
2	Medium extension participation (2.13 to 23.81 score)	74	61.66
3	High extension participation (above 23.81 score)	20	16.67
XII	Mass media exposure		
1	Low mass media exposure (less than 2.50 score)	22	18.33
2	Medium mass media exposure (2.50 to 8.89 score)	73	60.84
3	High mass media exposure (above 8.90 score)	25	20.83
XI	Economic motivation		
1	Very low economic motivation (6 to 10 score)	10	08.34
2	Low economic motivation (11 to 15 score)	20	16.66
3	Medium economic motivation (16 to 20 score)	45	37.50
4	High economic motivation (21 to 25 score)	25	20.84
5	Very high economic motivation (26 to 30 score)	20	16.66
XII	Risk orientation		
1	Low risk orientation (less than 9.48 score)	21	17.50
2	Medium risk orientation (9.48 to 14.66 score)	67	55.84
3	High risk orientation (above 14.66 score)	32	26.66

Education

The data presented in Table 1 reveal that more than two fifth (40.84 per cent) of the farm women were only read and write followed by 30.00 per cent educated up to primary level, 16.67 per cent of them were illiterate, 5.83 per cent of them had completed their secondary education and 3.34 per cent were educated up to higher secondary. It was also found that negligible women i.e. 1.66 per cent and 1.66 per cent completed their graduate and post graduate, respectively.

From the observations, it can be concluded that majority (83.36 per cent) of the respondents were literate, but majority of them were read and write only. This might be due to the availability of primary school and secondary school at village level and higher secondary school at nearby villages. This indicated in spite of comprehensive efforts that in villages, the literacy rate was considerably less and there is scope and need for improvement in the literacy level in the country side. This finding was in concurrence with the findings of Gondaliya (2011) ^[8] and Nishi *et al.*, (2011) ^[15] and Jadav & Joshi (2018) ^[10].

Size of family

Data in this regard are given in Table 1 indicated that fifty per cent of the farm women belonged to the medium sized families' i.e. 5-6 members, while 26.66 per cent of them belonged to large sized families having above 6 members and only 23.34 per cent of the farm women belonged to small sized families having up to 4 members. The probable reason might be that migration of people from village to city for their livelihood and better living leads to break large size family in rural areas. The result is supported by Lahoti *et al.* (2012) ^[13], Kumar *et al.* (2013), Lokhakare *et al.* (2015) ^[14].

Dairy experience

The data presented in Table 1 depict that about two-third (66.67 per cent) of the respondents were found with medium experience followed by 18.33 per cent with high level of experience and 15.00 per cent of them had low level of experience in dairy farming.

It can be concluded that two third of the farm women had medium experience of dairy farming. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were practicing dairy farming since 10 to 29 years. Further, it also provides additional income, which motivates them for dairy farming. The finding is in line with findings reported by Chandravadia (2013) ^[4].

Socio-economic Characteristics

Land holding

It is apparent from the data in Table 1 that majority (30.84 per cent) of the farm women respondents were with semi-medium land holding i.e. between 2.1 to 4 hectare followed by 30.00 per cent with small land holding, 1.1 to 2 hectare, 20 per cent with medium size of land holding i.e. 4.1 to 10 hectare and 15.83 per cent with marginal farm women i.e. up to 1 hectare, 4.16 per cent farm women were landless and only 3 per cent of the respondents were large i.e. with land holding above 10.00 hectare. The probable reason might be that caste system prevailed in village might be a reason for majority of small and semi- medium size of land holding. This finding is partially similar with Jaishridhar *et al.* (2013), Kumar *et al.* (2013).

Herd size

A look into Table 1 showed that majority (43.34 per cent) of the farm women had medium herd size of milch animals i.e. 5-10 animals followed by 37.50 per cent had large herd size of milch animals i.e. above 10 animals, while 19.16 per cent of them had small herd size of milch animals i.e. up to 5 animals. This indicates that the farm women had a relatively medium herd size of milch animals. The probable reason for this finding might be that the respondents were aware of the importance of dairying, which can provide them regular income in all seasons. It can also minimize the risk of crop failure and provide valuable organic manure for agriculture. Above findings are supported by Patel (2013) ^[17] and Patel (2015) ^[18].

Annual income

From the given below discussion, it can be concluded that majority (64.16 per cent) of the farm women belonged to medium level of income (in between ₹ 50,000 to 1, 00,000) group, whereas 33.34 per cent of farm women family had low level of income (up to ₹50,000) and only 2.5 per cent farm women family had high level of income (above ₹1, 00,001) group. This finding might be due the fact that most of the dairy farmers had medium to large sized herd (6-10 animals) along with agriculture and allied activities. Similar finding was showed by Borkatoy (2013) ^[3], Lokhakare *et al.* (2015) ^[14].

Social participation

As reveals from data presented in Table 1 that nearly half of the respondents (46.67 per cent) had low social participation

followed by 39.16 per cent with medium social participation and only 14.17 per cent of the respondents were having high social participation. It can be inferred from Table 1 that majority of the respondents were having low and medium social participation.

The possible reason for these findings might be that the most popular and service oriented village organizations meet the needs of dairy farming and financial assistance by village dairy co-operative societies. Hence, most of the respondents were members of only one organization for availing these benefits. This result is confined to findings of Rathod *et al.* (2011) [19] and Kumar *et al.* (2013).

Communication Characteristics

Extension participation

It is apparent from the data in Table 1 that majority (61.67 per cent) of the dairy farmers were found to have medium level of extension participation, followed by 21.66 per cent with low and 16.67 per cent with high level of extension participation. Thus, it can be concluded that majority (88.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium to low level of extension contacts. This might be due to their low to medium level of awareness regarding importance of various extension programmes in improving their knowledge. Because of the fact, they might not have shown their expected interest in useful programmes and also time factor of farm women who might be involved in different household work. The finding is in line with findings reported by Gulkari *et al.* (2014) Christian and Chauhan (2019) [6].

Mass media exposure

It is evident from Table 1 that more than half (60.84 per cent) of the farm women had medium mass media exposure, whereas 20.83 per cent of the respondents had high and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had low mass media exposure. It can be concluded that majority of farm women had medium mass media exposure. This might be due to the fact that in the area under study the modern means of communication *viz*; internet, television, mobile, computer and newspapers are not still highly popular and the programmes and magazines related to animal husbandry are not highly perceived by the farm women. Above finding is supported by Pagar (2011) [16], and Patel *et al.*, (2015) [18].

Psychological characteristics

Economic motivation

It is evident from the data shown in Table 1 more than one third (37.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium economic motivation followed by 20.84 per cent with high, whereas equal distribution (16.66 per cent) of dairy farm women had high and low and very high economic motivation. Only 8.34 per cent had very low economic motivation. Dairying was considered as a means of supplementary income rather than a commercial enterprise by most of the respondents. So they were not much interested in large scale production and profit making. The result of study is corroborative with Bhosale (2010) [2] and Gondaliya (2011) [8].

Risk orientation

The data presented in Table 1 indicate that majority (55.84 per cent) of the dairy farmers had medium level of risk orientation followed by 26.66 per cent and 17.50 per cent with high and low level of risk orientation, respectively.

It was observed that majority (82.50 per cent) of the dairy

farmers had medium to high level of risk orientation. Limited possibilities to involve in other occupation due to their medium educational status might have prompted them to take medium to high risk by resorting to loans to make dairy farming more profitable. Similar finding was showed by Gondaliya (2011) [8] and Harisha *et al.* (2015) [9].

Conclusion

It can be concluded from study that in case of personal and socio-economic characteristics, more than two-third (67.50 per cent) of farm women belonged to middle age group, functionally to primary level of education (70.84 per cent), medium and large size of family (76.66 per cent) and medium and high level of dairy experience (85.00 per cent). Three-fifth respondents had small to semi-medium land holding (60.84 per cent), less than half (43.34 per cent) of women were having medium size herd, medium level annual income (64.16 per cent) and less than half (46.67 per cent) of farm women had low social participation. With reference to communication characteristics, majority of farm women (61.66 per cent) had medium level of extension participation and mass media exposure (60.84 per cent). Majority (58.34 per cent) of farm women had medium and high level of economic motivation, medium level of risk orientation (55.84 per cent) regarding to adoption of improved animal husbandry practices.

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