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Socio-economic profile of women dairy farmers: An exploration study in Deoghar, Jharkhand

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Abstract

This paper is based on the research study at *Sam Higginbottom University* of Agriculture, Technology, and Sciences (SHUATS), Allahabad. The title of the research was "Knowledge and adoption of improved dairy management practices by the women dairy farmers of Deoghar, Jharkhand". Method of survey research was applied to conduct the study. It was conducted by taking the responses from one thirty women dairy farmers of Deoghar, Jharkhand through random sampling method. This particular paper focused to explore the socio-economic profile of selected dairy women farmers. The data were analyzed through SPSS version 16.0. The statistical tools like mean, frequency, percentage, etc. were used for data analysis. The socio-economic profile included age, educational qualification, land-holdings, social participation, family size, etc.

Keywords: Socio-economic profile, women dairy farmers, dairy management practices

Introduction

Socio-economic status is a combined measurement of economic and social position of an individual or a group in relation to others in the society. It has a profound role in determining individuals' accessibility to the common resources, landholdings, educational background etc. the socio-economic profile of selected women dairy farmers' shows their quality, grade and standard of living in their respective society. There are a lot of social and economic variables which cumulatively define socio-economic status. The selection of these variables under socio-economic profile largely depends on purpose and subject of the study.

The socio-economic status of women dairy farmers is an important subject for the study because it affects the main purpose of the study i.e. knowledge and adoption of improved dairy management practices by the women dairy farmers. Actually this paper is focused to know the relations of women dairy farmers with the various improved dairy management practices and its impact. There are different improved dairy management practices followed by the dairy farmers. Many dairy practices are being demonstrated by the functionaries before the farmers for establishing its credibility to them. The reason behind these practical demonstrations is to make aware the farmers of the multifarious benefits of these improved dairy practices so that the faster adoption of these interventions can be possible.

There are some imperceptible variables inside the human which largely affects his/her adoption behavior. These variables are knowledge, attitude, perception, change-proneness, level of aspiration, risk bearing ability, economic motivation etc. As said earlier these variables are often guided by one's socio-economic status. Based from the above discussion the present study tried to investigate socio-economic status of women dairy farmers to correlate it with the knowledge and adoption of improved dairy management practices.

Literature review

Bhagyalaxmi *et al.* (2003) ^[4] revealed that majority of rural dairy women entrepreneurs (68.33%) belonged to middle age group followed by 21.67 per cent and 10 per cent of them belonged to young age and old age respectively.

Chauhan *et al.* (2004) $^{[5]}$ reported that 28.00 per cent of dairy farmers were under the age group of 36 – 45 years, followed by 27.00% 46-55 years, 25.00 per cent above 55 years and 16.00% 26-35 years, while only 4.00% of them were under the age group of below 25 years.

Khin Mar Oo (2005) [8] observed that majority (59.17%) of women dairy farmers belonged to middle age group, whereas 22.50 per cent of them were younger and 18.33 per cent of belong to old age category.

Arora *et al.* (2006) ^[1] revaled that 17.10 per cent of the dairy farmers were lower age group (less than 36 years), followed by middle age group (36 to 64 years) and upper age group (more than 64 years).

Wadear *et al.* (2003) ^[9] found that 25.83 per cent of dairy farmers had primary education, followed by 25.00 per cent of them were illiterate, 13.33 per cent of dairy farmers had SSLC/matriculation, 12.50 had secondary education, 10.83 per cent had PUC and 9.16 per cent had higher secondary. Only 3.33 per cent of dairy farmers were educated up to graduate level.

Gour (2002) ^[6] reported that milk producer had nuclear and medium size of family. Further, he also derived that average earner, dependent and total member of family of dairy farmers group were 2.0, 4.0 and 6.0, respectively.

Mahindra and Anjana Kalra (2001) [7] studied that 40.00 per cent of dairy farmers possessed more than 4 ha of land, followed by up to 2 ha (28.00%) and 2.1-4.00 ha (13.33%), whereas 18.67 per cent of dairy farmers were landless.

Vijaykumar (2001) found that 45.84 per cent of entrepreneurs were under medium income group, followed by 27.50 and 26.66 per cent of them belonged to low and medium income groups respectively.

Anuj Kumar and Sindhu (2002) [2] observed that majority of dairy farmers faced moderate constraints under different categories of constraints such as management (80.47%), followed by breeding (66.41%), health care (55.47%) and feeding constraints (53.12%).

Arora *et al.* (2006) ^[1] revealed that 48.71 per cent of dairy farmers had low level of exposure to mass media, followed by 22.53 per cent of them had medium mass media exposure and remaining 21.76 per cent of them had high mass media exposure.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Deoghar block of Deoghar district, Jharkhand, India during 2018-19. The locale of the research study was selected purposefully.

Sampling plan

There are 24 districts in Jharkhand, out of which 01 district *viz*. Deoghar, was randomly selected. A total of 120 dairy women farmers were randomly selected.

Selection of variables

Eight variables *viz.* age, education, occupation, annual income, mass media exposure, extension contact, social participation, landholding, farming experience, etc. which constituted the socio-economic profile of dairy women farmers were selected purposively to assess the socio-economic.

Tools and techniques of data collection

A pre-tested structured interview schedule was prepared. Data was collected by personal interview method.

Statistical tools used

Simple statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and were used for analysis and interpretation of data.

Result and Discussion

On the basis of age, the selected respondents were classified into three age groups i.e. young (up to 30 years), middle (31-40 years) and old (41 and above). The age group wise distribution of respondents has been presented here in table 1.

Table 1: Age of the respondents

Age	F	%
Up to 30 (Young)	27	22.5
31-40 (Middle)	71	59.16
41 and above (Old)	22	18.33

It is evident from the table 1 that majority of respondents belonged to the middle age group (31-40 years), i.e. 59.16 per cent; whereas least number of the respondents came under the category of old age group (18.33 per cent) and the young extension professionals (22.5 per cent) occupied second position.

Table 2: Educational status of the respondents

Education	F	%
Illiterate	16	13.3
Primary school	16	13.3
Middle school	37	30.83
High school	37	30.83
Intermediate	10	8.3
Graduate	4	3.3
Total	120	

It is evident from the Table 2 that majority of respondents have middle school (30.83%) and high school (30.83%) level of education followed by primary school education (13.3%) and 13.3 per cent (13.3%). 8.3 per cent respondents were found their education level at Intermediate level and only 3.3 per cent have graduate level of education.

Table 3: Cast of the respondents

CAST	f	%
General	24	20
OBC	41	34.16
SC	22	18.3
ST	33	27.5

It is evident from the table 3 that majority of the respondents belonged to the OBC category (34.16%) followed by Scheduled tribe (27.5%). 20 per cent respondents were from General category followed by scheduled cast (18.3%).

Table 4: Family type

Family type	f	%
Nuclear	48	40
Joint	72	60

It is evident from the table 4 that majority (60%) of respondents belonged to joint family type followed by nuclear family type (40%).

Table 5: Land holding

Land holding	f	%
Marginal	70	58.3
Small	21	17.5
Medium	16	13.3
Large	13	10.83

Table 5 reveals that majority (58.3%) of respondents were belonged to marginal category of land holding followed by

small (17.5%), medium (13.3%) and large (10.8%) land holdings.

Table 6: Occupation

Occupation	f	%
Farming+animal husbandry	97	80.83
Animal husbandry	23	19.16
Other	0	0

In Table 6, majority of respondents were found to have farming+ animal husbandry occupation followed by only

animal husbandry as occupation and they were only 19.16 per cent.

Table 7: Social participation

Sl. No.	Organization	Mer	nber	Office	e bearer
51. 110.	Organization	f	%	f	%
1	Panchayat	90	75	0	0
2	Milk cooperative society	15	12.5	0	0
3	Agricultural cooperative society	3	2.5	0	0
4	Youth club	0	0	0	0
6	SHG	10	8.3	0	0
7	Religious committee	0	0	0	0
8	Farmer federation	0	0	0	0
9	Political organization	0	0	0	0
10	NGO	2	1.6	0	0
11	Any others (specify)	0	0	0	0
	Total	120			

Table 7 shows that majority of respondents (75%) have their participation in Panchayats followed by Milk cooperative societies (12.5%). No any respondents were found office

bearer of any organization.

Extension Contacts

Table 8: Personal locality channels

CI NI-	C	Reg	gularly Occasionally N		Ne	ever	
Sl. No.	Sources	f	%	F	%	f	%
1	Family members	75	62.5	45	40.8	0	0
2	Friends	65	54.1	55	45.8	0	0
3	Relatives	45	37.5	75	62.5	0	0
4	Progressive farmers	49	40.8	71	59.1	0	0
5	Village-quacks	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0

In Table 8. majority of respondents (62.5%) were found to have dependent on the family members for extension contacts followed by friends (54.1%).

Table 9: Personal cosmopolite channels\

Cl No	Sources	Reg	Regularly		Occasionally		lever
Sl. No.	Sources	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	VLW/ stock man	118	98.33	2	1.66	0	0
2	VO	101	84.16	19	15.83	0	0
3	BDO/ADO/DDO	5	4.16	86	71.66	29	24.16
4	KVKs/ Research station/Uni.	76	63.33	34	28.33	10	8.33
5	Milk fed. Officials	29	24.16	81	67.5	10	8.33
6	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0

From the perusal of table 9 it is evident that majority of respondents (98.33%) were found to have dependent on

VLWs/ stock man for their basic information followed by veterinary officers (84.16%).

Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to Mass media exposure

Sl. No.	Mass Media	Regi	Regularly		Seldom		ver
SI. NO.	Mass Media	f	%	f	%	F	%
1	Newspaper	96	80.0	24	20	0	0
2	Film regarding dairy farming	16	13.3	104	86.6	0	0
3	Radio	104	86.6	16	13.3	0	0
4	Television	110	91.6	10	08.3	0	0
5	Dairy Melas	46	38.3	74	61.6	0	0

6	Exhibition	46	38.3	74	61.6	0	0
7	Magazine, Leaflets, Bulletins.	56	46.6	64	53.3	0	0
8	Folk media	66	55.0	54	45	0	0
9	Internet	98	81.6	22	18.3	0	0
10	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-

From the perusal of table 10 it is evident that majority of respondents (91.6%) were found to have regularly used of television for information gathering followed by radio (86.6%). Film regarding dairy farming have very less used by the respondents (13.3%).

Table 11: Distribution of respondents according to dairy experience

Experience (in Years)	f	%
0-4 (Short)	30	25.0
5-9 (Medium)	40	33.3
> 10 (Long)	50	41.6

From the perusal of table 11 it is evident that majority of respondents (41.6%) were found to have long term (> 10 years) experience of dairy farming followed by medium term (5-9 years) experience 33.3 per cent (33.3%).

Table 12: Distribution of respondents according to annual income

Annual income	f	%
10000-20000	05	04.0
20001-30000	08	06.0
30001-40000	12	10.0
40001 and above	95	79.1

From the perusal of table 12 it is evident that majority of respondents (79.1%) were found to have Rs. 40001 and above annual income by dairy farming followed by Rs. 30001-40000 and they are 10 per cent (10%).

Table 13: Distribution of respondent according to milk production

Milk Production (Liter)	f	%
0-10	8	06.0
11-20	61	50.8
21-30	19	15.8
31-40	12	10.0
41-50	7	05.8
>51	13	10.8

From the perusal of table 13 it is evident that majority of respondents (50.8%) were found to have 11-20 liters of milk production followed by 15.8 per cent (15.8%) have 21-30 liters of milk production per day.

Conclusion

One of the major goals of agricultural growth and development is to convince the farmers to adopt new advance technologies as well as practices. An understanding of the socio-economic status of the dairy women farmers of Deoghar, Jharkhand and its determinants will lead to the knowledge and adoption of improved dairy management practices by the women dairy farmers. It is concluded that the socio-economic condition of women dairy farmers was up to the mark. All the respondents were females and they were satisfied with their dairy occupation. Overall it is concluded that all selected women dairy farmers are good at socio-economic status and their information seeking behavior is up to the mark.

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