

## Participation and Role of Women in Dairy Farming, Jaipur district, Rajasthan.

## Participación y papel de la mujer en la producción lechera, distrito de Jaipur, Rajasthan.

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### Abstract

Woman has always been the strength of agriculture and other related activities such as dairy farming, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc. but her control over agriculture resources, livestock and its products is minimal. A survey study was conducted to find out the participation and decision making of women in dairy farming in Chomu Tehsil of Jaipur district of Rajasthan. 100 farm women were selected from a total of 200 families, which owned more than five milk producing animals, by simple random sampling. Data were collected through personal interview technique where a structured interview schedule was used. Dairy farming activities were divided in three categories: Animal care, Management of Animals, and Processing and Marketing of Milk Products. Majority of the women (45%), involved in dairy farming were in the age group of 25-35 years, and most of them (87%) were from OBC category. 67 percent of the women lived in joint families and 40% women had medium land holding. Women's participation was mainly (73%) in daily animal care activities such as feeding & watering, storage of feed and fodder, taking animals for grazing, cleaning the animal sheds and milking. They were also doing some management related activities like maintaining farm and dairy records (76%), but participation and involvement in decision making was found very low in processing and marketing of dairy farm product especially in products, which required greater technical skills and are to be sold in the outside market i.e. Paneer, Rasgulla and Gulabjamun. Dairy products like Ghee and Mawa which need less technical skill and can be sold locally; women were actively involved in processing and marketing. Women of younger age had significant role in decision making regarding animal care and management related activities but their participation and domination was also less in activities of economic nature. The study concluded that dairy farm women need to strengthen more through extension work and better information flow to empower them, and make dairy farming a sustainable enterprise.

Keywords: Dairy farm women, participation, decision making, dairy farming, empowerment.

### RESUMEN

La mujer siempre ha sido la fuerza de la agricultura y otras actividades relacionadas, como la producción lechera, la ganadería, la pesca, etc., pero su control sobre los recursos agrícolas, el ganado y sus productos es mínimo. Se realizó un estudio de encuesta para averiguar la participación y la toma de decisiones de las mujeres en la producción lechera en Chomu Tehsil del distrito de Jaipur de Rajasthan. Se seleccionaron 100 campesinas de un total de 200 familias, que poseían más de cinco animales productores de leche, mediante muestreo aleatorio simple. Los datos fueron recolectados a través de la técnica de entrevista personal donde se utilizó un programa de entrevista estructurado. Las actividades de la ganadería lechera se dividieron en tres categorías: cuidado de animales, manejo de animales y procesamiento y comercialización de productos lácteos. La mayoría de las mujeres

(45 %) involucradas en la producción lechera se encontraban en el grupo de edad de 25 a 35 años, y la mayoría de ellas (87 %) pertenecían a la categoría OBC. El 67 por ciento de las mujeres vivían en familias unidas y el 40 por ciento de las mujeres tenían una tenencia de tierra mediana. La participación de las mujeres fue principalmente (73 %) en las actividades diarias de cuidado de los animales, como dar de comer y beber, almacenar alimentos y forraje, llevar animales a pastar, limpiar los establos y ordeñar. También realizaban algunas actividades relacionadas con la gestión, como el mantenimiento de registros de granjas y productos lácteos (76 %), pero se encontró que la participación y la participación en la toma de decisiones eran muy bajas en el procesamiento y la comercialización de productos de granjas lecheras, especialmente en productos que requerían mayores habilidades técnicas y deben venderse en el mercado exterior, es decir, Paneer, Rasgulla y Gulabjamun. Productos lácteos como Ghee y Mawa, que requieren menos habilidades técnicas y se pueden vender localmente; las mujeres participaban activamente en la elaboración y comercialización. Las mujeres de menor edad tenían un papel importante en la toma de decisiones relacionadas con el cuidado y manejo de animales, pero su participación y dominio también era menor en actividades de naturaleza económica. El estudio concluyó que las mujeres de las granjas lecheras necesitan fortalecerse más a través del trabajo de extensión y un mejor flujo de información para empoderarlas y hacer de la producción lechera una empresa sostenible.

Palabras clave: Mujeres lecheras, participación, toma de decisiones, ganadería lechera, empoderamiento.

#### INTRODUCTION

Dairy sector plays a significant role in strengthening India's rural economy. As it generates self-employment opportunities and increases the income of landless, marginal and small farmers, while providing the much needed nutrition to people. It has the potential to act as an instrument to bring about socio-economic transformation. A considerable effort has been made by the government of India to increase milk production through operation-flood program, and farmers have realized the importance of dairy units as the potential sources of additional income and employment. But the reality is that there remains uneven distribution of gains from livestock enterprise across the country. There is a lot of gender gap in knowledge regarding scientific management of livestock, ownership, decisions regarding sale and purchase of animals, marketing of dairy products etc. The present investigation was designed to study the participation and role of women in decision making regarding dairy farming activities.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted at Chomu Tehsil of Jaipur district in Rajasthan. District Jaipur was purposively selected because it is the second largest district in total milk production with reference to bovine as well as cattle milk in the state. Dairy farming is the main occupation for majority of population in rural areas in Jaipur district where women contribute to 43.9 % of dairy farm activities. Jaipur district is divided into 15 blocks, Chomu block was selected because it has a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Takrada which provides training to women in different areas of dairy farming like feeding, watering, management, animal health care, processing and marketing of milk products. Selected village Nopura, has three dairies and participation of farmers in trainings organised by KVK, Takrada is quite high. There were total 200 farm families which owned more than 5 milk producing animals. Out of 200, total 100 women in the age group of 25-55 years were selected randomly. Data were collected through a structured personal interview schedule, which was prepared by the researcher with the help of available literature. Frequency and percentage were used to analyse the data.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Majority of the rural women (45 %) were from age group 25-35 years. Eighty seven percent women belonged to OBC category and majority of them were having education up to middle school and secondary school. Sixty seven percent of women were living in joint families. Majority of the women had monthly income between Rs. 10,000/- and 20,000/-. Most of them (74%) were having small to medium land holdings. The data trends show that

young and educated farm women better understood the profitability of dairy farming and took it up as an income generating activity. Education of women also increases their chances of being exposed to different IEC material available and distributed by different government agencies, to promote dairy farming. Joint families are the major support system for dairy-farming as more labour is available in these families, and more animals can be taken care of by the family to sustain the enterprise.

Table- 1 Socio-personal profile of rural women (N=100)

S. No	Characters	Frequency	Percent
1.	Age		
	25-35 (years)	45	45
	36-45(years)	36	36
	45-55(years)	19	19
2.	Category		
	OBC	87	87
	SC	10	10
	ST	3	3
3.	Education		
	Post –graduate or professional degree	10	10
	Graduate degree	15	15
	Higher secondary certificate	25	25
	Middle school certificate	29	29
	Literate ,less than middle school certificate	10	10
	Illiterate	16	16
4.	Family type		
	Joint	67	67
	Nuclear	33	33
5.	Marital status		
	Married	66	66
	Unmarried	20	20
	Other		
6.	Monthly family income		
	>40,430	13	13
	20,210-40,429	20	20
	15,160-20,209	30	30
	10,110-15,159	12	12
	6060-10,109	7	7
	2021-6059	13	13
	<2020	5	5
7.	Size of land holding		
	Marginal land holding	15	15
	Small land holding (1.00to 2.00)hectare	34	34
	Medium land holding(2.00 to 4.00) hectare	40	40
	Big land holding (more than 4.00 )hectare	11	11

### Source of Income

Most of the women (60%), had farming as the main source of income. The possible reason might be that agriculture and dairy farming are interdependent enterprises and are more lucrative when done in combination.

Table- 2 Distribution of dairy farm women according their source of income. N=100

S.No	Characters	Frequency	Percent
1.	Farming	62	62
2.	Business	7	7
3.	Service	10	10
4.	Labour	16	16
5.	Other	5	5

### Participation of Rural Women in Dairy Farming:

The study focused mainly on three major operations of dairy farming i.e. animal care, management of animals, and processing & marketing of milk products. Participation of women in different activities is presented Table 3.

**1.** Animal Care: Majority of women were involved in milking of animals (95%) and chaffing the fodder & feeding the animals (85%). It was observed that women were more actively involved through daily care of animals like milking of animals, cleaning the milking utensils, taking animals for grazing and feeding the animals.

Table 3: Distribution of Participation of Women in Dairy Farming

			N= 100
S. NO.	Characters	Frequency	Percent
1	Animal health care		
	Taking animal for grazing	70	70
	Chaffing the fodder & feeding the animals	85	85
	Milking	95	95
	Washing and grooming of animals	71	71
2.	Management of Animals		
	Construction of the animal sheds	82	82
	Storage of feed and fodder	68	68
	Watering the animal sheds	72	72
	Maintaining farm and dairy records	76	76
3.	Processing and Marketing of Milk Products		
	Ghee	78	78
	Paneer	20	20
	Mava	60	60
	Rasgulla and Gulabjamun	15	15

2. Management of Animals: The study revealed that women performed activities like construction of animal sheds (82%), maintaining farm and dairy records (76%), watering the animal sheds (72%) and storage of feed and fodder (68%) Women actively participated in construction of animal sheds with locally available resources.

3. Processing and marketing of Milk Products: Participation of women in processing and marketing of milk products was customized by women's access and technical nature of work. Most of the women were involved only in processing and selling of Ghee (78%) and Mawa (60%) as it requires less technical skill and can be sold locally, while processing for Paneer, Rasgulla and Gulabjamun requires higher technical skill which belongs to men's area of work.

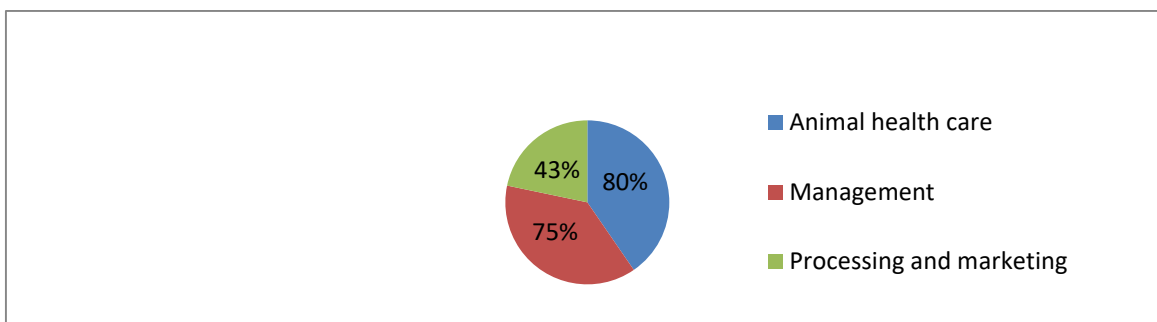


Figure 1- Contribution of women in dairy farming

#### Role of Women in Decision - Making Regarding Dairy Farming

Under Indian social system decision making is said to be a men's affair, however many a time, women are consulted by men before making any important decision. Many a time, farm women are also required to take certain decisions independently. It was therefore, felt necessary to determine the decision-making by farm women in dairy farming. The study focused mainly on three major operations of dairy farming Animal care, management, and processing and marketing of milk products.

##### 1. Animal Care

Majority of farm women were involved in the decision making process regarding taking animal for grazing, chaffing the fodder & feeding the animals (86%) and milking (85%). While male members mainly acted as service provider, decisions regarding routine work of animal care were taken by women.

##### 2. Management of Animals

Most of decisions regarding management of animals like construction of animal sheds (90%), watering the animal sheds (75%), storage of feed and fodder (68%) and maintaining farm records were taken by the women who were also more involved in performing these activities.

##### 3. Processing and Marketing of Milk Products.

Processing and selling of Ghee (87%) was decided by women, as it requires less of technical skill. Decisions regarding processing, marketing and selling of Paneer, Rasgulla and Gulabjammun (10%) were taken mainly by men. This also indicates that women have greater role in decision making activities where less technical skill is required and less movement is required.

Table: 4 Roles of Dairy Farm Women in Decision Making (n=100)

S. NO.	Characters	Frequency	Percent
1.	Animal Care		
	Taking animal for grazing	70	70
	Chaffing the fodder & feeding the animals	86	86
	Milking	85	85
	Washing and grooming of animals	75	75
2.	Management of Animals		
	Construction of the animal sheds	90	90
	Storage of feed and fodder	68	68
	Watering the animal sheds	75	75
	Maintaining farm and dairy records	66	66
3.	Processing and Marketing of Milk Products		
	Ghee	87	87
	Paneer	10	10
	Mava	40	40
	Rasgulla and Gulabjamun	10	10

As conclusion, farm women handle most of the critical jobs, and are considered to be the main actors in small scale farming. Though women play a significant role in dairy farming and most of the routine jobs like feeding, taking care of sick animals, storage of feed and fodder, maintaining farm and dairy records, they have very less participation in activities which are financial in nature and require better technical literacy. Most of the women are not involved in preparation and marketing of milk products which require scientific aptitude like preparation of Paneer, Rasgulla and Gulabjamun. The women, who were involved in these activities, were mostly assisting the male members of the family. In the same way, their role is also limited to activities which are local in nature as travelling to cities and nearby towns is not preferred for women folk. The income from dairy animals does not remain in the hands of women and neither does the decision regarding sale and purchase. The findings of the study suggest that women were less dominated in activities which are financial in nature and need more technical expertise. So, there is a need to expose women farmers to training programs related to scientific knowledge and practices of dairy-farming. Exposure visits to the already successful women dairy farmers will help women in gaining confidence in handling the marketing of their dairy products. Extension work by different Government and Non-Government Organisations should also be strengthened to help the women farmers involved in dairy farming to gain better access to updated knowledge of complexities in dairy farming.

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