

Constraints faced by the dairy farm women in animal husbandry practices and solutions to overcome those constraints

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Vijapur and Mehsana talukas of Mehsana district, where production of milk was highest as compared to other talukas. Ten villages having the larger number of female in milk producer' co- operative societies were selected purposively. The sample consisted of 120 respondents for the study. The major economical constraints faced by dairy farm women in sequential order were: high cost of concentrate feed, high rates of interest on loans, high cost of milch animal, high cost of construction of cattle shed and lack of loan facilities. The important technological constraints were, lack of knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry, lack of technical know-how about feed, fodder and health management aspects, inadequate knowledge of vaccination schedule and lack of knowledge about latest technological related to milk and milk processing. The most important input-supply constraints were, non-availability of roughages, lack of supply of crossbred and non-availability of medical aids for animal treatments. The important marketing constraints were, non-availability of remunerative prices of milk and milk products, high cost of preparation of milk product and irregular collection of milk. The major administrative constraints where, lack of proper training on animal husbandry, lack of artificial insemination facility in villages and lack of veterinary services in time. The major suggestion offered by dairy farm women to overcome the constraints in animal husbandry practices were; supply of roughages and concentrate feed should be made available for construction of cattle shed and purchase of dairy animals, loan/subsidy facilities should be provided for purchase of dairy animals, supply of good quality of crossbred cows should be regular, provisions should be made for regular training of dairy farm women, veterinary health care and cattle camp should be organized time to time, at least five member of dairy co-operative society should be trained to solve the problems in animal husbandry and technical guidance regarding latest technology related to milk and milk processing should be provided to dairy farm women.

Key words : Feeding, breeding, animal husbandry practices and constraints

Women's contribution to national development is crucial. Emancipation of women is an essential pre-requisite for economic development and social progress of the nation. Women play an important and vital role in animal husbandry practices as manager, decision makers and skilled workers. The contribution of dairy farm women in terms of time and effort is more important as compared to man. India ranks first in buffalo populations and second in cattle populations

(Anonymous, 2008). The total livestock populations of Gujarat state is 237.94 lakhs. There was about 87.74 lakhs buffalo population, followed by 79.76 lakhs cattle populations (indigenous and crossbred) in Gujarat state in year 2007. The contribution of this sector in total Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is 05.00 per cent and share in GDP of agriculture and allied sector is 22.89 per cent. Out of 84.00 per cent of livestock population is being reared by 75.00 per cent rural households. Animal husbandry contributes average 30.00 per cent to 50.00 per cent share in total family income in rural area. Further, out of total

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101.94 lakhs households of Gujarat, 42.66 lakhs households (42.00 per cent) adopted animal husbandry as a primary or secondary source of income, which shows the potentiality of animal husbandry as a sustainable source of rural livelihood (Anonymous, 2007a). In India, women's involvement in livestock management is a long standing tradition and livestock rearing has been as integral part of homestead farming system. Animal husbandry practices is in important tasks in animal husbandry activities are performed by dairy farm women besides fulfilling their responsibilities as home makers. Moreover, the knowledge and skill of the dairy farm women and their participation in decision-making certainly affects effectively in their work. Looking to these facts, the present investigation was planned to study the constraints faced by dairy farm women in animal husbandry practices. to seek suggestions from dairy farm women to overcome the constraints in animal husbandry practices.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was purposively carried out in Vijapur and Mehsana taluka of Mehsana district, where production of milk is highest as compared to other talukas. Ten villages having the larger number of female in milk producers' co-operative societies were selected purposively. The dairy farm women were selected by single stage random sampling technique. Thus, the sample consisted of 120 respondents for the study.

The independent variables undertaken in this study were: age, education and experience in animal husbandry practices. Size of family, social participation, size of land holding, time spent in dairy activities, herd size, expenditure on dairy animal, occupation, annual income, mass media exposure, extension contact, scientific orientation, risk orientation, knowledge level regarding recommended animal husbandry practices and participation in decision-making. The dependent variable chosen for the purpose of the study was extent of participation of dairy farm women in animal husbandry practices.

Constraints were measured by asking to the dairy farm women to state the constraints faced in animal husbandry practices. The frequency and percentage for all the constraints were calculated and then ranked accordingly. At the same time, the suggestions were collected from the dairy farm women to overcome the constraints they faced in animal husbandry practices. Information collected was tabulated based on frequency and percentage and ranks were assigned to them.

The independent and dependent variable were measured by using suitable scale and procedures adopted by various researchers. The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objective of the study. Before its actual use, it was pre-tested and translated into Gujarati. The data of this study were collected by arranging personal interview with 120 respondents of the 10 selected villages. The data so collected were classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean score, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation were used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by dairy farm women in animal husbandry practices

Constraints faced by the dairy farm women are never ended. However, they can be minimized if known to policy makers and planners. During the course of present investigation, the respondents expressed many constraints which were grouped into five category viz., (i) economical, (ii) technological, (iii) input supply, (iv) marketing and (v) administrative constraints. The constraints were ranked on the basis of mean weighed scores. The responses of the respondents with regard to the constraints are presented in Table 1.

The data given in Table 1 reveal that with regard to economical constraints: the respondent had assigned first rank to high cost of concentrate feed, followed by high rates of interest on loans (Rank II), high cost of milch animal, (Rank III), high cost of construction of cattle shed (Rank IV) and lack of loan facilities

Table 1 Distribution of dairy farm women according faced by them in animal husbandry practices.

(n = 120)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Mean weighted score	Rank order
I	Economical constraints		
	1. High cost of milch animals	2.12	III
	2. High rates of interest on loans	2.37	II
	3. High cost of construction of cattle shed	1.92	IV
	4. Lack of loan facilities	1.75	V
	5. High cost of concentrate	2.50	I
II	Technological constraints		
	1. Lack of knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry	2.19	I
	2. Lack of technical know-how about feed, fodder and health management aspects	1.96	II
	3. Lack of knowledge about latest technology related to milk and milk processing	1.63	IV
	4. Inadequate knowledge of vaccination	1.58	III
III	Input-supply constraints		
	1. Lack of supply of crossbred cows	1.86	II
	2. Non-availability of roughage	2.47	I
	3. Non-availability of medical aids for animal treatments	1.49	III
IV	Marketing constraints		
	1. Non-availability of remunerative prices of milk and milk products	2.35	I
	2. Irregular collection of milk	1.42	III
	3. High cost of preparation of milk products	2.10	II
V	Administrative constraints		
	1. Lack of veterinary services in time	1.36	III
	2. Lack of proper training on animal husbandry	2.40	I
	3. Lack of artificial insemination facility in village	1.65	II

(Rank V), respectively. As regarding technological constraints, lack of knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry ranked I, lack of technical know-how about feed, fodder and health management aspects ranked II, inadequate knowledge of vaccination schedule ranked III and lack of knowledge about latest technology related to milk and milk processing ranked IV were the most important constraints mentioned by dairy farm women, respectively. Among input-supply constraints: the dairy farm women endorsed major constraints were: non-availability of roughages ranked I, lack of supply of crossbred cows ranked II and non-availability of medical aids for animal treatments

ranked III, respectively. In case of marketing constraints non-availability of remunerative prices of milk and milk products was major constraints ranked I, followed by high cost of preparation of milk products ranked II and irregular collection of milk ranked III, respectively. With case to administrative constraints: lack of proper training on animal husbandry was the first major constraints endorsed by dairy farm women, followed by lack of artificial insemination facility in villages ranked II and lack of veterinary services in time ranked III, respectively. These findings has been supported by the findings of Debas *et al.* (2004), Khokhar (2007), and Shirolkar (1993).

Table 2 Suggestion offered by dairy farm women to overcome the Constraints faced by them.

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Per cent	Rank
1.	Supply of good quality crossbred cows should be regular.	88	73.34	III
2.	Technical guidance regarding latest technology related to milk and milk processing should be provided.	68	56.67	VII
3.	Supply of roughages and concentrate feed should be made available at cheaper rates.	100	83.34	I
4.	Provisions should be made for regular training of dairy farm women.	82	68.33	IV
5.	Loan/Subsidy facilities should be cattle shed and purchase of dairy animals.	93	77.50	II
6.	At least five member of dairy co-operative society should be trained to solve the problems in animal husbandry.	73	60.83	VI
7.	Veterinary health care and cattle camp should be organized time to time.	80	66.67	V

Suggestions offered by dairy farm women to overcome the constraints in animal husbandry practices.

An attempt was made to ascertain suggestions from dairy farm women to overcome various constraints faced by them in animal husbandry practices. The respondents were requested to offer their valuable suggestions against difficulties faced by them in animal husbandry practices. The suggestions offered by the dairy farm women are presented in Table 2.

The data given in Table 2 reveal that the major suggestions offered by dairy farm women to overcome the constraints in animal husbandry practices in sequential order were: supply of roughages and concentrate feed should be made available at cheaper rates ranked I, followed by loan/subsidy facilities should be made available for construction of cattle shed and purchase of dairy animals ranked II, supply of good quality of crossbred cows should be regular ranked III, provisions should be made for regular training of dairy farm women ranked IV, veterinary health care and cattle camp should be organized time

to time ranked V, at least five members of dairy co-operative society should be trained to solve the problems in animal husbandry ranked VI and technical guidance regarding latest technology related to milk and milk processing technology should be provided to dairy farm women ranked VII. These finding has been supported by the findings of Khokhar (2007) and Rani (2009).

CONCLUSION

Major constrain which was ranked first in economical, technological, input supply, marketing and administrative were, high cost of concentrate, lack of knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry, non availability of roughage, non availability of remunerative price of milk and milk products, lack of proper training on animal husbandry respectively. The major suggestions was supply of roughage and concentrate food should be made available at cheaper rates followed by loan and subsidy facilities should be for cattelshed and purchase of animal, supply of good quality of crossbred cows should be regular,

supply of good quality of crossbred cows should be regular, veterinary health care and cattle camp should be organized time to time, at least five members of dairy co-operative society should be trained to solve the problems in animal husbandry, technical guidance regarding latest technology related to milk and milk processing technology should be provided to dairy farm women.

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