

## DAIRY FARMING PRACTICES: A BETTER WAY TO INVOLVEMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN NARMADA DISTRICT

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“When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life”

- Kofi Annan

### ABSTRACT

A survey based study was carried out to ascertain the role and involvement of tribal women in dairy farming, using a pretested interview schedule by personal interview for sample size of 160 rural women in Narmada district, Gujarat (India). The socio-personal study revealed that majority of the women were middle aged (46.87) in joint families (75%) with 41.25 per cent being literates. Most of the respondent families were marginal farmers (37.50 %) with low annual family income (61.87 %) having agriculture (46.87 %) as the major occupation. About 30 operations of dairy farming were selected in consultation with experts and were broadly categorized into six aspects as feeding, management, breeding, health care, processing. The study shows that women involvement was maximum in caring of pregnant animals (71.87) followed by care of new born and sick animals (68.75 % & 65.62). The tribal women actively involved in disposal of cow dung (100%), cleaning of animal sheds (81.25%), taking animals for grazing (63.75%) The tribal women involvement showed least in tribal record maintenance (6.25%).The study concluded that women involved mostly in non-financial activities and there is a need to educate tribal women about scientific management practices for increasing livestock production.

**KEYWORDS:** Socio-Personal Profile, Involvement, Tribal Women, Dairy Farming

### INTRODUCTION

Women play an important role in dairy farming sector. They gave fodder to livestock, milking the animal, take off different dairy products from milk, and take care of livestock at home, do weaving, cleaning shelter, converting in livestock management and related deceases. So women must be paid their share in livestock income. Hence there is an urgent need to commercialize their activity and give training to the women for rearing of livestock women in rural livestock can never be ignored. More than 8 working hours in the day are spent by women covering all the dairy farming practices. The contribution of women to national development in the current context and its potential is of greater significance. Involvement of Indian women in national progress at all levels is undisputable 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. Women generally contribute more labor inputs in areas of fodder cutting, watering,

cleaning of animals and their sheds etc reported by Arshad, et al. (2013). Narmada district is situated in south Gujarat and the major farming system of the district are Agriculture + Animal husbandry and agriculture + forestry. Dairy farming and agriculture is major occupation of tribal women in Narmada district. The present investigation was designed to study extent of involvement of tribal women in dairy farming.

### Methodology

The present investigation was designed to study the role and participation of rural women in dairy farming. Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting Nivalda village of Dediapada district Narmada, on the basis of increased rate of prospective dairying the study was conducted during September (2015) to January 2016. A pretested semi structured interview schedule was used to collect the data by personal interview method. Random sampling was applied for selecting 160 respondents from village, thus following the completion of the data collection; the collected data were coded, tabulated, classified and further categorized for systematic statistical analysis. The descriptive statistical tools like frequency and percentage were used for analysis of data.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study revealed that 47 per cent of rural women were middle aged in the study region followed by young (30%) and old age (23 %) category. The possible reason for such distribution might be that, majority of the middle aged rural women perceived dairy farming as a commercial path and took up as a additional occupation. The study revealed that 41.25 per cent of respondents were literates while 58.75 per cent of the women were illiterates. Regarding family type, majority of tribal women lived in joint family (75%) while 25 per cent lived in nuclear family. in relation to the occupation; the study found that agriculture 47% was the major occupation of the family followed by laborers (33.75%).

The remaining tribal women included home makers (13.12%) and government job holders (06.25%). The study reported that 61.25 % of respondents were married while 31.25 per cent rural women were unmarried followed by 6.25% widow. The present study showed that 61.87 per cent of the families had low income followed by medium income category (31.25 %) and high income group (6.87 %). The study discovered that 37.50 per cent tribal women families had marginal land followed by small farmers (27.50 %). It was also observed that 21.87 per cent tribal women were landless and (19.37 %) were large farmers. In view of live stock holding, 61.25 per cent families were in medium category while 24 per cent families had smaller livestock holding few women (15%) had large livestock holding. The study showed that 59.37 per cent rural women had low level social participation while 34.37 % had medium level social participation. The distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic profile is presented in Table.1

**Table 1: Socio Economic Profile of Tribal Women N=160**

S. No.	Characters	No.	%
1.	<b>Age</b>		
	16-29 years (Young)	48	30.00
	29-42 years (Middle)	75	46.87
	42-55 years (Old)	37	23.12
2.	<b>Education</b>		
	Illiterate	94	58.75
	Literate	66	41.25
3.	<b>Family type</b>		
	Joint	120	75
	Nuclear	40	25

<b>4.</b>	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Agriculture	70	43.75
	Labor	54	33.75
	Government job	21	13.12
	Household task	10	6.25
<b>5.</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>		
	Married	98	61.25
	Un married	50	31.25
	widow	12	7.50
	Divorce	-	-
<b>6.</b>	<b>Income</b>		
	Low	99	61.87
	Medium	50	31.25
	High	11	6.87
<b>7.</b>	<b>Land</b>		
	Landless	35	21.87
	Marginal	60	37.50
	Small	44	27.50
	Large	31	19.37
<b>8.</b>	<b>Livestock Holding</b>		
	Small	38	23.75
	Medium	98	61.25
	Large	24	15.00
<b>9.</b>	<b>Social Participation</b>		
	Low	95	59.37
	Medium	55	34.37
	High	10	6.25

N=Number of observations

**Table 2: Distribution of the Tribal Women on the Basis of Their Involvement in Dairy Farming N=160**

S.N.	Activities	No.	%
<b>1.</b>	<b>Feeding And Watering</b>		
	Taking animals for grazing	97	60.67
	Fodder collection	60	37.50
	Chaffing the fodder	15	9.37
	Storage of feed & fodder	25	15.62
	Watering the animals	130	81.25
	Feeding the animals	140	87.50
<b>2.</b>	<b>Management</b>		
	Construction of animal sheds	110	68.75
	Cleaning of animal sheds	130	81.25
	Washing & grooming of animals milking	70	43.75
	Disposal of animal dung	160	100
	Maintaining tribal & dairy records	10	6.25
	Milking	160	100
<b>3.</b>	<b>Breeding</b>		
	Taking animals for artificial insomnia	90	62.50
	Taking animals for natural service	40	25
	Taking animals for pregnancy diagnosis	108	67.50
	Arrange materials during Parturition	95	59.37
	Calling veterinarian during dystocia	95	56.25

4.	Health Care		
	Care of sick animals	105	65.62
	Care of new born	110	68.75
	Care of pregnant animals	115	71.87
	Taking animals for treatment	103	64.37
	Vaccination/Medication	70	43.75

The study focused mainly on six major operations of dairy farming. The findings of study are depicted in Table 2.

### Feeding and Watering

The study discovered that most of the work regarding feeding and watering of animals was the only responsibility of the women they were responsible for the tasks like taking the animals for grazing, fodder collection, chaffing and storage of fodder etc. All the activities were done only by women, which is in taking the animals out for grazing, as they could not engage themselves in other jobs they done their work with household task due to this resulted many of the women suffered from physical and mental stress. Regarding storage of fodder, women involved themselves in hay making and were not aware of the importance of silage making. The study revealed that 87.50 per cent of tribal women were involved in feeding of animals followed by watering of animals (81.25%). The study showed that 60.67 per cent respondents were involved in taking the animals for grazing. The study revealed that 37.50 per cent of women involved in activities like fodder collection while 9.37 per cent women performed chaffing of fodder for animals. The women also looked after storage of feed and fodder (15.62 %) in the form of hay making. Similar findings were reported by Rathod et.al (2011).

### Management

The study showed that major activity was done by women actively. The work of animal shed construction, grooming of animals were also performed by women which is in accordance with the findings of (Arshad, et al. (2013). Livestock Management has considerable importance in dairy farming. There are some important components like weaning of calves, keeping the animal in open or in shed, shed cleaning, collection of manure, regular and timely milking, were done by women in an appreciable manner. It was noticed that women performed activities like milking and disposal of dung (100 %) followed by cleaning of animal sheds 81.25%. The tribal women involvement in construction of animal sheds (68.75%) followed by 43.75 percent washing and grooming activity of animals. Though majority of the women were illiterate, 1.87 percent of tribal women maintained a piece of paper for financial record.

### Breeding

Tribal women participation in breeding activities was found to be least among all the selected activities due to social norms and taboos in society. The study showed that 67.50% of tribal women were actively involved in taking animal for pregnancy diagnosis followed by 62.50% of tribal women took animals for Artificial insemination, while 25 percent took animal for natural service. Similar results were also reported by Singh (2003). The study also reported that 59.37% arranged bedding materials during parturition while 56.25% called veterinarian during dystocia. Similar findings were reported by Triapthi and Bhanja (2000).

### Health Care

The health care of animals was solely performed by tribal women in the study. The study revealed that 71.87%

women were engaged in health care of pregnant animals while 68.75 were involved in care of new born calves. The study also showed that care of sick animals (65.65%) was exclusively performed by tribal women. The findings are in conformity with Rathod et. al, (2011).The study reported that women were involved in taking animals for treatment 64.37% and vaccination or medication was 43.75 per cent.

## CONCLUSIONS

Tribal women handle most of critical jobs & are considered to be the main actors in small scale farming. The income from dairy animals does not remain in the hands of women neither does the decision regarding sale and purchase. As the educational qualification of women increases, they preferred to undertake other entrepreneurial & technical works to the unskilled jobs of cleaning of sheds, feeding of cattle & washing of farm utensils etc. similarly with the increase in land holding, the participation of women in livestock was found to decrease, as relatively less time was available at their disposal to attend to the livestock activities. Tribal women of low economic category were found to participate more in livestock operations as compared to women from high and medium income groups. It might be due to the reasons that as financial conditions improve; women incline to opt for hired labor, which in turn reduces their participation. Though women play significant role in dairy farming as well as it's an important indicator for them. It's very necessary to increase scientific knowledge for increasing livestock production through various techniques.

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