

Role of farm women in dairy operations and difficulties faced by them

Swati Deepak Tripathi¹

¹K.V.K. Pratapgarh

(Received : March, 2014 : Revised : April, 2014; Accepted : May, 2014)

Abstract

Most of the agricultural and animal husbandry activities are performed by the farmwomen. Due to the traditional technologies they use, the work efficiency is reduced and they have remained as shadow workers. There is a greater need to bridge the gap between the technology producers and the users. Many technologies have not reached the women at grass root level. The improved technologies, if properly used, can reduce the drudgery of farm women and increase the work efficiency. The gender bias modifications can be incorporated if new technologies are introduced. This will bring the farmwomen into the main stream of national development.

Key words : role, operations, difficulties

Introduction

In India, about 80 per cent of the female population live in rural areas and 86 per cent of the rural women works in agriculture and allied activities (Borah, 1998). Women provide much of the unpaid family labour to agriculture including animal husbandry. Caring animals is considered as an extension of domestic activities in Indian social system and most of the animal husbandry activities like bringing fodder from field, chaffing the fodder, preparing feed for animals, offering water to animals, protection of animals from ticks and lice, cleaning of animals and sheds, preparation of dung cakes, milking, ghee-making and marketing of produce are performed by farm women. On an average, females spent about 294.34 minutes and 87.17 minutes daily for large and small ruminants keeping respectively. Of the time spent for large ruminants, they spent about 46 per cent of the time for feeding, 21 per cent for milking and 12 per cent for marketing the milk and milk products, while for

small ruminants, they spent about 74 per cent in feeding tasks and around 7 per cent each for watering, housing and hygienic maintenance. Imputed economic value of the time spent on animal based tasks by farm women was calculated to be Rs. 24.53 and Rs. 7.26 per day per household in large and small ruminants keeping respectively. This measure underlines the economic importance of the functions carried out by farm women in the rural economy and in livestock farming.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Kanpur district. Two blocks Kalyanpur and Sarsaul were randomly selected. Total 10 villages were selected for the study purpose. 10 farm women were randomly selected from each village. Total sample of 100 farm women were selected. Dependent and independent variables such as age, case, roles performances, difficulty etc. were used. The statistical tools such as weighted mean and correlation were used.

Corresponding author's e-mail :@gmail.com

Published by Indian Society of Genetics, Biotechnology Research and Development, 5, E Biotech Bhawan, Nikhil Estate, Mugalia Road, Shastripuram, Sikandra, Agra 282007

Online management by www.isgbrd.co.in

Results

Maximum 63.3 per cent SC respondents were

landless and having marginal land followed by 35.5 per cent respondents from OBC and SC house holds have small land holdings.

Table 1. Caste-wise distribution of respondents

Caste	Landless	Marginal	Small	Large	Total
Upper	6 (20.0)	6 (20.0)	9 (29.0)	3 (33.3)	24 (24.0)
OBC	5 (16.7)	5 (16.7)	11 (35.5)	3 (33.3)	24 (24.0)
SC	19 (63.3)	19 (63.3)	11 (35.5)	3 (33.4)	52 (52.0)
Total	30	30	31	9	100

(Figures in brackets denote percentages to their respective totals)

Table 2. Time utilization in animal husbandry and dairying

Activity	Land holding		Total		
	Landless	Marginal	Small	Large	
Fodder carrying	0.16	0.15	0.09	0.08	0.14
Chaffing the fodder	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.05
Feed preparation	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Animal grazing	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.05
Offering feed and fodder to cattle	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04
Offering water to cattle	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04
Milching	0.10	0.09	0.04	0.05	0.07
Sale of milk	0.09	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.06
Cleaning animals	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.07
Cleaning animal sheds	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06
Cleaning milk utensils	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06
Making milk products	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.13	0.10
Preparation of cow dung cakes	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Total	1.06	0.94	0.67	0.75	3.42

The data revealed that in animal husbandry operations viz. preparing feed for animals, cleaning of animals, milching, offering water to animals, the mean scores of women's were worked out in all the landholding categories as well as in pooled. In case of fodder carrying mean score was higher in landless category

and some as in chaffing the fodder. Milching, milk sale, cleaning of animals, cleaning animals shed, cleaning milk utensils and preparation of dung cakes recorded highest mean scores in landless category. On an average a woman devotes 5 hours and 30 minutes per day on animal husbandry activities.

Table 3. Difficulty faced in performing animal husbandry and dairying practices

Operations	Mean score	Rank
Fodder carrying	0.17	I
Chaffing/cutting fodder	0.15	II
Preparing feed	0.13	III
Animal grazing	0.11	V
Offering feed and fodder to cattle	0.11	V
Giving water to cattle	0.12	IV
Milching	0.10	VI
Milk sale	0.12	IV
Making milk products	0.09	VII
Cleaning milk utensils	0.10	VI
Washing animal sheds	0.12	IV
Washing animals	0.10	VI
Preparation of cow dung cake	0.11	V

Table 5.13 shows that respondents have faced the highest difficulty in fodder carrying and the lowest in preparation of milk products. The reason is that fodder carrying is very strenuous whereas preparation of milk products they have much interest.

Conclusion

The overall involvement of women in animal husbandry operations in landless categories. On an average women devote more time in animal husbandry activities irrespective of their land holding categories. Thus, it may be inferred that more drudgery prone practices are performed by women.

Recommendation

1. Promoting intensive livestock rearing in rural

areas may encourage female to participate more in livestock keeping as this practice did not require farm women to take animals for grazing far away from their homes.

2. Farm women should be involved in the promotion of loan schemes and revolving funds to improve income level and to create assets.

References

1. **Agarwal, Hema** (1987) A study on contribution of farm-women in animal husbandry enterprise. An unpublished M.Sc. thesis submitted to IVRI, Izatnagar.
2. **Singh, Mithlesh** (2004) Factors associated with adoption of dairy management practices
