



The Role of Rural Women in Dairy Activities in Bhadrak District of Odisha

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Abstract-

The present study was conducted in Bhadrak District of Odisha to find out the role of rural women in dairy activities. A total of 120 respondents were selected randomly for the present study. The data were collected through a pre-structured interview schedule and later appropriate statistical analysis was done to find out the meaningful result. The results showed that the farm women were engaged in almost all dairy activities. However, they were actively participating in milking, feeding of grains, making dairy products etc. but they were having less participation in activities like ,protecting cattle against parasites, insemination of cattle, veterinary care etc. The association between some selected independent variables with participation of women in dairy activities was also found. Education, mass media exposure and extension contact were found to be significantly related to participation of rural women in dairy activities.

Keywords: Participation, rural women, dairy activities



1. Introduction-

Women in India are the backbone of our society and important resource in agriculture and rural economy. They make essential contributions to the agricultural development and allied activities to pursue multiple livelihood strategies along with household chores.

Traditionally, women have always played an important role in agriculture as farmers, co-farmers, wage labours and manager of farms. They have conventionally been producers of food from seed to kitchen. They carry the heavier work burden in food production and because of gender discrimination, get lower returns for their work.

Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector.

Agriculture needs manpower, if the manpower splits gender wise, amazing fact is that the women contribution is greater or equal to men (**Chauhan, 2011**).

A large number of farm women are not only engaged in farm operations as cultivator's assistant but also play vital role in kitchen garden, poultry keeping, goat rearing, preserving seeds, marketing of milk, vegetables and fruits etc. Whenever they are not having employment on their own farm, they get engaged in off farm activities.

Rural women perform numerous labour intensive jobs like milking, milk processing, and preparation of dairy products are also carried out by the women. Livestock is the primary subsistent activity used to meet household food needs as well as supplement farm incomes. The majority of farms own some livestock. The pattern of livestock strength is mainly influenced by various factors such as farm size, cropping pattern, availability of range-lands including fodder and pasture. Mostly women are engaged in cleaning of animal, sheds, watering and milking the



animals. Rural women are also responsible for collection, preparing dung cakes, an activity that also brings additional income to poor families. Evidently, rural women are involved in almost all livestock related activities. Maximum livestock management activities are predominantly performed by females. Males, however, share the responsibility of taking care of sick animals. It is evident that the women are playing a dominant role in the farm and livestock production and management activities.

Looking at the significant role of rural women in dairy activities, the study on role of rural women in dairy activities was conducted keeping in view of increasing importance of involvement of rural women in agricultural production programmes. Studies in this field so far had exhibited a little concern on rural women's role in Odisha state. Hence, this study was conducted with an objective of ascertaining the extent of involvement of rural women in various dairy activities in Bhadrak district of Odisha.

2. Research Methodology-

The present study was conducted in the Bhadrak district of the Odisha state. They prominently and actively participate in various farming activities and contribute in their household economy. There are 07 tehsils and 07 blocks functioning in the District. Bhadrak rural block was selected by purposive sampling for the research due to more population of farm women. There are 169 villages in Bhadrak Rural Block. Out of these, 10 villages were selected for the present study.

Those 10 villages were Jaggannathpur, Ramkrishnapur, Charampa, Gelpur, Fovindpur, Harisankarpur, Jagadalpur, Kasalpur, Olang, Sabrang. From total selected 7 tribal dominated villages, 120 respondents were selected randomly. The structured interview schedule was prepared for data collection. Descriptive research design was used for this study. The statistical tools such as frequency, percent and chi-square test were used to interpret the data and for drawing logical conclusion.



3. Results and Discussion-

Women's role as food producers is related also to their role as mothers and nurtures and in sustaining their families and communities. Their work is integral to the quality of life of people. Most of the rural women labourers are landless, homeless and belong to the socially and economically depressed classes of the society. Rural women in our society are exploited and denied their basic rights. Their inherent dignity and equal inalienable rights are not recognized in the society. Though, their socio-economic status, the nature and mode of work and the way of people's life have been changed along with the new development in the society. But the society particularly, rural society is not still ready to accept any change in women's role, work position and status because of the orthodox and conservative beliefs in villages. The rural women of Bhadrak District of Odisha are actively involved in various and dairy activities.

Table 1 Socio-economic profile of the respondents: n=120

S.No	Independent variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (18-35)	63	52.50
		Middle (36-55)	48	40.00
		Old (above 55)	09	7.50
2.	Education	Illiterate	26	21.67
		Primary School	27	22.50
		Upper primary	32	26.66
		Secondary	18	15.00
		Higher Secondary	10	8.33



		Graduation and above	04	3.33
		Others	03	2.50
3.	Land holding	Below 1 acre	13	10.83
		1-2 acre	87	72.50
		2-3 acre	16	13.34
		Above 3 acre	04	3.33
4.	Annual income	Less than 75,000	44	36.67
		75,001- 1.5 lakh	62	51.66
		Above 1.5 lakh	14	11.67
5.	Family size	Upto 5	58	48.34
		5-10	46	38.34
		Above 10	16	13.32
6.	Family type	Nuclear	58	48.34
		Joint	62	51.66
7.	Mass media exposure	Low(6-7)	27	22.50
		Medium(7.1-8)	56	46.67
		High(8.1-9)	37	30.83
8.	Extension contact	Low(7-9)	21	17.50
		Medium(9.1-11)	55	45.84
		High(11.1-13)	44	36.66



From the table 1, it was concluded that 52.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to the age group of 18 - 35 years i.e. young age, 26.66 per cent of the respondents were educated up to upper primary. In terms of land holding, majority of the respondents i.e. 72.50 per cent of the respondents had land holding of 1 to 2 acre and 51.66 per cent of the respondents have an annual income of 75,000-1.5lakh. 48.34 per cent of the respondents had family size up to 5 members and 48.34 per cent of the respondents have nuclear family.46.67 per cent of the respondents had medium level of mass media exposure and 45.84 per cent of the respondents had medium level of extension contact.

Participation of respondents in various dairy activities

Rural women were found to be actively involved in dairy activities.

Table 2- Participation of respondents in Dairy activities

Sl No.	Activity	Always (F)	Percentage	Sometimes (F)	Percentage	Never (F)	Percentage	Mean score	Rank
1	Taking animals for grazing	21	17.5	73	60.84	26	21.66	1.95	VII
2	Chaffing fodder	32	26.67	63	52.50	25	20.83	2.05	VI
3	Bathing animals	24	20.00	49	40.84	47	39.16	1.80	IV
4	Offering feed	61	50.84	57	47.50	02	1.66	2.49	IV
5	Cleaning of shed	74	61.67	33	27.5	13	10.83	2.50	III



6	Protection against parasite	11	9.17	29	24.16	80	66.67	1.42	VIII
7	Milking	94	78.34	22	18.33	04	3.33	2.81	I
8	Making dairy products	88	73.34	27	22.25	05	4.16	2.69	II
9	Insemination	0	0	18	15.00	102	85.00	0.98	X
10	Veterinary care	06	5.00	22	18.34	92	76.66	1.28	IX
11	Marketing	31	25.84	78	65.00	11	9.16	2.16	V

Table 3- level of participation of rural women in dairy activities.

Sl No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low(19-21.33)	32	26.67
2	Medium(21.34-23.67)	52	43.30
3	High(23.68-26)	36	30.00
	Total	120	100.00

From the above data it was concluded that women had medium level of participation in dairy activities i.e. 43.30 per cent. They participated the most in milking with a mean score of 2.81 followed by making dairy products with a mean score of 2.69, cleaning of shed 2.50 , offering feed 2.49,marketing 2.16,chaffing of fodder 2.05 ,taking animals for grazing 1.95, protection



against parasite 1.42, veterinary care 1.28 and they were found least involved in insemination with a mean score of 0.98.

Association between selected independent variables with Participation

Table 4- Association between selected independent variables with Participation of respondents in dairy activities:

Sl. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient value
1	Age	0.06(NS)
2	Education	0.96(HS)
3	Caste	0.60(MS)
4	Annual income	0.65(MS)
5	Mass media exposure	0.98(HS)
6	Extension contact	0.85(HS)

-NS- Non-significant

-MS-Mild significant

-HS-Highly significant

From the above data it was concluded that education ,mass media exposure and extension contact had highly significant relationship with participation of women in dairy activities ,annual income and caste had mild significance with participation in dairy activities whereas age of respondents had no relationship with participation of respondents in dairy activities.



CONCLUSION-

Thus, it may be concluded that women in the study area faced various constraints while participating in dairy activities which needs to be solved on priority basis to improve their participation in farm and dairy activities. It is necessary that rural women should be encouraged to attend krishi-mela, agricultural exhibitions, educational tours, crop demonstrations and other agricultural programmes. It is also suggested that they should be given dairy information and training through women extension workers to improve their participation in farm and dairy activities.

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