

STUDY ON REASON OF EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT OF FARM WOMEN AND CONSTRAINTS IN DAIRY FARMING

Sukanta Biswas¹, A. Goswami², A.K. Mazumdar³ & D. Mazumdar⁴

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in North 24 Parganas district of W.B. The data were collected through personal interview schedule administered on randomly selected 90 rural women from purposively selected 2 blocks (30 from Gaighata and 60 from Bagdah block) covered under ICMPUL. Data thus generated were analyzed by different statistical methods including frequency distribution and percentages were calculated for interpretation of the results. Difficulty to manage home and job together was the major reason for unemployment whereas Economic necessity was the major cause for employment outside the home by women dairy farmers. High cost of dairy feed was the major constraint, which was reported by women dairy farmers.

Key words : Employment status, Income generation, Farmwomen, Dairy farming.

INTRODUCTION :

Livestock farming is a century long tradition and cultural practices for millions of Indian. This plays a significant role in accelerating the rural economic growth in developing countries like India. World economic profiles of women shows that they represent about 50% of the population, make up 30% of the official labour force work during 60% of all working hrs, receive 10% of the world income and own less than 1% of the world poverty (Anon-1980a). Women provide much of the unpaid family labour to agriculture (Thakar & Patel-1998) including animal husbandry. Having been highly employed in livestock rearing activities, rural women were found to devote 90% of their time on cattle care, making it more or less a female domain (Veena et.al. 1988). Statistical data from census and National sample survey show conclusively that women among the labour force are increasing in number. In 1988-89, 7.14 million female labours were available to work in rural areas (Reddy-1991). In fact more than 20% of the rural households in India are run solely on women's earning and another 20% rely by more than half on a women's wage, despite her being paid only half of what a man gets for the same jobs. Therefore, they have multiple employment status ranging from unpaid family labour to paid wageworker on farms in the village or outside to self-employment in the village or outside to self-employed at home. Keeping this idea in mind, an attempt was made to study on reason for employment and unemployment with constraints in dairy farming of farmwomen.

METHODOLOGY :

The proposed study was conducted in purposively

selected North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The data were collected from randomly selected 90 rural women from purposively selected 2 blocks covered under Ichamoti Cooperative Milk producer's Limited (ICMPUL). After ranking all the block society based on milk contribution to ICMPUL during 2003, 30 women farmer from Gaighata and 60 from Bagdah block were selected. A pilot study was carried out in two selected blocks before data collection. A draft of interview schedule for the purpose of data collection was developed by incorporating the tools and techniques of measurement of different variables. It was then modified and data were collected from the respondent directly by the researcher through personal interview. In pre-testing, care was taken not to include persons, who were selected as sample for final data collection. The data thus generated were computed and analyzed by using different statistical methods like frequency distribution, percentage analysis etc. The scoring method was followed using the developing schedule (H. Tripathi 1991). The frequency of respondents for each reason of employment and unemployment were calculated who had chosen more than one reason for employment or unemployment in order of priority. Accordingly rank order for each reason was made out to find out the most outstanding factor.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION :

Reason for unemployment outside the home by dairy farmers—A perusal of table-1 depicted that "Difficulty to manage home and job together" was the major reason for unemployment, which was observed by 80% respondents followed by "Family members do not permit" (77.78%), "No free time" (66.67%), "Place of work at a distance" (57.78%), "Cultural constraints" (47.78%), "Children feel neglected" (21.11%), "No

1. P.G. Student, 2. Head, (Vet.&A.H.Ext.Edu.) WBUAFS, Kolkata, 3. Prof. & Ex-Head,(Agril. Ext.), BCKV, Nadia, W.B.
4. Reader,(Agril Ext.), BCKV, Nadia, W.B.

economic necessity” (18.89%), “Have small children” (16.67%), “Not the only member to support family” (8.89%), “Harassment by livestock owners” (7.78%) and “Any other” (6.67%), were reported as a reason for unemployment by the respondents.

Table 1. Ranking & distribution of respondents according to their reason for unemployment in percentage

S. No	Items	Frequency (N=90)	(%)	Rank
1.	Cultural constraints	43	47.78	V
2.	Place of work is at a distance	52	57.78	IV
3.	Harassment by livestock owner	7	7.78	X
4.	No free time	60	66.67	III
5.	No economic necessity	17	18.89	VII
6.	Difficulty to manage home & job together	72	80.00	I
7.	Children feel neglected	19	21.11	VI
8.	Have small child/children	15	16.67	VIII
9.	Not the only member to support the family	8	8.89	IX
10.	Family member do not permit	70	77.78	II
11.	Any other	6	6.67	XI

Reason for Employment outside the Home by Dairy farmers—The findings of the table-2 focused that “Economic necessity” was the major cause for employment outside the home by women dairy farmers which was explained by 64.44% sample respondents followed by “Have interest” (52.22%), “As a relief from boredom” (46.67%), “Maintaining individuality” (33.78%), “Family member want it” (30.00%), “Desire to have an independent income” (21.11%), “Job is readily available” (11.11%) and Only source to support the family (7.78%). Any other was also reported as a reason for employment by 3.33% respondents.

Table 2. Ranking & distribution of respondents according to their reason for unemployment in percentage

S. No	Items	Frequency (N=90)	(%)	Rank
1.	Economic necessity	53	64.44	I
2.	Ample free time	15	16.67	VII
3.	To pass time	12	13.33	VIII
4.	Job is readily available	10	11.11	IX
5.	Desire to have an independent income	19	21.11	VI
6.	Have interest	47	52.2	II
7.	As a relief from boredom	42	46.67	III
8.	Maintaining individuality	4	37.78	IV
9.	Only source to support the family	7	7.78	X
10.	Family member want it	7	30.00	V
11.	Any other	3	3.33	XI

Constraints in dairy farming—A cursory look at

table-3 reveals that “high cost of dairy feed “was the major constraint which was reported by 96.67% respondents, followed by “Lack of credit facility” (76.67%), “High cost of veterinary medicine” (74.44%), “Non availability of dairy feed” (51.11%), “Unremunerative price of milk” (47.78%), “Knowledge gap about AI” (24.44%), “Lack of adequate AI facility” (20.00%), “Lack of marketing facility” (15.56%) and “Non availability of veterinary service” (15.55%), “Lack of transportation facility” was also reported as a constraint by 13.33% respondents.

Table 3. Percentage distribution & ranking of constraints in dairy farming perceived by the respondents

S. No	Items	Frequency (N=90)	(%)	Rank
1.	High cost of dairy feed	87	96.67	I
2.	Non availability of dairy feed	46	51.11	IV
3.	Unremunerative price of milk	43	47.78	V
4.	Lack of transportation facility	12	13.33	X
5.	Lack of marketing facility	14	15.56	VIII
6.	Lack of adequate AI facility	18	20.00	VII
7.	Lack of credit facility	69	76.67	II
8.	High cost of vety. medicines	67	74.44	III
9.	Non-availability of vety. services	14	15.55	IX
10.	Knowledge gap about AI	22	24.44	VI

CONCLUSION :

Difficulty to manage home and job together was the major reason for unemployment of farmwomen whereas economic necessity was the major cause for employment outside the home by women dairy farmers. High cost of dairy feed was the major constraint, which was reported by women dairy farmers in a profitable dairy farm. So, in overall study it is evident that the most observable reason of unemployment and employment outside the home by women farmer is very much justifiable. This emphasizes the king pins role of women in home as well as farm economy in rural areas. Though, they played a significant role in accelerating the rural economic growth of India through livestock farming, but the rank wise reason of unemployment and employment express the sociological, cultural and physiological scenario of women in our country. Regarding the constraints perceived by women dairy farmer, also express the major hindrance for developing a progressive dairy farm. Removal of these constraints will hopefully provide a profitable and developed farming scenario in our country.

REFERSENCES

1. Anon. (1980). Rural Women’s participation in development evaluation study. United Nation Development Programme, No: 3.
2. Reddy, G.Y. (1991). Right to land, new technology and employment generation: A strategy for 8th plan. Kurukshetra. 34 (5).
3. Thakar, R.F. and K.F. Patel (1998). Knowledge of farmwomen about improved agril. and A.H. practices. *Rural India*, March, 98: 73-75
4. Veena, S., Gorver, I. and Munyal, S. (1988). Participation of rural women of Haryana in home, farm and dairy sector, A report on ORP. NDRI, Karnal.

