

## Empowerment of Women's SHG through Food Processing and Dairy Management Practices

Shweta S. Kadu<sup>1</sup>, R.R. Kotikhane<sup>2</sup> and D.R. Nagawade<sup>3</sup>

1. Ex. PG. Students. 2. Chief Ext. Edu. Officer, Deptt. of Ext. Edu., College of Agriculture, MKV, Parbhani,

3. PG. Students. (Agri.) Student, MPKV, Rahuri.

Corresponding author e-mail: shweta.nagawade@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*The present study was conducted in Parbhani District of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The Parbhani and Gangakhed taluka of Parbhani district were purposively selected for the study. A sample of 120 respondents was purposively selected, on the basis of their involvement in food processing and dairy management, considering 60 respondents from each taluka. The respondents were interviewed with the help of well structured interview schedule. The findings revealed that majority of the respondents had medium level of participation in food processing and dairy management practices. Majority of the respondents faced the constraints of dominance of male members in family, lack of information about food processing and animal rearing practices was observed.*

**Key words:** Participation; Food processing; Dairy management practices; Empowerment;

As women play an active role in the economy of their families, they are wise enough to invest money and lead better life. There is linkage between a women's access to independent income and her position in family. It is believed that when women are provided credit and they take up income generating activities, their income is expected to increase. There is a new approach to the whole concept of women empowerment and over the country self help groups sprang up. The basic objectives of SHG are to develop the saving capacity among the poorest sections of the society. Self help groups enable the poor especially the women from the poor households, to collectively identify, priorities and tackle the problems they face in their socio-economic environment. The rural women of SHG undertake various income generating activities to strengthen themselves.

The processing of various fruits and food crops is carried out on large scale under self-help group. SHG's involved in the food processing also have to perform various functions like keeping information on agricultural supplies in the region, collection of raw materials, manufacturing, packaging, distribution and marketing of processed products etc. Thus, all these activities help woman members of SHG to improve socio-economic condition of them and empower themselves. Self-help

group women's are also involved in dairy management and dairy technology as their side business. Dairying in India is one of important subsidiary occupation in the rural areas next to agriculture. In livestock management, indoor jobs like milking, cleaning etc. are done by women in 90 per cent families. Thus woman members of SHG have empowered themselves through food processing and dairy management. Therefore, they are involved in the processing of various fruit and food crop and sale of milk, preparation of khoa, basundi, curd etc. With this view, the study "Empowerment of woman members through food processing and dairy management practices" was undertaken.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Parbhani District of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The Parbhani and Gangakhed taluka of Parbhani district were purposively selected for the study. Sample of 120 respondents was purposively selected, 60 respondents from each taluka on the basis of their involvement in food processing and dairy management. The respondents were interviewed with the help of well-structured interview schedule and analyzed by using suitable statistical techniques like, mean, frequency, percentage, standard deviation and correlation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Participation of SHG women members in food processing:* From Table 1 it was observed that majority (82.00%) respondents were participated in storage of processed products, 76.00 per cent participated in financial transaction of food processing unit. It was observed that 54.00 per cent respondents had participated in various training programme related to food processing and 66.00 per cent participated in monthly meetings of SHG. From the given data, it was revealed that, in the activities like preparation, decision in selling, distribution of processed products and purchasing of raw materials for food processing the SHG women members had partial participation. They take help of their family members and labours in these activities.

*Participation of SHG woman members in dairy management practices:* From the data given in Table 2, it is observed that 15.72 per cent respondents were involved in milking of animals, 88.60 per cent respondents were involved in care of pregnant animals. Further, data revealed that 2.86 per cent respondents and 11.43 per cent respondents were involved in purchasing and selling of animal and purchasing of

fodder respectively. While, 21.43 per cent respondents were involved in identification of sick animals. The further data revealed that 18.60 per cent respondents and 17.14 per cent respondents were involved in decision of selling and transportation of milk and milk products respectively. Also, 81.43 per cent respondents were involved in preparation of milk products. It was also observed that 7.14 per cent respondents were involved in activities of banking and transactions of SHG and 41.43 per cent respondents were involved in primary health care practices of animals.

*Relationship of the profile of woman members of selected SHG groups with participation :* It was observed that independent variables namely education, annual income, social participation, mass media exposure, market orientation and risk orientation had positive and significant relationship with participation of SHG woman members; whereas age is negatively non-significant with participation of SHG woman members (Table 3).

*Constraints experienced by SHG woman members in food processing and dairy management practices:* The data in Table 4 revealed that 36.66 per cent respondents and 33.33 per cent respondents lack help

**Table 1: Participation of SHG woman members in food processing activities (N=50)**

Particular of participation	Full participation	Partial participation	No participation
Purchasing of raw materials for food processing	15 (30.00)	28 (56.00)	7 (14.00)
Participation in training programme	27 (54.00)	00 (0.00)	23 (46.00)
Decision in selling of processed food products	05 (10.00)	39 (78.00)	06 (12.00)
Preparation of processed food products	72 (24.00)	38 (76.00)	00 (0.00)
Packaging of processed product	15 (30.00)	29 (58.00)	06 (12.00)
Storage of processed product	41 (82.00)	08 (16.00)	01 (2.00)
Distribution of processed products	00 (0.00)	37 (74.00)	13 (26.00)
Transaction and banking activities of SHG	18 (36.00)	23 (46.00)	09 (18.00)
Participation in financial transaction of food processing unit	38 (76.00)	06 (12.00)	06 (12.00)
Participation in monthly meetings of SHG	33 (66.00)	14 (28.00)	03 (6.00)

**Table 2: Participation of SHG woman members in dairy management practices (N=70)**

Particular of participation	Full participation	Partial participation	No participation
Milking of animals	11 (15.72)	45 (64.28)	14 (20.00)
Care of pregnant animals	62 (88.60)	07 (10.00)	01 (01.40)
Purchasing and selling of animals	02 (02.86)	21 (30.00)	47 (67.14)
Purchase of fodder	08 (11.43)	51 (72.86)	11 (15.71)
Identification of sick animals	15 (21.43)	33 (47.14)	22 (31.43)
Decision of selling of milk and milk products	13 (18.60)	46 (65.70)	11 (15.70)
Transportation of milk and milk products	12 (17.14)	23 (32.86)	35 (50.00)
Preparation of milk products	57 (81.43)	09 (12.86)	04 (05.71)
Banking transactions	05 (07.14)	50 (71.43)	15 (21.43)
Primary health care of animals	29 (41.43)	16 (22.86)	25 (35.71)

\* Figures in parentheses indicate percentage in above tables.

**Table 3: Relationship of profile of woman members of SHG with participation**

Characteristics	'r' values
Age	-0.575**
Education	0.618**
Caste	-0.032 <sup>NS</sup>
Annual income	0.244*
Social participation	0.269**
Mass media exposure	0.644**
Market orientation	0.684**
Risk orientation	0.748**

\*\* Significant at 0.01 %

\* Significant at 0.05 %

NS=Non significant

in problem solving and lack confidence while taking decision respectively are also the important constraints. While 35.00 per cent respondents face problem of higher time consumption for household work. It was also observed that 32.00 per cent respondent faced the difficulty in proper selection of cattle breeds, while 4.17 per cent respondents lack of information about preparation of milk products and 18.33 per cent respondents also faced problem of lack of training, due to which improper methods of food processing were followed by them. It was also seen that 30.00 per cent respondents faced difficulty in sale of food processing products due to higher prices in local market; all these were constraints faced by SHG woman members.

## CONCLUSION

The present investigation concluded that the training programmes should be arranged to acquire new skills, methods and new technology about food processing and dairy management practices. For orientation about new technology some method and result demonstrations should be conducted by different extension agencies, for increasing participation of SHG

**Table 4: Constraints experienced by woman members of SHG in participation of food processing and management practices (N=120)**

Constraints	No.	%
Dominance of male members in family	88	73.33
Shortage of green leaves and clean water	68	56.67
Difficulty in marketing of processed products	61	50.83
Lack of risk bearing ability due to higher investment in food processing	58	48.33
Lack of information about food processing	56	46.67
Lack of adequate knowledge about diseases and vaccination of cattles	53	44.17
Lack of information about proper animal rearing practices	46	38.33
Lack of information about dairy management practices	45	37.50
Lack of help in problem solving	44	36.67
Higher time consumption for household work	42	35.00
Lack of confidence while taking decision	40	33.33
Difficulty in proper selection of cattle breed	39	32.50
Difficulty in sale of food processing products due to higher prices in local market	36	30.00
Improper method of food processing due to lack of training	22	18.33
Lack of information about preparation of milk products	5	4.17

women. The study also concluded some of the important constraints like thinking of women about dominance of male members in family should be removed from their minds, lack of confidence in taking the decision, lack of guidance in problem solving etc. should be overcome by creating awareness among them and by encouraging the women through undertaking various programmes on capacity building of SHG women by extension agencies.

*Paper received on* : July 07, 2013

*Accepted on* : August 12, 2013

## REFERENCES

- Chaudhary, H.P, Mathur, N.K., Punjabi and S.Singh, (2004). Participation of farm women in agriculture operations. *Rural India*, pp: 53-55.
- Chole, R.R. and Fatak, U.N. (2007). Empowerment of rural women through SHGs engaged in Agro based enterprises. Agresco Report, MAU, Parbhani, pp:-15.
- Shinde, S.M. (2007). Participation of farm women in animal management. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis, MAU, Parbhani.

