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Involvement of Farm Women in Decision Making of Dairy Farm Activities in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

N. Leela Krishna¹, A. Anitha² and M. Muralidhar³

1. Asstt. Prof. (Contractual) (LPM), CoVSc., Tirupati, 2. Asso. Prof. (LPM), NTR CoVSc., Gannavaram
3. Asstt. Prof.(AG&B), CoVSc., Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra.Pradesh, India

Corresponding author e-mail : dranithaalapati@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

An investigation was conducted to study the involvement of farm women in decision making of different dairy farm activities in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 225 farm women were selected based on their land holding capacity. The study revealed that majority of the women in the study area took part in decision making on most of the dairy farm activities such as choosing the breed of the animal (68%), taking loans (79.11), purchase/sale of animals (81.33), insurance of animals (77.77%), culling of animals (69.33%), construction of sheds (70.22%), farm expansion (72%), feeding of animals (77.33%), breeding practices (66.22%), health care of animals (87.55%), management of new born calves (88%), pregnant (87.11%) and sick (86.22%) animals, utility of dung (59.11%), adoption of scientific management practices (55.55%) and sale of milk (73.33%), whereas majority (69.33%) of the women in study area were taking self decision regarding preparation of milk products. The study showed that among the landless, small and medium farmer categories the participation in decision making regarding choosing the breed of animal (74.66%), purchase or sale of animals (86.66%), insurance of animals (86.65%), culling of uneconomic animals (81.33%), construction of sheds (82.66%), farm expansion (76%), purchase of roughages and feeding of animals (86.66%), breeding practices (81.33%), utility of dung (69.33%) and adoption of scientific management practices (62.66%) was more in landless women compared to small and medium farmer categories.

Key words : *Women; Dairy; Decision-making; Management practices; Milk disposal.*

In the current context and its potential, the contribution of women to national growth is of greater significance. Indian women's involvement in national development at all levels is undisputable, although the degree of participation varies from time to time and region to region. A nation stability and development depend on its women's status and development, as they not only make up almost half of the population, but also have a positive effect on the growth of the remaining half of the population. Women play significant and crucial

role in agricultural development and allied fields like dairy farming, vermi compost production, etc. (Kathiriya *et al.* 2013). Dairy in India and employment through augmenting productivity of milch animals plays a crucial role in the rural economy that has the highest potential of generating income (Mishra *et al.* 2017). The empowerment of women is the process of cultivating the willingness of a woman to be self-reliant and to develop her sense of inner strength. Dairying in India is a sector dominated by women. There is little

question that, in addition to their daily household duties, women have often engaged in milk and animal husbandry tasks. Women spend more time in dairy production operations than men (*Jadav et al, (2014)*). They always remaining as invisible workers. Hence there is a need to document their contribution to dairy farming. The present study was conducted to study the involvement of women in decision making of dairy farm activities.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is conducted in the rural areas of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. Krishna district has five animal husbandry divisions namely Machilipatnam, Nuzvid, Gudlavalleru, Nandigama and Kankipadu. Three mandals were selected randomly from each animal husbandry division and 5 villages from each mandal were selected randomly. Three women were selected randomly from each village based on their land holding capacity (landless-0 acres, small farmer-up to 5 acres, medium farmer - 5-10 acres) resulting in a total of 225 respondents. The study was conducted during the period from March 2018 to September 2018. The data collected during the period of study were analyzed and tabulated. The data were subjected to frequency, percentage and chi-square test following the statistical methods according to *Snedecor and Cochran (1994)* as implemented in SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) statistical package version 21. The information obtained was analyzed and interpreted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Involvement of women in decision making in economic aspects of dairy farm : It was observed from Table 1A that overall majority (68%) women dairy farmers were participating in decision making regarding the choosing breed of animal. Similar trend was observed in all the three categories of women. *Patel et al. (2017)* reported that 75.50 per cent of farm women took participation in decision about choosing breed of milch animals, whereas *Chauhan (2012)* reported 40 per cent women were taking joint decision regarding selection of animal breed. The result of the present study was similar to the findings of *Naz et al. (2017)* who observed only 9 per cent of the women dairy farmers taken self decision regarding choosing of the breed.

It was observed that overall majority (79.11%) of farm women were participating in decision making regarding taking loans. Similar trend was observed in all the three categories of women. Whereas *Patel et al. (2017)* reported that only 29.5 per cent of the farm women have participated in decision about taking loans for purchase of milch animals. Only few women (5.33 %) were taking self decision regarding taking loans in the study area. Similarly, *Hagone and Basunathe (2015)* and *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported that women were less dominated in decision making regarding taking loans and advances.

It was observed that majority (81.33%) of women were participating in decision making regarding purchase / sale of animals. Similar results were observed in all the three categories of women. Similarly, *Chauhan (2012)* reported that 65 per cent of women participated in decision making regarding sale and purchase of animals in Navasari district of Gujarat. Whereas *Sharma et al. (2013)* and *Ahuja et al. (2016)* reported that 59.3 and 81.67 per cent women involved in decision making. Only few women (5.33%) were taking self-decision in the study area and similar result observed by *Naz et al. (2017)* but *Mulugeta and Amsalu (2014)* reported 27.8 per cent of women were taking self-decision regarding sale / purchase of livestock in Yilamana district of Amhara region.

It was observed that majority (77.77%) of women dairy farmers were participating in decision making regarding taking insurance of animals. Landless and small land holding women were more involved compared to medium land holding women. Only few women framers (5.33 %) were taking self-decision regarding taking insurance of animals in the study area, whereas *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported only 25 per cent women were taking decision on insurance of animals in Erode district of Tamilnadu. It was observed that majority (81.33%) of the women dairy farmers are participating in decision making regarding culling of uneconomic animals under landless category, 76 per cent and 16.88 per cent under small and medium farmer categories, respectively. Overall, majority (69.33%) were participating in decision making regarding culling of uneconomic animals.

It was observed that overall majority (70.22%) were participating in decision making regarding

Table 1. Involvement of dairy farm women in decision making in the economic aspects of dairy farming

Category		Landless (N=75)		Small (N=75)		Medium (N=75)		Overall (N=225)		χ^2 value
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
<i>A. Involvement in economic aspects of dairy farming</i>										
Choosing breed of animal for dairying	Self decision	5	6.66	6	8.00	0	0	12	5.33	100.89**
	Participation in decision	56	74.66	53	70.66	45	60.00	153	68	
	No involvement in decision	14	18.66	16	21.33	30	40.00	60	26.66	
Taking loans	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	147.68**
	Participation in decision	63	84.00	63	84.00	55	73.33	178	79.11	
	No involvement in decision	7	9.33	5	6.66	23	30.66	35	15.55	
Purchase / sale of animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	159.83**
	Participation in decision	65	86.66	60	80.00	58	77.33	183	81.33	
	No involvement in decision	5	6.66	8	10.66	17	22.66	30	13.33	
Insurance of animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	140.86**
	Participation in decision	65	86.65	61	81.33	48	64.00	175	77.77	
	No involvement in decision	5	6.66	6	8.00	27	36.00	38	16.88	
Culling of uneconomic animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	105.35**
	Participation in decision	61	81.33	57	76	38	16.88	156	69.33	
	No involvement in decision	9	12.00	11	14.66	37	49.33	57	25.33	
Construction of sheds	Self decision	3	4.00	5	6.66	0	0	8	3.55	114.46**
	Participation in decision	62	82.66	54	72.00	42	56.00	158	70.22	
	No involvement in decision	10	13.33	16	21.33	33	44.00	59	26.22	
Farm expansion	Self decision	3	4.00	5	6.66	0	0	8	3.55	120.76**
	Participation in decision	57	76.00	56	74.66	49	65.33	162	72.00	
	No involvement in decision	15	20.00	14	18.66	26	34.66	55	24.44	
<i>B. Involvement in different activities of dairy farming</i>										
Purchase of roughages feeding	Self decision	3	4	7	9.33	0	0	10	4.44	140.67**
	Participation in decision	65	86.66	61	81.33	49	65.33	174	77.33	
	No involvement in decision	7	9.33	7	9.33	26	34.66	41	18.22	
Breeding practices in animals	Self decision	3	4	7	9.33	0	0	10	4.44	98.7**
	Participation in decision	61	81.33	50	66.66	38	50.66	149	66.22	
	No involvement in decision	11	14.66	18	24	37	49.33	66	29.33	
Health care of animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	199.38**
	Participation in decision	68	90.66	68	90.66	61	81.33	197	87.55	
	No involvement in decision	2	2.66	0	0	14	18.66	16	7.11	
Management of new born calves	Self decision	5	6.66	5	6.66	0	0	10	4.44	202.94**
	Participation in decision	68	90.66	70	93.33	60	80	198	88	
	No involvement in decision	2	2.66	0	0	15	20	17	7.55	
Management of pregnant animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	196.27**
	Participation in decision	68	90.66	68	90.66	60	80	196	87.11	
	No involvement in decision	2	2.66	0	0	15	20	17	7.55	
Management of sick animals	Self decision	5	6.66	7	9.33	0	0	12	5.33	190.19**
	Participation in decision	67	89.33	68	90.66	59	78.66	194	86.22	
	No involvement in decision	3	4	0	0	16	21.33	19	8.44	
Utility of dung	Self decision	3	4	7	9.33	0	0	10	4.44	82.6**
	Participation in decision	52	69.33	45	60	36	48	133	59.11	
	No involvement in decision	20	26.66	23	30.66	39	52	82	36.44	
Adoption of scientific management practices	Self decision	5	6.66	5	6.66	0	0	10	4.44	77.51**
	Participation in decision	47	62.66	46	61.33	32	42.66	125	55.55	
	No involvement in decision	23	30.66	24	32	43	57.33	90	40	
<i>C. Involvement in disposal of milk</i>										
Sale of milk	Self-decision	17	22.66	12	16	3	4	32	14.22	110.09**
	Participation in decision	55	73.33	59	78.66	51	68	165	73.33	
	No involvement in decision	3	4.00	4	5.33	21	28	28	12.44	
Preparation of milk products	Self-decision	52	69.33	53	70.66	51	68	156	69.33	108.6**
	Participation in decision	19	25.33	16	21.33	18	24	43	23.55	
	No involvement in decision	4	5.33	6	8	6	8	16	7.11	

** Significant at ($P \leq 0.01$)

construction of shed. Similar trend was observed by *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* where 76.66 per cent farmers were involved in decision making regarding construction of shed, whereas *Arshad et al. (2010)* and *Manthekar and Nigade (2018)* reported that participation in decision making was low regarding construction of dairy animal sheds. It was observed that overall majority (72%) were participating in decision making regarding farm expansion. Only few women (3.55 %) were taking self decision regarding farm expansion in the study area, whereas *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported higher value of 36.66 per cent. The probable reason might be that Indian society is a male dominant society where women are not fully independent to take decision.

Involvement of women dairy farmers in decision making regarding care and management of animals : It was observed from Table 1B that overall majority (77.33%) farm women were participating in decision making regarding purchase of roughages and feeding of animals. Participation was more in landless and small farm women categories than in medium farm women. *Bhanotra et al. (2015)* and *Toppo et al. (2004)* observed similar results of the present study regarding feeding of the dairy animals. *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported that rural women had less domination in decision making activities regarding purchase of concentrate feed which is in tune with the present study.

It was observed that overall majority (66.22%) women farmers were participating in decision making regarding breeding practices in animals. Participation was more in landless (81.33%) and small land holding (66.66%) farm women categories than in medium land holding (50.66%) farm women. It was observed that overall majority (87.55%) were participating in decision making regarding health care of animals.

It was observed that overall majority (88%) were participating in decision making regarding management of newborn calves. Very few women (4.44%) were taking self decision regarding management of new born calves in the study area, whereas *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* and *Toppo et al. (2004)* reported higher value of 56.66 and 51.67 per cent. It was observed that overall 87.11 per cent and 86.22 per cent of women were participating in decision making regarding management of pregnant animals and sick animals, respectively and similar to the findings of

Bhanotra et al. (2015). Very few women (5.33%) were taking self decision regarding management of pregnant and sick animals in the study area, whereas *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported higher value of 56.66 per cent.

It was observed that very few women (4.44%) were taking self decision regarding utility of dung. Whereas, *Roy and Kadian (2015)* and *Singh and Srivastava (2016)* reported decision making for utilization of dung was dominantly taken by the women. Very few women (4.44%) were taking self decision regarding adoption of scientific management practices, whereas *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* reported higher value of 23.33 per cent.

The study revealed that majority of women had participation in decision making regarding economic aspects and care and management of animals but very few could take self decision.

Involvement of farm women in decision making regarding disposal of milk : From the Table 1C, it was observed that overall majority (73.33%) of farm women were participating in decision making regarding sale of milk and similar result observed by *Rathod et al. (2011)* and *Naz et al. (2017)*. Similar trend was observed in all the three categories of women dairy farmers. Whereas *Chauhan et al. (2006)* and *Mulugeta and Amsalu (2014)* reported that 52.50 and 47.8 per cent women, respectively were taking self decision in sale of milk.

It was observed that overall majority (69.33%) of farm women were taking self decision regarding preparation of milk products like curd, butter, ghee and khoa and similar result was observed by *Manthekar and Nigade (2018)*. Being homemaker and housewife, the farm women have to look into and cater to the nutritional requirements, needs and tastes of the family members. This might be the probable reason for taking self decision regarding preparation of milk products. Similarly, *Kavithaa and Rajkumar (2016)* also reported that women dominated in decision making in processing of milk (55%).

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted that majority (P<0.01) of women had participation in decision making regarding economic aspects and care of animals but very few could take self decision. The participation in decision making was more in landless women compared to small

and medium farmer categories regarding insurance of animals, culling, construction of sheds, purchase of roughages and feeding of animals, breeding practices, utility of dung and adoption of scientific management practices. Majority ($p < 0.01$) of women were taking self

decision regarding preparation of milk products.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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