

## Socio economic profile of women dairy farmers in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh

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### ABSTRACT

An investigation was conducted to study the socio-economic profile of 225 dairy farm women Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. The study revealed that majority of the women belonged to middle age group (68%), other caste (54.22%) and had primary education (36.44%). Most of them were married (95.11%), belonged to nuclear families (73.33%) and had small family size (67.11%). Agricultural farming and dairying was the major occupation (52.88%) of women in the study area. Most of the women had medium level of experience in dairying (46.66%). Only 8% of women dairy farmers had exposure to training related to dairying, 73.77% of them are members in DWCR/SHG and only 19.55% are members in cooperative societies. Majority of women dairy farmers were occasionally in contact with veterinarian (45.77%), para veterinarian (38.66%), friends and relatives (71.55%). Women under the medium farmer category were more exposed to television (50.66%), news paper (17.33%) and farm magazine (14.66%) compared to landless and small farmer category. Small farm women (587.00±81.70) obtained more income (rupees/day) through dairying followed by medium (516.34±54.35) and landless (385.66±32.39) farm women.

**Key words:** Socio economic profile, dairy farming women, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh

Rural Women form the most important productive work force in the economy of majority of the developing nations including India. In India, about 88 percent of rural women engage in agriculture and allied activities. Despite the fact women in India do most of the work in animal husbandry yet their contribution has largely been ignored and inadequately acknowledged. The present study was conducted to investigate the socio – economic profile of women dairy farmers in Krishna district where women are actively involved in dairy farm activities.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh state has five animal husbandry divisions namely Machilipatnam,

Nuzvid, Gudlavalleru, Nandigama and Kankipadu. Three mandals were selected from each animal husbandry division and 5 villages from each mandal were selected randomly. Three women dairy farmers 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 women were interviewed by pretested schedule and required information was collected regarding their socio- economic profile. The data collected during the period of study were scrutinized and tabulated. The information obtained was analyzed according to<sup>13</sup> and interpreted.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data regarding the socio economic profile of dairy farming women in the study area is shown in Table 1. The result showed that more number (68%) of the women dairy farmers belonged to middle age group (30-50years) followed by old (18.66%) and young age (12.44%). This might

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be because middle age is considered to be an actively working age of farm women and have the responsibility of maintaining their families through the income generated from dairying activities. The results were similar to the previous findings<sup>10, 14, 3, 6</sup>. It is observed that more number of dairy farm women belonged to other caste (54.22%) followed by backward caste (30.22%) and scheduled caste (15.55%). It indicates that dairy women belonging to different caste categories in district were actively involved in dairying as a source of income and employment for their livelihood. The results were in contrast with previous findings<sup>8, 9</sup>. It was observed that majority of dairy farm women had primary education (36.44%) followed by illiterate (28%), secondary education (27.11%), higher secondary education (6.22%) and college education (2.22%) in the study area. This might be attributed to the availability of education only up to secondary level in most of the villages. Later on they might be inhibited by the local traditions for going outside the village for college education. The results were similar to previous findings<sup>3,9</sup>. Whereas the results were in contrast with the previous findings<sup>7,12,14</sup>. The study revealed that majority of dairy farm women were married (95.11%) followed by widow (4.88%). The results were in accordance with previous findings<sup>1,10,5,6</sup>. The study revealed that more number

(73.33%) of the women dairy farmers belonged to nuclear family whereas 26.66% belonged to joint family. The study revealed that majority of dairy farm women were from small families (67.11%) and 32.88% were from big families. The results were in accordance with previous findings<sup>15, 7, 3</sup>. The results of the revealed that more number (52.88%) of women dairy farmers had agricultural farming and dairying as their occupation. This may be because the women farmers considered dairying as most compatible subsidiary occupation to agriculture farming. The result coincides with the previous findings<sup>15</sup>. From the study it can be observed that majority of dairy farm women had medium level (7-15years) of experience in dairying (46.66%) followed by high level of experience (44.88%) and low level of experience (8.88%). This might be because majority of the women respondents were middle aged having medium level of experience. The results were in agreement with the previous findings<sup>4, 3</sup>. The study revealed that only 8% of women dairy farmers attended the dairy related training programmes in the study area. It can be observed from the study that majority of women had no participation in gram panchayat (97.77%) and cooperative society (80.44%) whereas 73.77% were members in DWCRA/SHG. The results were in agreement with previous findings<sup>11</sup>.

**Table 1. Socio-Economic profile of women dairy farmers**

S. No.	Category	Landless (N=75) %	Small (N=75) %	Medium (N=75)%	Overall (N=75)%
<b>Age</b>					
1.	Young age (30 years)	17.33	8.00	12.00	12.44
2.	Middle age(30-50 yeras)	61.33	69.33	76.00	68.88
3.	Old age (50 years)	21.34	22.66	12.00	18.66
<b>Social status</b>					
1.	OC (other caste)	33.33	53.33	76.00	54.22
2.	BC (backward caste)	37.33	38.66	14.66	30.22
3.	SC (schedule caste)	29.33	8.00	9.33	15.55
<b>Educational status</b>					
1.	Illiterate	44.00	22.66	18.66	28.00
2.	Primary education (up to 6 <sup>th</sup> class)	36.00	50.66	22.66	36.44
3.	Secondary education (6-10 <sup>th</sup> standard)	16.00	25.33	38.66	27.11
4.	Higher secondary education	1.33	0	17.33	6.22
5.	College education	2.66	1.33	4.00	2.22

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<b>Marital status</b>						
1.	Married		94.66	92.66	98.66	95.11
2.	Unmarried		0	0	0	0
3.	Widow		5.33	8.00	1.33	4.88
4.	Divorcee		0	0	0	0
<b>Family type</b>						
1.	Joint family		10.66	33.33	36	26.66
2.	Nuclear family		89.33	65.33	64	73.33
<b>Family size</b>						
1.	Small family (4member)		78.66	61.33	61.33	67.11
2.	Big family (> 4members)		21.33	38.66	38.66	32.88
<b>Occupation</b>						
1.	Labour work+ dairying		100	0	0	33.33
2.	Ag. Farming+ dairying+ labour work		0	28.00	5.33	11.11
3.	Ag. farming+ dairying		0	68.00	90.66	52.88
4.	Ag. Farming+ dairying+ business		0	4.00	4.00	2.66
5.	Ag. Farming+ dairying+ other livestock rearing		0	0	0	0
<b>Experience in dairy farming</b>						
1.	Up to 7 years		8.00	26.66	16.00	8.88
2.	7-15 years		54.66	45.33	38.66	46.22
3.	Above 15 years		37.33	52.00	45.33	44.88
<b>Exposure to training programmes</b>						
1.	Training programmes attended	Yes	9.33	9.33	5.33	8.00
		No	90.66	90.66	94.66	92.00
<b>Social participation</b>						
1.	Gram panchayat	Member	2.66	2.66	1.33	2.22
		No participation	97.33	97.33	98.66	97.77
2.	DWCRA /SHG	Member	90.66	68.00	62.66	73.77
		No participation	9.33	32.00	37.33	26.22
3.	Co-operative society	Member	20.00	21.33	17.33	19.55
		No participation	80.00	78.66	82.66	80.44
<b>Extension contact</b>						
1.	Veterinary doctor	Frequently	32.00	32.00	24.00	29.33
		Occasionally	57.33	54.66	25.33	45.77
		Never	10.66	13.33	50.66	24.88
2.	Para veterinarian	Frequently	60.00	60.00	34.66	51.55
		Occasionally	33.33	34.66	48.00	38.66
		Never	6.66	5.33	17.33	9.77
3.	Cooperative society secretary	Frequently	24.00	29.33	21.33	24.88
		Occasionally	9.33	20.00	21.33	21.33
		Never	53.33	50.66	57.33	53.77
4.	Friends	Frequently	25.33	26.66	20.00	24.00
		Occasionally	73.33	68.00	72.00	71.55
		Never	1.33	4.00	8.00	4.44

5. Relatives	Frequently	20.00	17.33	17.33	18.22
	Occasionally	73.33	70.66	70.66	71.55
	Never	6.66	12.00	12.00	10.22
<b>Exposure to mass media</b>					
1. Radio	Frequently	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Occasionally	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Never	100.00	100.00	100.00	100
2. Television	Frequently	6.66	6.66	6.66	6.66
	Occasionally	20.00	25.33	44.00	29.77
	Never	73.33	68.00	49.33	63.55
3. News paper	Frequently	5.33	5.33	9.33	6.66
	Occasionally	6.66	2.66	8.00	5.77
	Never	88.00	92.00	82.66	87.55
4. Farm magazine	Frequently	5.33	6.66	5.33	5.77
	Occasionally	5.33	1.33	9.33	5.33
	Never	89.33	92.00	85.33	88.88

The study revealed that more number of the women dairy farmers were occasionally in contact with veterinarian (45.77%), para veterinarian (38.66%), friends (71.55%) and relatives (71.55%) whereas they had no contact with cooperative society secretary (53.77%). This might be due to less opportunity to women for associating in extension activities. The findings were similar to the previous findings <sup>11</sup>. It can be observed that more number of the women dairy farmers were occasionally exposed to television (29.77%), news paper (5.77%) and farm magazine (5.33%). It indicates that most of the milk producers considered television as a source of entertainment. Hence, they may be educated to view television to get information about dairying from some T.V channels telecasting agriculture and animal husbandry programmes. The results are coinciding with the previous findings <sup>2</sup>.

The study revealed that small farmers obtained high income (620.03±83.88 Rs/day) through dairying, followed by medium (588.75±82.68 Rs/day) farmers and landless (409.15±37.82 Rs/day) in the study area. This might be because small farmers maintained more number of dairy animals, thus attained more income.

### CONCLUSION

The study suggested that frequent contact with veterinarian and para veterinarian and exposure to training can create awareness regarding scientific management practices to be followed. The women

need to be educated to improve their social participation and exposure to mass media to get information about dairying and animal husbandry programmes. They need to be encouraged to participate in extension programmes and also extension agencies should organize activities like demonstration, discussion, meeting and study tour for the farm women to answer their problems in dairy occupation.

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