

INCOME GENERATION AMONG WOMEN THROUGH DAIRY CO-OPERATIVES AND CONSTRAINTS THEREOF

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ABSTRACT

Present study was undertaken with the objective to estimate the income generation through dairy cooperative and find out the constraints faced by the members. The study was conducted on a sample of randomly selected 100 members of women dairy cooperative societies of Udaipur district (Rajasthan). Results reveal that income of the respondents increased after becoming members of the women dairy cooperative societies. Shortage of water for green fodder production, non-availability of artificial insemination facilities in and around the village, high cost of veterinary medicines, too costly/exotic/cross-bred animals. In order to have smooth functioning of WDCSs, the impediments needs to be removed.

INTRODUCTION

The rural women besides being active participant in home and farm activities, have been traditionally and predominantly engaged in animal husbandry and dairy activities. Women are found to be actively involved in the upkeep and domestication of cattle. They are the backbone of agri-livestock production system in Rajasthan. In fact dairy and rural women complement each other but their contribution goes generally unrecorded.

It is therefore being realized, increasingly, that the process of dairy development would be incomplete and lopsided unless women are fully involved in it. Modernization of dairy industry would be possible only by involving women in the process of dairy development. To involve women in dairy development programmes, RCDF launched the "Rajasthan Women Dairy Project" in the state in 1991-92 as a part of "Support to Training and Employment Programme" for women (STEP) scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development. Under the "Rajasthan Women Dairy Project" district milk unions were entrusted the responsibility of organizing women dairy co-operative societies at village level in their respective districts. Women dairy co-operative societies were therefore organized by the union officials in their respective districts.

"Udaipur Dugdh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Limited" (Udaipur district milk producers co-operative union) was amongst one of the milk union which implemented the "Rajasthan Women Dairy Project" in Udaipur district in April 1994. It has organised 233 dairy co-operative out of which there are 24 women dairy co-operative societies (WDCS). The WDCSs were organized with the prime objective of providing the women milk producers with an institution of their own, giving them an opportunity of earning income as well as decision making. The present study was planned with the following specific objectives

- To estimate the income generation through dairy co-operative among the members of women dairy co-operatives.
- To find out the constraints being faced by the members of dairy co-operatives.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. The Udaipur Dugdh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Limited (Udaipur district milk union) implemented the "Rajasthan Women Dairy Project" in the district and organised 24 women dairy cooperative societies in different villages. In order to get a representative sample, Udaipur district was divided into 5 zones (North, East, West, South and Central) and from each zone one dairy co-operative

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society was selected randomly for the present investigation.

The sample consisted of randomly selected 100 members i.e. 20 members from each WDCS. Personal interview technique was followed to collect the data from the respondents. Appropriate statistical tests were used to arrive at conclusion which included frequency, percentage, mean per cent score and paired, 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Extent of Income Generated Through Women Dairy Co-Operative Societies

Dairy provides vast opportunities for gainful employment and income to weaker sections of the society. Income is regarded as an important indicator to see the impact of women dairy project. Therefore an attempt has been made in this section to estimate the income generation through dairy co-operative societies.

Monthly income from sale of milk was used as an indicator for estimating the income generation through WDCSs. Monthly income refers to the gross income earned by a family from sale of milk in one month. "Before" and "After" approach has been adopted in estimating the income generated through WDCSs i.e. monthly income from sale of milk before obtaining co-operative membership and monthly income from sale of milk after obtaining membership of dairy co-operative society.

Table 1. Percentage distribution of respondents on the basis of their monthly income from sale of milk (n=100)

S. No.	Monthly Income (per household) Rs.	Before becoming member of society	After becoming member of society
1.	Up to 500	14.00	4.00
2.	501-800	18.00	10.00
3.	801-1100	24.00	14.00
4.	1101-1400	38.00	22.00
5.	1401-1700	6.00	40.00
6.	1701-2000	—	10.00
	Average income in Rs.	993	1301
't' value 6.691**			

Data in Table 1 clearly depicts that income of

member households has increased with respect to the two time periods. The income of member household (before becoming a member) indicates that a majority of respondents (38%) had monthly income ranging from Rs. 1101 to 1400. The present status of member households reveals that only 22 per cent respondents have the annual income in the range of Rs. 1101 to 1400, whereas majority i.e. 40 per cent respondents now have monthly income in the range of Rs. 1401-1700 from sale of milk. Also there is an increase in income level of members after obtaining co-operative membership.

Table further shows that 10 per cent of the respondents had monthly income ranging from Rs. 1701-2000 whereas before obtaining co-operative membership none of the respondent had monthly income in the range of 1701-2000.

To know the significance of income generated, paired 't' test was applied. It was found to be statistically highly significant. Further analysis of data shows that average income from dairy before becoming member of society was Rs. 993 while after becoming member of society it was increased upto Rs. 1301 and gain in profit was Rs. 308. This difference is highly significant and clearly indicated by the 't' value.

Thus milk co-operatives have not only raised economic status of the rural milk producers but also created a congenial atmosphere for improving the status of weaker section of the rural society, who has adopted dairying for their livelihood though on a small scale. So it can be inferred that the milk co-operatives have played a vital role in rural development not only by providing competitive milk market and thereby raising economic status of milk producers but also by bringing a sense of equality among the rural people and assisting the rural families to take up as well as expand their dairy enterprise for generating additional income for their families.

2. Constraints Faced by Members of Women Dairy Co-operative Societies

The constraints faced by members of the co-operative society hinder the active participation of its members in the affairs of the society and also restricts, optimum utilization of the services/inputs provided by the society, thereby affecting its functioning. An effort was made to identify the

constraints being faced by the members of WDCSs. The constraints in smooth functioning of the scheme were grouped into four broad areas viz., infrastructural, technical, economic and personal and family constraints. An attempt has been made to rank individual constraint on the basis of mean per cent score given by women members.

Infrastructural Constraints

Data in Table 2 indicates that scarcity of water for green fodder production was reported as the most important constraint by the members by assigning rank I as all the respondents faced this constraint to great extent with mean per cent score of 100. Respondents mentioned that because of shortage of water they were unable to produce green fodder round the year and bring more land under fodder cultivation. These two factors restricted them to expand their dairy farming. Lack of visits of

veterinary staff was considered as the next important constraint by the respondents and ranked at II place with mean per cent score of 41. This might be due to more distance of the society from head office of the union and lack of availability of vehicle to the veterinary staff. Irregular supply of cattle feed was ranked III by the respondents with the mean per cent score of 27. This might be due to high cost of concentrate/mineral mixture that had to be purchased.

Lack of timely availability of fodder seed was placed at IV rank with mean per cent score of 24. This was followed by distant location of societies from home assigning V rank with the mean per cent score of 22. Lack of availability of desired variety of fodder seed and irregular visits of officials to society were the two constraints which secure rank VI with mean per cent score of 20 as majority of the

Table 2. Infrastructural constraints faced by members of women dairy cooperative societies

(n=100)			
S. No.	Infrastructural constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Scarcity of water for green fodder production	100	I
2.	Lack of visits of veterinary staff.	41	II
3.	Irregular supply of cattle feed.	27	III
4.	Lack of timely availability of fodder seed.	24	IV
5.	Distant locations of co-operative societies from home.	22	V
6.	Lack of availability of desired variety of fodder seed.	20	VI
7.	Lack of regular visits of officials to society.	20	VI

respondents did not faced this constraint because the secretary was assigned the responsibility to look after the routine activities of the societies.

Technical Constraints

Lack of availability of A.I. (Artificial

Insemination) facilities in/around the village was identified as a major constraint which stood at I rank with mean percent score 72. Poor breed of dairy animals of member household was placed at II rank with mean per cent score of 40. Susceptibility of exotic/crossbred cows to disease was assigned III

Table 3. Technical constraints faced by members of women dairy co-operative societies

(n=100)			
S. No.	Technical constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Non availability of artificial insemination facilities in/around the village.	72	I
2.	Poor breed of dairy animals.	40	II
3.	Susceptibility of exotic/cross-bred cows to disease.	28	III
4.	Incorrect testing of milk fat.	22	IV

rank (MPS-28) by the respondents. The constraint of incorrect testing of milk fat was ranked IV with mean per cent score of 22.

Economic Constraints

Perusal of the economic constraints in Table 4 reveals that high cost of veterinary medicines was

ranked I with mean per cent score of 72. Though exotic/cross-bred animals are good milk yielders and preferred over the non-descript breeds but the price of the improved/exotic/cross-bred animals was considered very high by the respondents by assigning II rank with 64 mean per cent score. However, it was found that the co-operatives had helped a number of households in securing bank loans to purchase dairy animals. The constraints of

high cost of concentrate/mineral mixture was assigned III rank with mean per cent score of 36. Less price of milk offered by society as compared to vendors was placed at rank IV. The realization of the constraint that vendors provide higher price of milk due to the reason that in order to attract the milk producers, the vendors raise their milk price in lean periods which is slightly more as compared to the price offered by the society. Lack of availability

Table 4. Economic constraints faced by members of women dairy co-operative societies

(n=100)			
S. No.	Economic constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	High cost of veterinary medicines	72	I
2.	Too costly improved/exotic/cross-bred animals	64	II
3.	High cost of concentrate/mineral mixture.	36	III
4.	Less price of milk offered by society as compared to vendors.	30	IV
5.	Lack of loan facility to purchase the cattle.	24	V

of loan for purchase the cattle was assigned V rank with mean per cent score of 24.

Personal and Family Constraints

The personal and family constraints faced by the respondents were also investigated as these problems are believed to affect the participation of an individual in the society. Excessive burden of work and responsibility was the main constraint reported by the respondents which was placed at I rank with mean per cent score of 24. Difficulty in taking milk to the society was ranked II by the respondents. The problem of husband taking income away from them was reported to a low extent with mean per cent score of 16 and placing at III rank.

Table 5. Personal and Family Constraints Faced by Members of Women Dairy Co-Operative Societies

(n=100)			
S. No.	Personal & family constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	Excessive burden of work and responsibility.	24	I
2.	Difficulty in taking milk to society.	22	II
3.	Husband takes away the income from dairy.	16	III

Data in Table 6 shows comparison of constraints as perceived by the respondents. It was found that technical constraints were perceived most while infrastructural and personal and family constraints were realized to a limited extent by the members of WDCSSs. Table further show that pooled MPS given to technical constraints were 35 and it was ranked at top. Where as economic constraints were ranked second in the order with 30.13 MPS. Infrastructural constraints were assigned pooled MPS of 14 and ranked at third place. It can be seen from table that personal and family constraints were ranked last i.e. fourth by the members assigning 12.4 MPS.

Table 6. Comparison of constraints as perceived by the respondents

(n=100)			
S. No.	Constraints	Pooled MPS	Rank
1.	Technical constraints	35	I
2.	Economic constraints	30.13	II
3.	Infrastructural constraints	14	III
4.	Personal and family constraints	12.4	IV

CONCLUSION

Above findings lead to the conclusion that some of the constraints like shortage of water for

green fodder production, non-availability of artificial insemination facilities in/around the village, high cost of veterinary medicines, too costly! exotic cross-bred animals were perceived to a great intensity with high MPS (64-100 MPS). While other constraints were realised to a limited extent with very low MPS, which shows that much constraints were not faced by the milk producers. Regarding the constraints which were faced by the respondents with high MPS, correct measures have to be adopted so that the constraints can be completely eliminated. For efficient working of dairy co-operative society, there should be proper and timely supply of inputs and other facilities required by the members of the society.

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