

## INVOLVEMENT OF FARM WOMEN IN DAIRY COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

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### ABSTRACT

Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation had implemented the Rajasthan Women Dairy Project in the year 1991-92. The idea behind the project was to provide women milk producers as an institution of their own which gives them opportunities of decision making as well as increase in earnings. In this study researchers focused on involvement of the members in the activities being taken up by the Women Dairy Cooperative Societies (WDCs). The study employed random sampling technique. The sample included 120 members of WDCs and 120 non-members of WDCs, constituting a total of 240 respondents in two Panchayat Samities of Bhilwara district, Rajasthan. The information was collected through personal interview technique. The results showed that members had significant involvement in all the four activities (improved dairy production technology, health & sanitation, employment and literacy). Participation of non-members was recorded in motivation and self participation aspects in awareness generation and information dissemination and health & sanitation activities but the involvement of members was more as compared to non-members. Non- members did not involve themselves in organization aspect at all.

### INTRODUCTION

Women are involved at various levels in almost all animal husbandry operations right from collecting fodder for animals to marketing of dairy products. Taking animals for grazing, preparing balanced ration, preparation of home-made concentrate mixture, feeding the cattle, management of livestock, taking care of young calves, sick and pregnant animals, preparing livestock products, storage and marketing of dairy products and making cow dung cakes are mostly carried out by rural women (Rupasi *et. al.* 1998).

Rural women have varying degree of participation in decision making of various activities (Devey *et. al.* 1982) Their participations in decision making is high in the area of how much fodder concentrate to be fed (79%), number of times the animals are to be milked (80%) and time of milking (80%). While, farm women are not much involved in decision-making process with regards to breeding activities and health care activities of dairy animals (Jamal & Arya 2004). More than 90% of the decisions the participation of women is only of supportive nature (Bala & Moorty 1993). Women are playing

an important role in agricultural activities but their participation in decision making is very poor. Most of the women are not having any knowledge about developmental programmes related to agriculture (Anup Katock 2003).

Women Dairy Project (WDP) launched in 1986 as a part of the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) of the department of Human Resource Development (HRD), Government of India had made way in imparting a pragmatic orientation to the idea that women control production and income from dairying. The basic objective of the project is to increase self reliance and autonomy of women for enhancing their productivity and enabling them to take up income generation activities. The WDP was implemented with the help of link agencies viz, ICDS, DWCAR, IRDP, Adult Education Department, State Health Department etc. in the form of integrated socio-economic empowerment of the rural community.

In this study, efforts have been made to know the extent of involvement of respondents in organizing activities related to socio-economic development and dairy.

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### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Asind and Shahpura Panchyat Samaties, Bhilwara District Milk Union of Rajasthan. Both the Panchyat Samaties were selected purposely because maximum women dairy cooperatives were in these two Panchyat Samaties. 24 (12 Asind + 12 Shahpura) WDCS were selected from the selected Panchyat Samaties randomly.

From each of the selected WDCS five members and five non-members were randomly selected. Thus constituting a total sample size of 240 (120 members + 120 non-members) respondents. The data were collected through personal interview with the help of pre-tested structured schedule. The data collected were classified, tabulated and inferences were drawn after subjecting the data to appropriate statistical analysis.

The involvement of the respondents was recorded in terms of following aspects:

- Involvement in motivating women to participate in activities.
- Involvement in organizing activities.
- Self-participations in activities.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Involvement of member and non member in motivating rural women to participate in different activities organized by WDCS.**

Perusal of data presented in table-1 reveals that calculated value of “Z” is greater than tabulated value in all the four activities. It means, there exists a significance of difference between the members and non-members with regards to involvement in motivating rural women in different activities of dairy.

Further the maximum involvement of members was recorded in motivating women to participate in awareness generation activity with mean scores 6.45 followed by health & sanitation and literacy activities.

**Table 1: Involvement of member and non member in motivating rural women to participate in different activities of WDCS. (n=240)**

S. no.	Activity	Member mean score	Non-member mean score	‘Z’ value
1	Awareness generation and information dissemination	6.45	0.23	40.95**
2	Health and sanitation a. Familyb. Animals	4.3 1.46	55.35 13.51*	2.17 *23.45**
3	Employment	5.85	0	29.27**
4	Literacy	4.4	0.31	26.74**

\*\* Significant as 1 per cent level of significance.

**Table 2: Involvement of members and non-members in organizing WDCS activities. (n=240)**

S. no.	Activity	Member mean score	Non-member mean score	‘Z’ value
1	Awareness generation and information dissemination	2.14	0.00	15.21**
2	Health and sanitation a. Familyb. Animals	0.95 1.00	1.98 6.41**	0.10 14.00**
3	Employment	1.03	0.008	1.58**
4	Literacy	1.94	0.00	16.16**

\*\* Significant as 1 per cent level of significance.

### Involvement of members and non members in organizing WDCs activities.

A perusal of data presented in table-2 indicates that WDCS members had significant involvement in organizing all the four activities as compared to non-members. As the data show, that non-members have not taken any interest in organizing the activities.

Data further show that among all the four activities maximum involvement of members was recorded in awareness generation and information dissemination activity with mean score 2.14 and least involvement was recorded in employment activities with mean score 1.03. Equal participation of members in the activities related to health and sanitation and literacy for the member respondents.

As apparent from table 2 in case of members and non-members, the 'Z' calculated was a significant which indicated significant difference between

the members and non members with regards to involvement in organizing different activities.

### Involvement of members and non member as beneficiaries in WDCS activities.

People's participation has been recognized as a key factor for the success of any programme. A number of community development programmes have been launched in the past in India but many of them could not achieve their target and objective only due to lack of participation of the beneficiaries. People's participation needs to be assured at each stage of the programme i.e. from planning stage to share of benefits among the participating women. Data present in table-3 indicates the participation of both types of respondents in all four activities organized by WDCS, but the involvement of members was more as compared to the involvement of non-members.

**Table 3: Involvement of members and non-members as beneficiaries in WDCS activities. (n=240)**

S. no.	Activity	Member mean score	Non-member mean score	'Z' value
1	Awareness generation and information dissemination	7.54	2.41	31.51**
2	Health and sanitation a. Familyb. Animals	5.27 2.16	5.63 19.19*	2.59 *22.28**
3	Employment	2.38	0.03	19.07**
4	Literacy	5.68	0.70	30.85**

\*\*Significant at 1 percent level of significance.

Further, the dataed show that maximum involvement of members was recorded in awareness generation and information dissemination activities of WDCS, with the mean score 7.54, whereas non-members having only 2.41 mean score, followed by health and sanitation activities.

Data presented in table3 reveals that calculated 'Z' value is greater than tabulated value in all four activities; it indicates that there exist a significant difference in the Involvement of members and non-members as beneficiaries in different WDCS activities.

Thus, it is concluded that involvement of members in all three stage organizing, motivating women

and involvement as beneficiaries was recorded maximum as compared to the involvement of non-members.

### CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that members have significant involvement in all the four activities of WDCS as compared to non-members. Participation of non-members was also found in all four activities in motivation and self participation aspects but the involvement of members was more as compared to non-members. Almost nil involvement of non-members was found in all activities in organizational aspects which seen to be quite natural as they are not having the membership of WDCS.

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