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The Role of Women in Global Development

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Mr. Arun B. Godam

Guest Editor
Principal, Dr. Aqueela Syed Gous

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Economic Empowerment Of Ruralwomen Through Dairy Farming: A Case Study Of Ambajogai Taluka

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Abstract

Women play an important role in the economic and social development of societies, but they are often denied equal opportunities because of socially embedded gender inequalities. Empowerment of women is a new ideology for carrying democratic values into the family and society. Empowerment of women means equal status to women. Women and children, equal ownership of productive resources, increase participation in economic and commercial sections, awareness of their rights and responsibilities. Dairy development is considered as a potential scheme for rural poverty elevation in India. The focus of women dairy development projects are socio economic development of the poor rural women. The Women in dairy farming in Maharashtra are becoming the driving force behind the economic empowerment of rural women in Maharashtra. The present study was conducted among the selected women dairy farmers of Ambajogai Taluka to study the changes of their economic condition and problem faced by the women in dairy farming

Keywords: *Economic Development, Dairy, Dairy Farming, Empowerment, Rural, Poverty*

Introduction

Majority of population in India lives in villages where agriculture is the main economic activity. Besides crop farming, the domestication of animals has been an integral part of the farming system from time immemorial. It is centuries old tradition for millions of Indian rural households. The development of dairy farming in India has been acknowledged in the world, as one of the most successful developed dairy activities. Domestication of cattle is practiced since primitive times till today, everywhere in the world. In fact the cow was so important to the early people of central Asia that wealth was measured in terms of number of cattle. Later, the cow was treated as a sacred animal and is still so considered by a major part of the Hindu population of India.

India is a country of rural people and villages; therefore, the focus of planning should have been on development of this large rural component. India holds a leading position in her cattle population. It is nearly one fifth of the total cattle population of the world. The cattle play a very important role in development of rural economy; the economic importance of cattle in India is based on the production of milk and other milk products. However, the role of cattle and dairy farming in an economy is assessed on the basis of contribution of cattle production to total agricultural production. Apart from milk, cow dung and urine of cow are good sources of medicines and organic manure, useful for making soil fertile. Generally, cows and buffaloes live on plants and vegetable feeds which man cannot eat or digest. They convert their rough feeds to products useful to man like milk and meat.

Dairy farming

Dairy farming is considered as one of the oldest economic activities. In ancient time man, tamed sheep and goats because of limited demand for dairy products. With growth in population, however cows became the major instrument for the supply of these products. In Asia dairying emerged coincident with early civilizations of the Indo-Gangetic plains and the Tigris-Euphrates valleys as evidenced by fossil remains and, recorded history. However, for a long time it remained as an activity subsidiary to crop cultivation (Azam A.M.1981). This is the most common form of dairying practiced in the western countries where milk animals are bred with

a view to breeding cattle for better strain and most of the fodder is grown on the dairy land. This type of dairying is mainly found in rural areas of our country where most of feed and fodder is grown on the other farm.

Dairying should be one of the most important and profitable agricultural enterprise in India as the demand for quality milk products is increasing. More than half of the India's population is vegetarian, most of which uses milk. After independence, this type of dairy farming has been well developed in India.

Objectives & Methodology

Present study is aim to know the role of dairy farming in the women empowerment along with the find out the answer is that dairy farming can help in Upliftment of Socio-economic condition of the rural women and also to find out the problems faced by the women in dairy farming.

Study is based on primary data collected through the structured questionnaire specially prepared for the research having question related to the dairy farming and its role in economic betterment of the rural women and problem faced by them. 50 women dairy farmers are selected for the study by random sampling method and percentage tools were used to analyze the data. Secondary data collected through the internet and related published material.

Data Analysis

Table No.1: Distribution of the respondent by their age

SN	Age Group	Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 30	07	14.00 %
2	30-40	13	26.00 %
3	40-50	16	32.00 %
4	50-60	10	20.00 %
5	More than 60	04	08.00 %
	Total	50	100.00 %

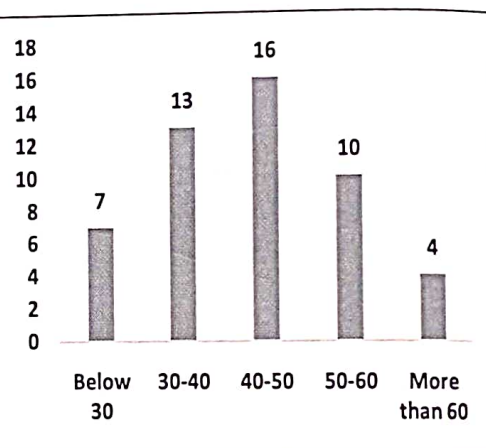


Table No.2: Distribution of the respondent by their annual household income

S N	Income	Respondents	Percentage
1	<50000	12	24.00 %
2	50000-75000	21	42.00 %
3	75000-100000	11	22.00 %
4	100000- 150000	04	08.00 %
5	> 150000	02	04.00 %
	Total	50	100.00 %

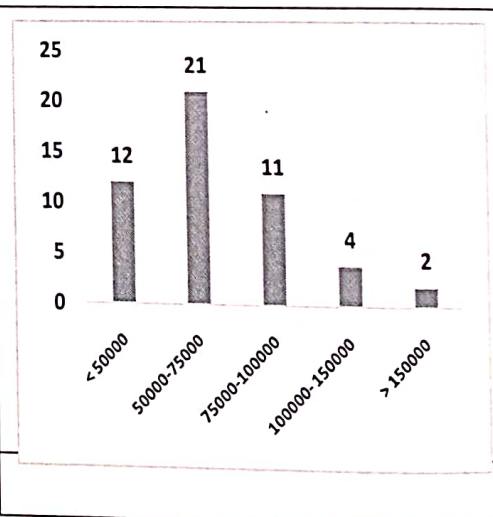
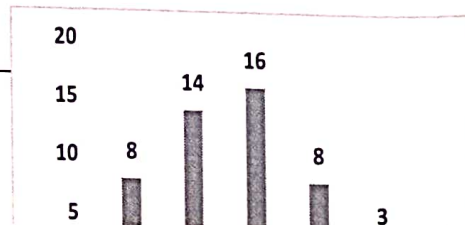


Table No.3: Distribution of the respondent by their annual income by dairy farming

SN	Income	Respondents	Percentage
1	< 10000	08	16.00 %



2	10000-20000	14	28.00 %
3	20000-30000	16	32.00 %
4	30000-40000	08	16.00 %
5	40000-50000	03	06.00 %
6	> 50000	01	02.00 %
	Total	50	100.00 %

Table No.4: Distribution of the respondent by their opinion about economic empowerment

S N	Response	Respondents	Percentage
1	Strongly Agreed	23	46.00 %
2	Agreed	18	36.00 %
3	Neutral	05	10.00 %
4	Disagreed	02	10.00 %
5	Strongly Disagreed	01	02.00 %
	Total	50	100.00 %

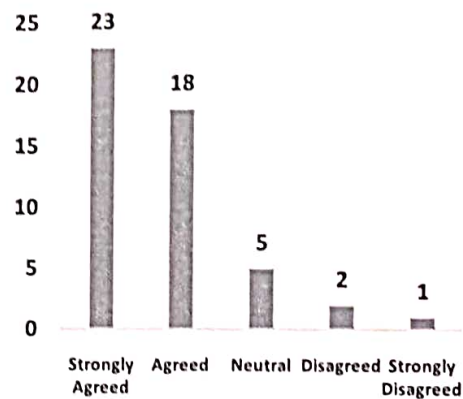
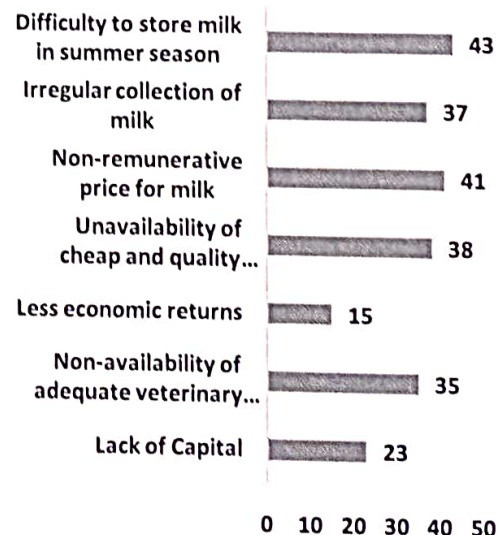


Table No.5: Response of the respondent by problem faced in dairy farming

S N	Problems	Respondent	%
1	Lack of Capital	23	46.00 %
2	Non-availability of adequate veterinary services	35	70.00 %
3	Less economic returns	15	30.00 %
4	Unavailability of cheap and quality green fodder round theyear	38	76.00 %
5	Non-remunerative price for milk	41	82.00 %
6	Irregular collection of milk	37	74.00 %
7	Difficulty to store milk in summer season	43	86.00 %



Result, Findings & Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that most of respondent's age is between 30 to 50 years, most of respondent are agreed that their economic condition is uplift because of dairy farming however they are facing very much problem like high cost of cattle, unviability of funds and suitable market, also they are not aware

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about milk processing and making different items like paneer, khava etc from milk. Overall it is concluded that the dairy farming is one of the good practice to economic empowerment of the women from rural Maharashtra.

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