

CHAPTER-IVINTRODUCTION

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This chapter deals with milk production and live-stock maintenance activities performed by the respondents under study.

INTRODUCTION :

It has been observed that, rural women are engaged in performing a large part of the work related to the maintenance of milch animals, milk production, and processing. Their involvement differs according to the nature of land holding and economic position of the family.

All the respondents have milch animals and the possession of milch animals varies from family to family. Table No. 1 gives the information about possession of milch cows and buffaloes.

TABLE No. 1

LIVE-STOCK POSITION OF RESPONDENTS

Sr. No.	Number of milch animals	No. of families possessing milch animals			
		Cows		Buffaleo	
		Local	Improved Bread	Local	Improved Bread
1.	1	06	02	35	05
2.	2	-	-	31	08
3.	3	-	-	16	01
4.	More than 3	-	-	01	01
Total :		06	02	77	15

Source : Information collected by the Researcher.

The table given above indicates that, maximum number of respondents have buffaloes. The reason given by them is that, buffaleo



a) Cleaning Buffalo shed.



b) Feeding Buffalo.



a) Carrying Fodder from the Field.



b) Feeding Buffaleos.

milk contains more fat and hence is more economical. The dairy does not accept milk with 3.8 or less fat contents and mostly the fat content in cow milk is below the prescribed one. The improved varieties of buffaleo have been purchased by big farmers (those having 7 acres or more land) and most of the respondents do maintain local varieties.

4.1 MAINTENANCE OF LIVE-STOCK :

In all the respondent families it is the women folk ^{who} do have specific functions in the maintenance of milch animals. Milk production, processing and carrying into the dairy is mainly done by women. Table No. 1 gives information about the work in the maintenance of live-stock.

TABLE No. 1

INFORMATION REGARDING LIVE-STOCK MAINTENANCE

Sr. No.	Nature of work	No. of Respondents	Percentage to the total
1.	Cutting of fodder, watering animal and milking animal	90	86.54
2.	Carring milk to dary daily twice	92	88.47
3.	Taking milch animal for veterinary treatment	42	40.39
	Total	104	100.00

Source : Information collected from Respondents.

The well-to-do families can afford to get the work regarding milch animals from hired labour normally most of the respondents do the work at their own.

Apart from works related to milch animals and milk marketing, an important aspect of women's work relates to the collection and processing of cattle dung into cakes for consumption and sale. These women follow their cattle into the grazing grounds and collect the dung in straw basket. It is brought back and mixed with straw by treading on it, patted into cakes and spread out to dry. This is done collectively in groups by women and children.

4.2 INCOME FROM MILK PRODUCTION : PRE-DAIRY SITUATION

In the days when dairy co-operative was not established milk production and marketing of milk was a practice. In those days the participation of women in milk production was of a major type. Gazing of milch animals and cutting fodder for them and milking them was done by women.

There is no official record regarding the marketing of milk, however, it is told that the milk was collected by vendors and private agencies. They used to pick-up milk from milk producers house and used to pay monthly. But there was no regularity in picking-up milk and rates of payment were also not reliable. Especially, during rainy season, the vendor used to become most irregular.

The income collected in those days was not regular one and the vendor used to exploit the milk producer by paying less.

It is only after the establishment of dairy co-operatives, milk producers have been able to receive regular payment. The knowledge about improved varieties of cattle and buffaleos was absent and traditional method of feeding was followed yielding to less quantity of milk.

The opening of Union Dairy has boosted the milk production and at present the milk producers get reasonable rate for their milk.

4.3 INCOME FROM MILK PRODUCTION : AFTER DAIRY SITUATION

The information regarding income from milk production is given in the table No. 1 given below.

TABLE No. 1

MONTHLY INCOME FROM MILK PRODUCTION - RESPONDENTS GROUP

Sr. No.	Income (in Rs.)	Number of families	Percentage to the total
1.	Upto 500	29	27.88
2.	501 to 1500	55	52.88
3.	1501 to 2500	11	10.57
4.	2501 to 3500	4	3.84
5.	3501 and above	5	4.80
Total :		104	

Source : Information collected by the Researcher.

The income indicated in the above table has been computed excluding the cattle feeding and other expenses incurred by the respondents.

When enquired about fodder and cattlefeed purchases 48 (46.15%) respondents replied that they get cattle feed and fodder from dairy and the payment is made through milk supplied to the dairy. The number of respondents who do not purchase cattle feed from the dairy is 56 (53.85%) which shows that, these respondents are economically well off to invest in the cattle feed at their own.

4.4 MILK PRODUCTS - PRE-DAIRY SITUATION :

The respondents produce milk and milk products. All the respondents used to prepare curd, butter milk and butter for family consumption.

There are 14 families (13.46%) used to prepare Mava (locally known as Khava) for sale and 62 families (59.61%) used to sale butter before they joined the Union Dairy for milk supply.

4.5 MEMBERSHIP :

The membership of Union Dairy is given to the head of the family who is generally a male member. Only 14 women (13.46%) do have the membership of the dairy and 90 respondents (86.53%) are non-members means the male members of the house do hold the membership of the dairy.

The live stock maintenance and milking and carrying milk to dairy in scheduled period is done by women, but they do not enjoy the membership of the dairy.

4.6 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANIMAL DISEASES :

The women respondents have shown that very few only 7 (6.73%) members have some knowledge about animal physiology and other veterinary details. The number of ignorant women respondent is 97 (93.27%) which indicates that for veterinary treatment to their milch animals they have to depend upon others.

4.7 CONTROL OVER INCOME :

The number of women respondents having control over the money collected from milk sale is 78 (75%) which indicates that the economically sound position of the family allows them to utilize the money at their own wish. The remaining 16 (15.38%) say that the male members of the family decides about the expenditure. Ten families (9.61%) utilize the money with consultation with each other.

4.8 NATURE OF EXPENDITURE :

The income gained from milk production is used in the following manner.

TABLE No. 1

Sr. No.	Preferences given to the item	No. of families	Percentage to the total
1.	First preference : Animal feed	104	100.00
2.	Second preference : Loan instalment	64	61.53
3.	Third preference : other expenses	68	65.38

Source : Information collected by the Researcher.

The above information reveals that animal feed gets first preference and the repayment of loan is given the second one. The repayment is done by the dairy and the instalment is cut at source from the payment to be made against the milk supply.

The money spend for other purposes include the purchase of cloths, utensils and gold and silver. It is observed that, the Jain women count the gain of milch animals in gold, that is, the gold purchased out of milk selling. They say if one milch animal gives one tola of gold per year, then it is a profitable animal.

Thus, it is seen that, the money earned through milk production is utilized by majority of women as per their thinking and preferences.

4.9 WOMEN AT HOUSEHOLDS :

Rural Housewives and household roles :

In the village, a housewife has to perform household duties and maintain the house properly. The table given below provides an information regarding the work schedule of women respondents.

TABLE No. 1
HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES OF RESPONDENTS

Sr. No.	Nature of household activity	Number of Respondents (herself)	With other members of the family	Only other members of the family
1.	Cooking	102 (98.07)	-	02 (1.92)
2.	Cleaning of utensils	102 (98.07)	02 (1.92)	-
3.	Maintenance of the house	-	90 (86.53)	14 (13.46)
4.	Washing of cloths	60 (57.69)	20 (19.23)	24 (23.07)
5.	Marketing	70 (67.30)	30 (28.84)	04 (3.84)
6.	Care of the old	56 (53.84)	48 (46.16)	-
7.	Attending the children	64 (61.53)	40 (38.46)	-
8.	Attending guests	52 (50.00)	42 (40.38)	10 (9.61)
9.	Miscellaneous activities	80 (76.92)	20 (19.23)	04 (3.84)

Source : Information collected through personal interviews.

The cooking and cleaning utensils is the primary duty of a woman in the house. These respondents are helped in their other works by other members of the family. These include mother-in-law, sister-in-law (husband's brother's wife) and husbands sister in some cases.

Maintenance of the house is shared by the other members of the family alongwith the other members including servants. The women folk engaged in milk production activity are releaved of this duty in all the cases.

Washing of cloths is shared by family members in 2 (19.23%) families and is being done by other members in 24 (23.07%) families. Marketing includes purchases made for day-to-day life maintenance, purchase of things at festivals purchase of utensils and oather family goods.

• These purchases are made by 70 (67.30%) respondents themselves. In the case of 30 (28.84%) respondents other family members are entrusted this responsibility, while in 4 cases (3.84%) they have been done by other members.

However, the purchases like gold and silver ornaments purchases for marriage and for gifts, that is, the major purchases are done by the respondents themselves and only day-to-day purchases are done by others.

In the joint families old persons are cared by 56 (53.84%) respondents and they are left on other members of the family by 48 (46.15%) respondents. However, the old people are not left to servants or other people.

It is the primary responsibility of woman as a mother to rear and care their children. In the family where old generation people are there, children are looked after by them, 64 respondents (61.53%) take care of their children while 40 (38.47%) respondents depend upon other family members. No respondent has left her children to other than family members.

The attending guests is done by 52 (50.00%) women personally, while 42 (40.38%) respondents get help of other members in this respect. Those who depend upon other members are 10 (9.6%).

Miscellaneous activities like court yard repairing, taking animals to veterinary centre, and such other works are done by 80 (76.92%) respondents themselves, 20 (49.23%) take the help of family members and only 4 (3.84%) depend upon others.

The household activities described above indicate that, the woman milk producer is full time engaged in household activities. As a lady of the house all the respondents, except two cook food and get the satisfaction to feed their sponces and children.

4.10 PARTICIPATION IN SUBSIDIARY AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES :

Agriculture being the major economic activity of the family all the members of the family have to perform certain roles. The nature of agricultural economy in the village is of a mixed and subsistence type in which subsidiary agricultural works are done by the young ones and female members.



a) Milking Buffaleo.



b) Gazing Buffaleos.

The respondents group bear the responsibility for care of animals, they do have specific functions in cattle management and milk production.

TABLE No. 1.

PARTICIPATION IN SUBSIDIARY AGRICULTURAL WORK

Sr. No.	Nature of work	No. of Respondents	Percentage to the total N = 104
1.	Gazing milch animals	76	73.07
2.	Storage of yield	98	94.23
3.	Help at harvest season	98	94.23
	i) taking food to farm	98	94.23
	ii) taking part in the actual harvest/sowing	59	56.73

Source : Information collected by the Researcher.

Those respondents belonging to well-to-do households do not participate in agricultural work. However, storage of yield and preparing food and taking it to farms done by most of the respondents. The labourious work at the time of harvest is done by hired labour and only 59 (56.73%) respondents participate in it.

Thus, it is seen that the group under study is concerned with subsidiary type of agricultural activities especially at the time of harvest and sowing seasons.

