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5.1 IMPACT OF UNION DAIRY ON THE LIFE OF RESPONDENTS :

The discussion done so far leads us to the point to analyse the impact of dairy co-operative on rural milk producer women.

At the out set, It is seen that there has been a considerable change in knowledge and attitudes about milch animals and live-stock maintenance. The knowledge about improved and more milk yielding breeds was absent and local breeds were gazed and brought up with traditional methods. The modern and developed knowledge about high yielding and cross-beeds is provided by the dairy people and help is rendered for purchasing those animals through bank loans.

There was no link between hygiene and health of the milch animal and use of veterinary science was absent. Clean cattle shed and proper care of milch animal brought increase in yields. In the past, animals have been fed largely according to the household's ability to feed the animal and not according to any scientific regimen of feeding. The vilagers have never been trained in the concept of production or management rations of feed. For instance, during pregnancy they commonly starve animals because of a mistaken belief that the animals should not become too fat. The women generally used to feed animals with grain supplements, paddy straw, offshoot of sugarcane and field wastes.

The new improved knoweldge has changed the nature of maintenance of milch animals. Today the milch animals are developed and looked after with scientific outlook.

5.2 PROVISION OF STEADY MARKET FOR THE MILK AT A STANDARD PRICE :

The dairy co-operative has provided a steady market for the milk. The milk produced and brought to the dairy is collected twice a day, by the Union vehicle and the truck visits the dairy regularly at a fixed time. This has created a time sense among women producers. They have to keep the exact timings for the collection of milk. They milk their milch animals at a fixed period and hence a discipline has been observed by them.

In the dairy, milk is tested for fat content and women are paid accordingly. The fat contents in cow milk are less and hence they yield less profit. This has made the women milk producer to maintain buffaleos than cows. This signifies that, commercial view is being prominent in their dealings. Before twenty years milk sell was not common and in the well-to-do families milk was not brought to the market. The dairy co-operative has brought a change in their attitudes and they look at milk production from economic point of view.

The milk supplied to dairy is purchased at a fixed and reasonable price and the fixity of price is maintained by the dairy union. This assurance of fixed income has made it possible to have a plan for future expenditure. The respondent women plan for festival purchases and purchases for marriage and birth occasions in their families.

5.3 KNOWLEDGE OF BANKING AND ACCOUNTING :

The dairy provides cattle feed and deducts its payment from the payment to be made against the milk supplied. It also helps in raising loans for purchase of milch animals from different agencies

including banks. The loan is paid in instalments and repayment of loan within the stipulated period fetches subsidy and other economic benefits to the milk producer.

The women milk producers now maintain an account of milk supplied to the dairy and the income received out of it. The cost of cattle feed, the amount of loan instalment and the amount of interest and tries to find out whether the deal is profitable or not. It is noticed that if the milch animal is not fetching profit the same is disposed off and a new better quality cow or buffaleo is purchased.

Domesticated animals were an integral part of farmers' life. They were as good as the parts of the family. Generally, they were not brought to market even if they did not yield milk or they were old and useless. They were maintained till death and burried without using the dead forskin and other products.

Today the commercialization of the milk production was overpowered this attitude and no emotional attachment is seen with the milch animal stock.

5.4 IMPACT ON LIFE STYLE :

The life style of milk producer women has been under the impact of dairy co-operative. The nature and standard of living of the women milk producers has been improved a lot.

The group under study has small landed property and they grow sugarcane and soyabeen as commercial crops, that is, crops not for consumption. This mixed type of economy fetches them good amount

of money which is supplanted by the service and other economic activities of family members. The income from milk production is almost a supplanting income which is utilized by women for their family comforts.

The houses have been repaired and innovated by the respondents and there have been radio and T.V. sets (almost black and white and of a portable size) for their entertainment. This is revealed when the enquiry was made about how they spend their leisure time if any.

Table given below summarises the time spent by respondents when they are free from daily work.

TABLE No. 1

LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES OF RESPONDENTS

Sr. No.	Nature of the leisure time activity	Number of Respondents	Percentage to the total
1.	Weaving and threading	25	24.03
2.	Reading news papers and novels	12	11.53
3.	T.V. watching	69	66.34
4.	Radio listening	52	50.00
5.	Gossiping	89	85.57
6.	Taking part in Mahila Mandal activity	27	25.96

Source : Information collected from the Respondents.

T.V. and radio have become an integral part of urban life, rurallife is also following the footsteps of urbanites. The respondents

under study have shown that they lead a better standard of life according to the parameters of urban way of life. They use liquid gas and gobar gas for cooking purpose. They know weaving and threading and they are in touch with the world through modern communication agencies.

Among other factors, additional income from milk production is one of the important factor responsible for the improved life conditions among the respondents.

The money collected from milk production is spent by women on gold and silver ornaments and satisfy the famine desire for ornaments.

5.5 RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES :

The majority of respondents are from Jain community. They are religious and tradition bound one. They spend more on religious ceremonies. The source of milk production money has enabled them to perform poojas and religious ceremonies in a grand manner. Expenditure incurred on religious functions enhances the status of the woman and her family. This achievement has been possible and easier because of the additional source of income from milk production. The Jain Sadhus visit the village during four holy months including shravan, at that time to please the Guru and Sadhus and to achieve more pleasure and punya the women folk from respondents group spend more easily.

This indicates that respondents group has been able to achieve higher status and pleasure in recent times.

5.6 PERSONAL LIFE :

The woman was subordinate and having no opinion and choice about the things and happenings in the life. The position was of a secondary type.

The dairy co-operatives made women more independent and free than before. They get money for their work and activities.

There has been a change in the attitudes towards women in recent years due to many factors including education to women, milk production has helped them to develop their images and bring confidence due to economic stability in their role performances. They can exercise control over the money earned and can utilize for their purposes. They can purchase cloths for themselves and for their children as per their choice and go in for costly items. They can visit city for marketing and for entertainment purposes.

They have a opinion and say in family matters. It is seen that they are consulted at the time important decisions like marriage settlement of a family member, purchase of land or any other costly item, dealings of big amounts, education of children and so on. The number of respondents who are consulted in such matters is 69 (6.34%) which shows the high timing of their position in the family.

The number of widow respondents witness this change. They are of about 60 years and more and have witnessed the position of women in the family in the past. Today they are consulted as mothers of the heads of the families, but other women having been given higher position due to changing situation are appreciated by them.

5.7 POLITICAL ACTIVITY : KNOWLEDGE
ABOUT POLITICAL HAPPNINGS :

The Union dairy is controlled by a congress leader in the village. The Director Board is comprised of members from a faction in the village. The dairy is managed by a young relative of the village leader. It is a well-managed dairy. The Chairman and other members of the director board work under the guidance of their leader. They do not allow membership to other members from other faction from opposite party in the village.

Before twenty years, women of the village did not have any knowledge about politics. Leadership, party, faction and election were the unknown terms and concepts to them. Though they used to exercise their voting right, it was done according to the guidance of elders in the family.

Today, the women members from the respondents group have knowledge about the faction politics at the village level. They also have the knowledge about co-operative sugar factory politics and also about the assembly elections and politics.

The spread of education, extension of communication and modern propoganda techniques might have been responsible for this development. However, the knowledge about village level politics can only be attributed membership of the dairy co-operative.

The above description leads us to think that, dairy co-operative has been working as an agent of economic and social transformation in the village in last few years.

It is a notable thing that, the attitudes of the Jain women milk producers regarding caste relations have not been changed. They still have that caste identity and feel polluted if they touch other caste, especially lower caste woman. When they were asked whether, they can accept milk from lower caste woman when they are in need it, they immediately replied in negative manner. They will never accept water or milk from any other castes than Jain and Lingayats. However, other castes women including Lingayat have modified and progressive attitude towards other castes. They are prepared to accept milk from any other castes when required.

The dairy co-operative arranges educational tours of its members to places like Amrutnagar, Bahubali and such other places. These are of a picnic type. Members of the dairy come closer in such trips and develop more positive attitudes towards each other.

It can be said that, the milk co-operative is performing an important role to bring social and economic upliftment of women milk producers who are the major contributors to milk production.

5.8 SUGGESTIONS :

The discussion made in the essay leads us to suggest some suggestion for the improvement of the women workers engaged in the milk production in the rural areas.

- 1) There should be the milk co-operatives owned and managed by women only. The co-operative should in every respect women's co-operative. This may help women to become independent and develop their economic and social position in the society.

2) There should be separate agency to impart education regarding milch animals management to women in the village. The team of experts in veterinary science should train young female workers to behave as village level veterinary workers so as to help the milk producer in her management of milch animals.

3) The village level women folk should be provided the knowledge about agencies like National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), National Banks (NB), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and how these can help the poor rural woman to get rid of poverty and economic backwardness from which she suffers.

These are some of the suggestions made after the preent study.