



## Issues and Challenges in Empowerment of Women: A Study with Reference to Dairy Industry in Dakshina Kannada District

**Shashikala K<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor of Commerce, Government First Grade College, Bantwal.*

### Abstract

Women empowerment implies the ability in women to take decisions with regard to their life and work and giving equal rights to them in all spheres like: personal, social, economic, political, legal and so on. Women empowerment is the much-talked about issue today. Women are increasingly getting empowered to decide the course of their life and professions and realize their fullest potential.

There are two levels of empowerment- Individual and Group Level.

On an individual level we see empowerment as building confidence, insight and understanding, and developing personal skills, for example, being able to analyze situations and communicate more effectively with others. Being empowered presupposes some level of common sense and emotional maturity and access to appropriate information and know how; it also implies someone who cares about others and is tolerant of other's views and behavior.

Within a group or community, empowerment can be taken to involve building trust, co-operation and communication between members, and a prerequisite for this is that there are appropriate structures, protocols and procedures in place, with effective sanctions against those who default or abuse the system. There must be opportunities for people to meet and exchange views and opinions, and ways of recording what is agreed and done; and there must be scope for having fun and celebrating achievement.

**Keywords:** Women empowerment, confidence trust, Dairy Farming, animal waste management.

### Introduction

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## Indicators of Empowerment

The evidence for empowerment is often anecdotal in nature, but this is still valid, especially when set alongside quantitative data. We have listed below some possible indicators that we consider useful:

**Confidence & Understanding:** examples of people taking on new responsibilities e.g. chairing meetings, organising events and initiating new activities; or keeping clear records and good accounts, or the level of contact with local officials concerning issues that are of concern/interest to the local community;

**Skills in Analysis & Communication:** development and refinement of group aims and objectives; meeting with officials and talks to local schools; letter writing, and contributions to local group newsletters; preparation of group strategies and action plans;

**Trust, Caring & Tolerance:** evidence of the delegation of responsibility within the group; initiatives by groups to involve/contact disadvantaged or vulnerable people in the community; initiatives that encourage open debate and represent minority interests; providing additional facilities for members of the community e.g. organising regular breast cancer screening or visits by specialists in healthcare, youth work, planning, law or community development;

**Communication & Co-operation:** attendance at meetings; local group newsletters; telephone trees established for alerting members to important events/developments; evidence of links developing between villages/communities; new joint ventures; and

**Access to Information:** acquisition of material on group development, running small businesses, legislation etc., perhaps held in the local library or resource centre; development of a database of contacts; and use made of the Internet.

Following are the findings of the research works conducted previously on the live stock economy in various parts of the country and abroad.

## Dairy Farming

Ever since the beginning of civilization, humans have depended on animals for many requirements, such as that of food (milk, meat and egg), clothing (hide or wool), labor (pulling, carrying load) and security etc. The development of desirable qualities in all such animal species, through creating better breeds, has been an important human achievement. For this, humans have consistently tried to improve the breeds of domesticated animals to make them more useful for them. In this lesson, you will learn about the common breeds of such animals, their uses and some methods of improving their breeds. The branch of science, which deals with the study of various breeds of domesticated animals and their management for obtaining better products and services from them, is known as Animal Husbandry. The term husbandry derives from the word “husband” which means ‘one who takes care’. When it incorporates the study of proper utilisation of economically important domestic animals, it is called Livestock Management.

The raising of animals is as old as civilisation itself, for our common domestic animals were domesticated even before the dawn of documented history. Paleolithic man hunted animals for food and raiment; his successor, the Neolithic man, tamed and conformed them. It was in the Stone Age that men first practiced agriculture, which included the raising of domestic animals. Animal husbandry was the occupation, either sole or part, of majority of the people. Every villager usually kept a few animals for draught purposes and to meet the supply of his own household.

Detailed information about rearing and care of the cow in ancient India is given in many books written by various authors of ancient India. A detail account of animal husbandry in ancient India is described in the Brihat Parasara Samhita written by Parasara. Krishi Parasara is another book written by Parasara which contain much information about agriculture and animal husbandry. Kautilyas Arthashastra is another very important book which contains much useful information on animal husbandry. Puskara also contain many valuable information about veterinary and animal husbandry in ancient India. The following are some of the important information about traditional animal husbandry and veterinary lore in ancient India.

**Amrik (1980)** suggests that income and employment could be increased with the adoption of integrated crop and milk production in Punjab. Linear programming technique was used to develop the optimum and integrated crop and milk plans with the existing and improved level of farm technology. **Brindavan C. Moses and M.S.S Pandian (1983)** analyse that the poorer cultivators are forced to dispose off their cattle during off season to meet day to day expenses and buy the same at higher price during cultivation time. **Naresh Dayal (1981)** points out that the main thrust of dairy development is to provide employment opportunities and to generate more income for the betterment and improvement of weaker sections in the society in particular and to improve the nutritional standard of human beings by providing milk to the women consumers in general. Dairy development helps to stimulate development of the weaker sections.

**Moran (1987)** has analysed the role of cattle and buffalo in the agriculture of South East Asia, in providing both milk and meat and also traction for ploughing and transport. Improvement is clearly possible by crossbreeding, but it appears that this is most likely to be achieved with existing native breeds than by introducing exotic ones. **Bhanja (1989)** states the significant positive point in favour of animal husbandry programme is its employment potential for illiterate rural poor. Animal husbandry does not demand complex skill and is well suited to our landless rural agricultural labourers. The employment opportunity in crop cultivation being increasingly low due to modernization and pressure on land, the alternate source to provide employment in rural area is animal husbandry for which the base resource is already available with the people. **Hemalatha and Reddy (2001)** in their study points out that unlike the agricultural activities which are strenuous in nature and riddled with uncertainties, dairy enterprise provides constant and assured income to the poor farmer. It provides gainful employment and thus prevents migration of rural youth to the cities. If maintained on sound scientific lines it can be an effective medium to generate regular employment for the millions of rural poor. **Goplal Lai Jain (2001)** in his article concludes that rearing of sheep, goats and pig is almost exclusively in the hands of weaker sections of the rural community having small or no land holdings. Several groups of nomadic people are engaged in raising sheep. **Francis D.K. Anim (1997)** points out that livestock continue to fulfil some important social functions. In 1886, 68 per cent of cattle, 84 per cent of sheep and 66 per cent of goats were used for social functions like funerals, wedding and ceremonial purposes. **Triveni Dutt (2001)** points out that the cattle and buffalo production is an integral part of rural economy and contributes substantially to the family income. Milk provides 63 per cent of animal protein and almost 100 per cent of animal fat in the daily diet of an average Indian. Milk contributed 66.8 per cent of the total value of output from livestock (1998-99). **Hemalatha, B and Y.V.R. Reddy (2001)** point out that though India possesses one sixth of cattle population and one-fourth of buffalo population in the world and annual growth rate is about 2 percent, milk productivity per animal and contribution to national income is low.

## **The Research Problem**

India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is an integral component. Women play crucial and significant role in livestock rearing, all spheres of economic life and contribute richly towards national income. Dairy farm women were facing the major constraints as non-remunerative price for milk, unavailability of skilled labourer, unavailability of cheap and quality green fodder round the year, high cost of concentrate mixture, unavailability of cheap and quality green fodder round the year, lack of knowledge about vaccination against contagious disease and lack of knowledge of improved breed of cattle/buffalo.

## **Significance of the study**

The study becomes significant because it is not only the discussion of the problem but the suggestions will also be given for the betterment of the women in Dairy farming. The recommendations will be made for the further study on the field. Conclusions of the study may help the policy makers also. The research report would be a document for the researchers and the students of different disciplines.

## Objectives of the Study

The objective of this research is to analyse different problems faced by women in animal husbandry. Following are the main objective my study.

1. The study focuses on the problem of Fodder especially dry and green fodder and Rice Bran and Broken Rice etc. in Dakshina Kannada District.
2. The study intends to deal with occupational Problem of Marketing Facilities to Dairy products in the District.
3. To focus on the diseases, medical facilities and availability of veterinary Doctors and Hospitals.
4. To analyse the challenges in animal waste management.

## Methodology

This study is based on the secondary data collected from journals, articles and website.

## Findings

### **The milk production and its marketing, suffer from following main problems.**

It is scattered throughout India and undertaken by large number of small and marginal milk producers.

- The quantity (output per annum) and quality of milk is poor.
- Erratic power supply mostly in villages adversely impacting quality of milk.
- Seasonal and regional imbalances in milk supply.
- Lack of incentive and awareness for clean milk production.
- Tropical climatic conditions of the country.
- Mal practices adopted by middlemen particularly in unorganized sector

India witness's growth of urban centers. People move from rural to urban areas. The population of all cities is increasing. Along with this, income of people has also increased. With the rise in income, there is more disposable income and there is higher demand for more variety in value added food products. There is also decline in demand for tinned and dried milk powders and rise in demand of packaged, fresh dairy products

Consumers have become health conscious and demand health benefits in their food products. Dairy Products have a positive image and considered to possess quality and health benefits. There is growth in demand for probiotic dairy products such as ice cream, lassi etc. Human health consciousness is at an all-time high and growing. This has given birth to many industries benefiting the health conscious consumer In India, milk production is scattered in large number of villages in small quantity of two to four liters by milk animals

**Constraints for women in dairying have been identified in three major areas, each of which has many sub-components. The major constraints include poor health, nutrition, and productivity of milk animals; limited training opportunities for women dairy farmers; and**

**inadequate institutional support to programs and producers.** Poor Health, Nutrition and Productivity of Milk Animals The most common problem encountered by women dairy farmers relates to the overall health and productivity of their animals. Many other problems seem related to poor health. Various factors have led to this state including lack of adequate medical care facilities, unavailability of technical personnel, poor feeding practices, and a limited knowledge of dairy management. This has resulted in malnourished milk animals which give low milk yields, have short lactation periods, do not come into heat easily, and exhibit high calf mortality rates. In addition, when a family owns only one animal and it dries, so does their source of income. Often, when a family owns two animals, they are both dry at the same time. Inadequate Nutrition One of the key constraints preventing women from receiving greater benefits is the deficient diets of their milk animals. Both the quality and quantity of feed is insufficient in most cases, as is the amount of water supplied.

Some concerns shared by women include the animals' inability to conceive or even to come into heat, and when they do come into heat, the unavailability of the artificial insemination (AI) technician or the frozen semen. A shortage of adequate AI facilities and supplies is perceived as a constraint to better dairy management. A second factor affecting productivity relates to the number of milch animals a woman possesses. When animals stop lactating, women's dairy income ceases. As many women have received two milk animals, such a situation should not have arisen. Obviously, greater attention needs to be paid to providing nutritious feed to the animals, improving insemination facilities, and spacing pregnancies.

Strong demand for urbanization and industrialization also lead the problem of grazing areas for cattle for their food. Non-availability of dry grass and green fodder disturbed the women entrepreneurs to carry on their dairy farming

A lack of adequate training for women is reflected in the poor health, nutrition, and productivity of milk animals as discussed in the last section. Training will decentralize dairy programs and allow women to be less dependent on technical and organizational support from outside. This is important in promoting self-reliance among women and in empowering them to be effective in managing future obstacles and opportunities.

One factor which influences the impact of a dairy program on women will be the degree to which women are involved in decision-making and fill leadership position. A woman's belief in her own abilities will affect this, as will the perceptions of the dairy project staff, loan agencies, and government representatives in that ability.

One more challenges faced by women in their dairy farming industry is the unavailability of consultants to cure the deceases faced by the cattle. Untimely treatment also caused them in trouble.

## **Conclusion**

Dairying is an important activity providing multiple benefits to many Indian women. Traditionally, however, women have been prevented from reaping the full benefit of their labour, even though they are intimately involved in milk production, processing, and marketing. Three

factors which have caused this relate to poor health, nutrition and productivity of milk animals; limited training opportunities; and inadequate institutional support. Eliminating the constraints women face in these three areas will result in a more equitable distribution of dairy benefits and an increase in the total benefits produced in this sector.

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