



Decision Making Pattern of Farm Women in Relation to Animal Husbandry Practices

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture can be an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. Women's contribution to the animal husbandry and farming sector in respect to decision making pattern has largely been ignored. The present study was attempted to ascertain the decision-making pattern of farm women in animal husbandry practices. The study was carried out in Junagadh district of Gujarat State. It was envisaged that majority of the farm women had taken self decision in making of ghee (91.66 %), rearing of calves (90.84 %), store milk in summer season (84.58 %), feeding schedule of young calves (82.92 %), making butter milk (78.75 %) and manage dung for fuel and manure (77.08 %). Farm women had taken jointly decision with husband in selection of adult (95.42 %), selection of breed (92.92 %), selection of fodder crops (67.08 %) and selection of varieties of fodder crops (61.67 %). While farm women had taken jointly decision with her family in drying of fodder crops (49.58 %), making milk product (49.16 %) and storage of fodder crops (47.08 %).

Key words: Decision making, Pattern, Farm women, Animal Husbandry practices, Farm women.

INTRODUCTION

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women, as they not only constitute nearly half of its population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. Livestock enterprise provides employment and economic support to rural families who are landless and those possess some land. There is a distinct sphere of participation between males and females in farm and dairy sector, the men were the planners and women implemented the activity. The crucial role of women in agriculture and allied activities has however been grossly under estimated and undervalued. Usha Ahuja and Prem Narayan (2016) studies in their research that land related decisions; decisions regarding purchase/ sale and selection of breed of animals and household financing decisions are taken jointly by both husband and wife in majority of households. Female decision making is restricted mainly to livestock.

Arrangement of fodder and self consumption/sale of milk are decisions where female have a key role in decision making in majority of households. Hence females are able to take decisions in areas that are part of their household chores. Their role in economic and agricultural decision making is negligible.

Livestock and dairy have been one of the sectors in India where female work force participation has been high. Rural women perform a large part of the work relating to the maintenance of dairy cattle, milk production and processing. There is negligible role of farmwomen in decision making in various activities either home or farm even though their significant contributions. They usually deny taking decision or participating in decision making process. Decision making pattern refers to mode of decisions taken by farmwomen regarding various aspects of animal husbandry activities either solely or jointly with husband or with family members.

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Table 1. Decision making pattern of the farm women about breeding practices.**(n=240)**

Sr. No.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total Score	Mean score	Rank
1	Rearing of calves	218 (90.84)	08 (3.33)	14 (5.83)	0 (0.00)	684	2.85	I
2	Pregnancy diagnosis	172 (71.67)	46 (19.17)	13 (5.42)	9 (3.76)	621	2.59	II
3	Selection of breed	10 (4.17)	223 (92.92)	07 (2.91)	0 (0.00)	483	2.01	III
4	Selection of adult	3 (1.25)	229 (95.42)	3 (1.25)	5 (2.08)	470	1.96	IV
5	Artificial Insemination	71 (29.58)	118 (49.17)	16 (6.67)	35 (14.58)	465	1.94	V
6	Breeding programme	8 (3.33)	46 (19.17)	29 (12.08)	157 (65.42)	145	0.60	VII
7	Heat detection	75 (31.25)	102 (42.50)	10 (4.17)	53 (22.08)	439	1.83	VI

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

So, to know women contribution and pattern to take decision about animal husbandry activities present study was conducted to study the decision making pattern of farmwomen in relation animal husbandry practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Junagadh district purposively selected where maximum number of dairy cooperative society exist. Two villages from each taluka and thus, total twelve villages were selected for the study. Twenty farm women were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. In all, 240 farm women were selected to serve as the respondents for the study. In order to know the decision making pattern of farm women about different aspects of animal husbandry activities, certain items related to different aspects were included in the schedule after consultation with the experts. The response of farm women was

collected in four continuum scale *viz.*, self, joint with their husband, joint with family members or not at all and scored 3, 2, 1 and 0, respectively. A questionnaire was developed in accordance with the objectives and data were collected through personal interview method. The statistical tools used for the analysis of the data were frequency, percentage, mean score (mean score was obtained by total scores of an item divided by the total number of respondents).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Decision making pattern of the farm women about breeding Practices

It was evident that decision regarding all items related to breeding practices, farm women's self decision found to be negligible except rearing of calves (90.84 %) and pregnancy diagnosis (71.67 %). As far as, majority of the farm women had taken decision with his husband in selection of

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Table 2. Decision making pattern of the farm women about feeding practices. (n=240)

Sr. No.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Feeding schedule of young calves	199 (82.92)	14 (5.83)	17 (7.08)	10 (4.17)	642	2.68	I
2	Feeding schedule of young heifers	188 (78.34)	26 (10.83)	21 (8.75)	5 (2.08)	637	2.65	II
3	Feeding schedule of milch animals	168 (70.00)	51 (21.25)	13 (5.42)	8 (3.33)	619	2.58	III
4	Feeding schedule of dry animals	170 (70.84)	24 (10.00)	41 (17.08)	5 (2.08)	599	2.50	IV
5	Feeding schedule of pregnant animals	156 (65.00)	32 (13.33)	52 (21.67)	0 (0.00)	584	2.43	V
6	Time and frequency of feeding	127 (52.92)	89 (37.08)	13 (5.42)	11 (4.58)	572	2.38	VI
7	Selection of feed	133 (55.42)	45 (18.75)	54 (22.50)	8 (3.33)	543	2.26	VII
8	Advantage of livestock feed (39 (16.25)	150 (62.50)	29 (12.08)	22 (9.17)	446	1.86	VIII

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

adult (95.42 %) and selection of breed (92.92 %) and one-tenth of them had participation in decision making with their family member with regards to practices *viz.*, breeding programme, artificial insemination and selection of breed.

It could be seen from the table that rearing of calves ranked first with mean score 2.85 followed by Pregnancy diagnosis (2.59) and selection of breed (2.01) with ranked second and third, respectively. While Selection of adult, artificial Insemination, heat detection and breeding programme ranked, IV, V, VI and VII, respectively. The probable reason might be that some social norms become barrier for the farm women to take decision. The finding was in line with the findings reported Chauhan (2009, 2010), Patel *et al* (2017), Meena and Dudi (2017), Ahuja and Narayan (2016).

Decision making pattern of the farm women about feeding Practices

The data (Table 2) revealed that majority (82.92 %) of farm women take self decision in feeding schedule of young calves, followed by 78.34, 70.84 and 70.00 per cent in feeding schedule of young heifers, feeding schedule of dry animals and feeding schedule of milch animals, respectively.

Overall observation regarding decision making pattern of the farm women about feeding practices, feeding schedule of young calves ranked first with mean score 2.68 followed by feeding schedule of young heifers (2.65) and feeding schedule of milch animals (2.58) with ranked second and third, respectively. The finding is in line with the findings reported Chauhan (2009, 2010), Patel *et al* (2017), Meena and Dudi (2017), Ahuja and Narayan (2016).

Table 3. Decision making pattern of the farm women about fodder production. (n=240)

Sr. No.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Storage of fodder crops	101 (42.08)	26 (10.84)	113 (47.08)	0 (0.00)	468	1.95	I
2	Drying of fodder crops	78 (32.50)	43 (17.92)	119 (49.58)	0 (0.00)	439	1.83	II
3	Silage-making	76 (31.67)	58 (24.17)	83 (34.58)	23 (9.58)	427	1.78	III
4	Selection of fodder crops	3 (1.25)	161 (67.08)	22 (9.17)	54 (22.50)	353	1.47	IV
5	Selection of varieties of fodder crops	12 (5.00)	148 (61.67)	09 (3.75)	71 (29.58)	341	1.42	V

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

Decision making pattern of the farm women about fodder practices

The data (Table 3) revealed that majority of the farm women jointly decided with her husband about selection of fodder crops (67.08 %) and selection of varieties of fodder crops (61.67 %). Nearly half of the farm women took decision with her family members about drying of fodder crops (49.58 %), storage of fodder crops (47.08 %) and silage-making (34.58 %). Farm women had no self decision taken about selection of varieties of fodder crops (5.00 %) and selection of fodder crops (1.25 %). It might be due to farm related or outside activity done by male member and also traditional custom and joint family prevailing in rural areas farm women taken decision with her husband or family member about fodder production.

The overall decision making pattern of the farm women about fodder production, storage of fodder crops ranked first with mean score 1.95 followed by drying of fodder crops and silage-making with mean score 1.83 and 1.78, respectively. The data (Table 4) concluded that great majority of farm women taken self decision about dung for fuel (77.08 %), dung for manure (77.08 %), milk to family (75.42 %) and

gobar gas (68.33 %). But, nearly two-fifth of the farm women had joint decision with her husband about animal housing (45.00 %) and replacement of stock (33.33 %). This might be due to male domain and predominantly male affair might be the possible cause of this results.

The decision making pattern of the farm women about management practices, dung for manure and dung for fuel ranked first with mean score 2.58 followed by milk to family (2.53), gobar gas (2.48) with mean score II and III, respectively. It can be said that great majority of women taken self decision in making of ghee (91.66 %), curd (70.00 %) and butter milk (78.75 %) while in case of making milk product (49.16 %) farm women taken decision with family members.

The decision making pattern of the farm women about milk product making, making of ghee (2.88) ranked first followed by buttermilk (2.65) and curd (2.52) rank second and third, respectively. It can be said (Table 6) that majority of the farm women had taken self decision in store milk in summer season (84.58 %) and selling milk (66.67 %). Nearly half of the farm women had taken joint decision with her

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Table 4. Decision making pattern of the farm women about management practices. (n=240)

Sr. N.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Dung for fuel	185 (77.08)	10 (4.17)	45 (18.75)	0 (0.00)	620	2.58	I
2	Dung for manure	179 (74.58)	26 (10.84)	29 (12.08)	6 (2.50)	618	2.58	I
3	Milk to family	181 (75.42)	5 (2.08)	54 (22.50)	0 (0.00)	607	2.53	II
4	Gobar gas	164 (68.33)	36 (15.00)	30 (12.50)	10 (4.17)	594	2.48	III
5	Milk to sell	98 (40.83)	87 (36.25)	41 (17.08)	14 (5.84)	509	2.12	IV
6	Animal housing	61 (25.42)	108 (45.00)	49 (20.42)	22 (9.16)	448	1.87	V
7	Replacement stock	51 (21.25)	80 (33.33)	57 (23.75)	52 (21.67)	370	1.54	VI

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

Table 5. Decision making pattern of the farm women about milk product making. (n=240)

Sr. N.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total Score	Mean score	Rank
1	Ghee	220 (91.66)	10 (4.17)	10 (4.17)	0 (0.00)	690	2.88	I
2	Buttermilk	189 (78.75)	18 (7.50)	33 (13.75)	0 (0.00)	636	2.65	II
3	curd	168 (70.00)	28 (11.67)	44 (18.33)	0 (0.00)	604	2.52	III
4	Milk product	55 (22.92)	31 (12.92)	118 (49.16)	36 (15.00)	345	1.44	IV

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

Table 6. Decision making pattern of the farm women about marketing practices. (n=240)

Sr. N.	Item	Decision making pattern						
		Self decision	With husband	With family members	No Decision	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Store milk in summer season	203 (84.58)	4 (1.67)	33 (13.75)	0 (0.00)	650	2.71	I
2	Selling milk	160 (66.67)	22 (9.16)	55 (22.92)	3 (1.25)	579	2.41	II
3	Remunerative price of milk	126 (52.50)	58 (24.17)	47 (19.58)	9 (3.75)	541	2.25	III
4	Purchase of concentrated feed	65 (27.08)	128 (53.33)	27 (11.25)	20 (8.34)	478	1.99	IV
5	Regular collection of milk	102 (42.50)	37 (15.42)	80 (33.33)	21 (8.75)	460	1.92	V
6	Purchase of milch animal	41 (17.08)	122 (50.83)	50 (20.84)	27 (11.25)	417	1.74	VI
7	Sell of animal	28 (11.67)	131 (54.58)	37 (15.42)	44 (18.33)	383	1.60	VII
8	Sell of FYM	30 (12.50)	116 (48.33)	56 (23.34)	38 (15.83)	378	1.58	VIII

(Figure in parentheses represents percent)

husband about sell of animal (54.58 %), purchase of concentrated feed (53.33 %) and purchase of milch animal (50.83 %). It might be due to the fact that outside activity done by the male member and taken jointly decision with regard to marketing practices. The finding was in line with the findings reported Chauhan (2009 , 2010), Patel *et al* (2017), Meena and Dudi (2017), Ahuja and Narayan (2016).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the farm women actively participated in decision making regarding feeding, management and milk making products. The work regarding feeding, management and milk making products was mainly done by female members and they were available at home for maximum time might be the probable reason for this type of result. There was negligible role of farmwomen in

decision making in various activities like breeding programme (65.42 %), selection varieties of fodder crops (29.58 %), selection of fodder crops (22.50 %) and replacement of stocks (21.67 %). It might be due to low literacy levels, domestic obligations, distance, and lack of awareness. So, there is a need to increase farm women's more involvement and participation in these areas for an overall improvement in their contribution in the decision-making process. Hence, training of farm women regarding prompt, quick and thorough decision making is a need of the time for overall dairy development.

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