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Amisha Kumari
College of Home Science,
C.S. Azad University of
Agriculture and Technology,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Rashmee Yadav
College of Home Science,
C.S. Azad University of
Agriculture and Technology,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Smita Tripathi
College of Home Science,
C.S. Azad University of
Agriculture and Technology,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Neelma Kunwar
College of Home Science,
C.S. Azad University of
Agriculture and Technology,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Correspondence
Amisha Kumari
College of Home Science,
C.S. Azad University of
Agriculture and Technology,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Knowledge and awareness of farm women about selected drudgery reducing practices in dairy farming

Amisha Kumari, Rashmee Yadav, Smita Tripathi and Neelma Kunwar

Abstract

Dairying in India has been considered to be playing a crucial role in Indian economy. The level and speed of adoption of dairy innovation by farming community has been far from satisfaction though it has direct bearing on dairy farm production. The slow pace of adoption of improved dairy practices is attributed to various factors. A firsthand knowledge of these factors to the extension personnel would create the speedy adoption of dairy innovations in the villages. The net performance of domestic livestock is the result of the combined influence of all these factors. Advance made in management and technological procedures adopted in most of the modern livestock enterprises, have contributed enormously to make the livestock industry profitable, in several cases these attitudes have markedly influenced the health of animals and economy of livestock farm.

Keywords: Drudgery, practices, awareness, knowledge

Introduction

The role that women play in the management of dairy cattle differs greatly among communities, countries and regions, although some patterns and tendencies can be identified across most regional contexts. Among both mobile and settled dairy farmers, women are traditionally responsible for milking animals, processing milk and collecting dairy products. Frequently, children are also involved in the management of dairy cattle performing various tasks. Girls tend to be more involved in tending dairy animals, especially when they are kept around the house premises, while young boys tend to be engaged as livestock herders, “graduating” from small ruminants to dairy cattle as they become young men. Within households across different contexts, women are in many cases central to milk production, although the responsibility for managing milk production does not always translate into ownership of the dairy animal. This lack of ownership of and control over dairy animals is one of the main constraints that women face in dairy farming.

Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic status of farm women.
2. To study the involvement of and time spent by women in dairy practices.
3. To study the knowledge and awareness of farm women about selected drudgery reducing practices.

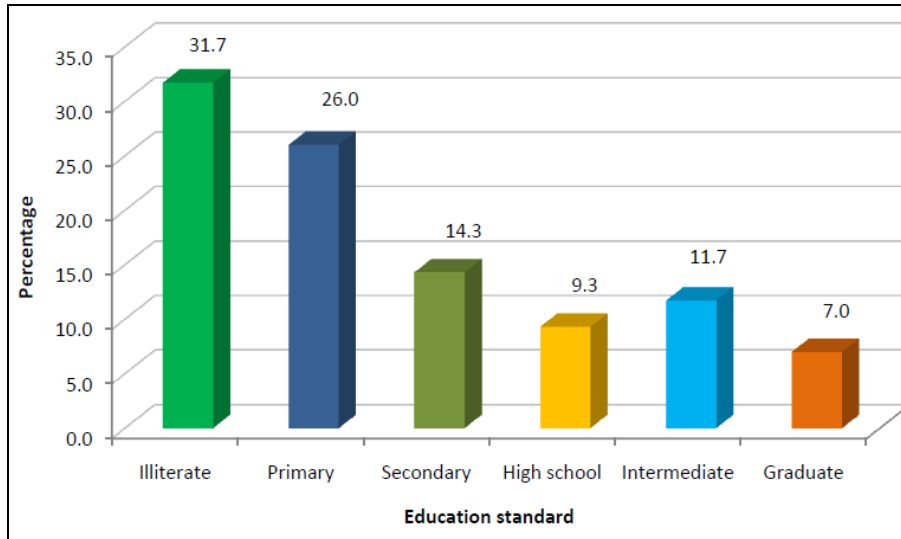
Methodology

The study was conducted in Ambedkar Nagar district of U.P. Ambedkar Nagar district divided into five tehsils and ten blocks. In this study two blocks Tanda and Akbarpur were randomly selected. Out of the total 135 villages in Akbarpur and 96 villages in Tanda block, five villages were randomly selected from each selected blocks. Thus, total 10 villages were selected in the selected area. 300 farm women were selected in this study. Dependent and independent variables such as age, education, caste, time, drudgery, dairy enterprises etc. were used. The statistical tools such as rank, chi-square, Cr, adoption index etc. were used.

Results

Table 1: Distribution of farm women according to education.

Education level	Frequency	Per cent
Illiterate	95	31.7
Primary	78	26.0
Secondary	43	14.3
High School	28	9.3
Intermediate	35	11.7
Graduate and above	21	7.0
Total	300	100.0

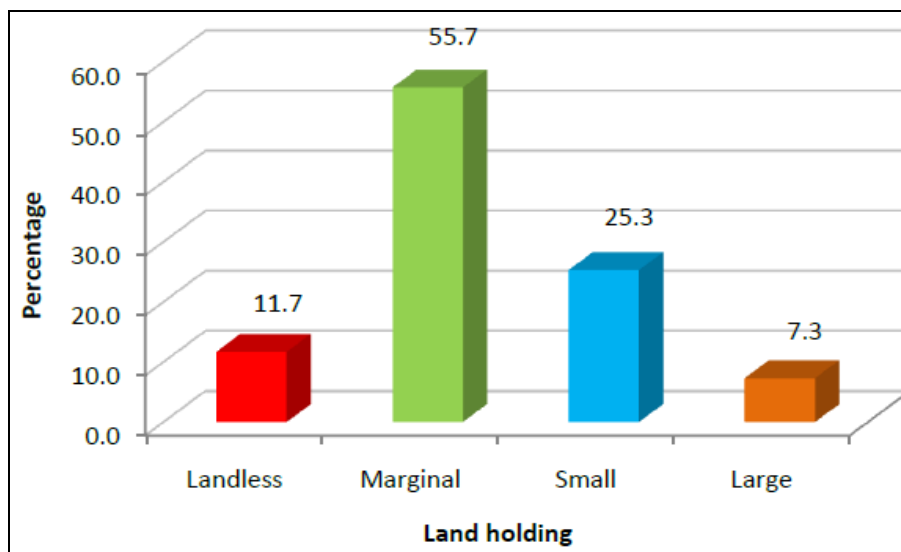


Woman is educated she will be able to adopt these technologies in the right way and reduce her work load while working. But, apart from being educated she has to be aware

of using dairy technologies and undergo proper training from specialized training centres for successful management of dairy enterprises.

Table 2: Distribution of farm women according to land holding.

Land holding	Frequency	Per cent
Landless	35	11.7
Marginal	167	55.7
Small	76	25.3
Large	22	7.3
Total	300	100.0



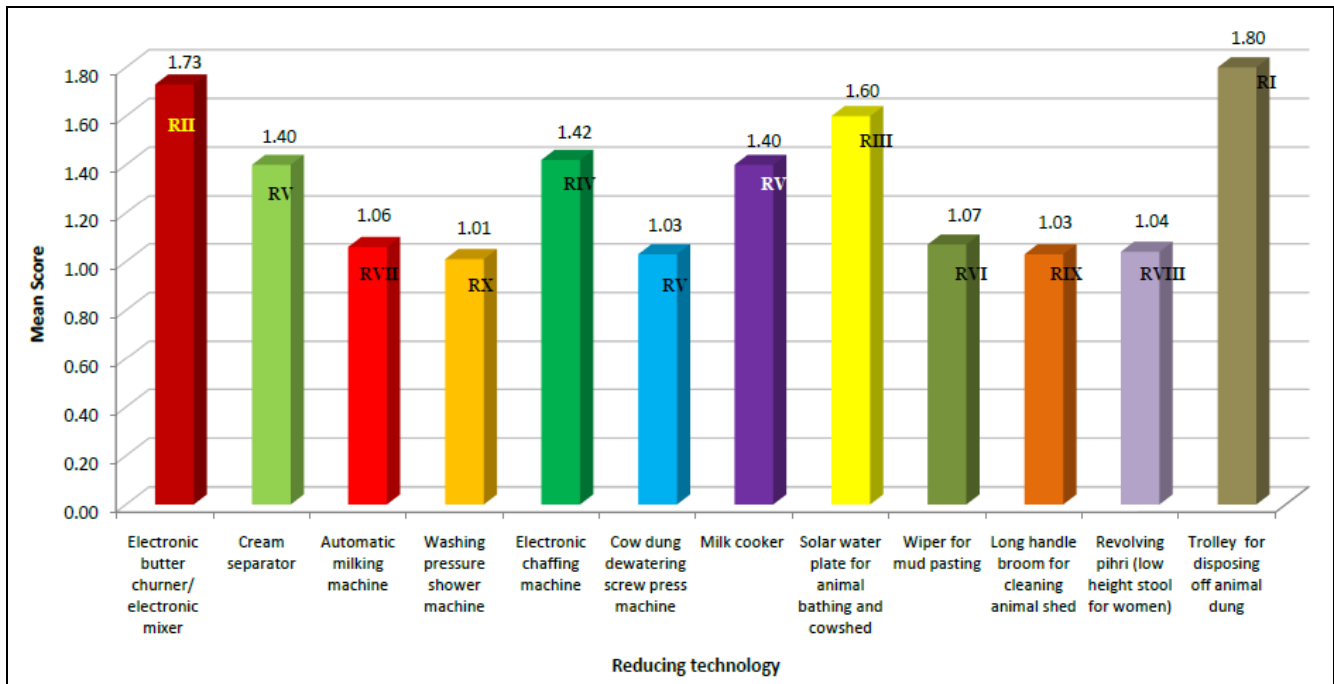
In rural areas a farmer is identified according to his land holding and his socio-economic status is measured with the size of land he possesses. Apart from landless farmers, all other farmers earn their living mainly through agriculture.

But, dairy is one of the occupations that can be adopted even by landless farm women from which they can start with even one cattle and feed their children and family.

Table 3: Knowledge and awareness about drudgery reducing practices in dairy farming.

Sl. No.	Drudgery reducing Technologies	Yes	No	Mean score	Rank
1.	Electric butter churner	220(73.3)	80(26.7)	1.73	II
2.	Cream separator	120(40.0)	180(60.0)	1.40	V
3.	Automatic milking machine	18(6.0)	282(94.0)	1.06	VII
4.	Washing pressure shower machine	4(1.3)	296(98.7)	1.01	X
5.	Electric chaffing machine	125(41.7)	175(58.3)	1.42	IV
6.	Cow dung dewatering screw press machine	8(2.7)	292(97.3)	1.03	IX
7.	Milk cooker	120(40.0)	180(60.0)	1.40	V
8.	Solar water plate for animal bathing and cow shed cleaning	180(60.0)	120(40.0)	1.60	III
9.	Wiper for mud pasting	20(6.7)	280(93.3)	1.07	VI
10.	Long handle broom for cleaning animal shed	8(2.7)	292(97.3)	1.03	IX
11.	Revolving Pihri (low height stool for women)	12(4.0)	288(96.0)	1.04	VIII
12.	Trolley for disposing off animal dung	240(80.0)	60(20.0)	1.80	I

(Figures in parentheses denotes the percentage of respective values)



In fact, drudgery is termed for hard work, monotony, time consuming, and use of traditional tools with inappropriate working posture in field. So, one way of reduction of drudgery can be through quantifying the particular field operation. For example, if work is being performed by farm women with traditional tools in bending/ squatting posture, which was reduced by providing women friendly farm

equipment (equipment assessed/developed considering gender-perspective). So the physiological workload of same work by both the methods can be evaluated and assessed based on output. To further add the work, a subjective scale can also be used for performance as well as their feedback. In combination to these, drudgery can be assessed in quantifiable term.

Table 4: Awareness of farm women about selected drudgery reducing technologies.

Sl. No.	Technologies	No. of days/year	Hours/day	Total hrs. involved in a year	Drudgery
1.	Electric butter churner	98	0.45	44.1	119 (39.7)
2.	Cream separator	25	0.45	11.2	73 (21.0)
3.	Automatic milking machine	11	0.50	5.5	130 (43.3)
4.	Washing pressure shower machine	8	0.25	2.0	121 (40.3)
5.	Electric chaffing machine	86	0.30	25.8	135 (45.0)
6.	Cow dung dewatering screw press machine	2	0.15	0.3	43 (14.3)
7.	Milk cooker	6	0.28	1.7	73 (24.3)
8.	Solar water plate for animal bathing and cow shed cleaning	8	0.30	2.4	78 (26.0)
9.	Wiper for mud pasting	125	0.45	56.2	132 (44.0)
10.	Long handle broom for cleaning animal shed	130	0.35	45.5	123 (41.0)
11.	Revolving Pihri (low height stool for women)	50	0.10	5.0	80 (26.7)
12.	Trolley for disposing off animal dung	185	0.20	37.0	210 (70.0)

(Figures in parentheses denotes the percentage of respective values)

In today's world almost all agriculture, dairy and household equipments that are being designed and developed are based on the end user whether the male or the female will use it. Such technologies are being adopted that are familiar to the user, easy to adopt, reduce drudgery and are also time saving. This further enhances the working capacity, saves lot of time and energy and increases working efficiency of the farm women. Reduced time taken to do a particular work gives the home maker some time for leisure and this entire time she can use to improve her mental and physical health. Farm women have to play a dual role in agriculture and dairy along with caring of children and household chores. She is so occupied in all these activities that she cannot afford to think of her own self. She does not have time to do any other activity for her personal earning. But, on the contrary, women in urban areas live a completely different life just because they use modern technologies and drudgery reducing equipments. It can be said that if women start using modern drudgery reducing technologies in dairy sector, they can run it as a profitable enterprise. To run a profitable dairy enterprise farm women should have proper knowledge about various technologies, should know how to use them and have expertise in using such technologies.

Conclusion

There are growing number of available technologies which can enhance women's productivity and income in animal husbandry sector, but these technologies have not reached the women as lack of knowledge is one of the main barriers in transfer of appropriate technology to the farm women. Therefore, it is necessary that women become technologically empowered in animal husbandry. It is possible to achieve this by up gradation of their knowledge and skills in technologies.

Recommendation

1. There should be a special provision to impart frequent training to dairy farmers in the area with which they are concerned in their day-to-day life based upon judicious assessment and analysis of the training needs of the dairy farmers in the areas such as animal health care and disease control, care and management of animal, breeding and management of animal, feeding and management of animal and clean milk production etc.
2. Training programmes should be formulated by considering some important aspects like duration, time (season), place, month and interval of training as per the responses recorded by the farmers. Training fees should be minimum and affordable by the rural dairy farmers, if at all charged.

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