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# Constraints Faced by Dairy Farm Women in Improved Animal Husbandry Practices of Banaskantha District of North Gujarat

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in six talukas of Banaskantha district of North Gujarat area. From each taluka, two villages were included at random, thus making a total of 12 villages for survey. Ten respondents from each village were selected at random making a list of total 120 respondents for this study. The ex-post facto design was followed. The most important constraints faced by dairy farm women in economical constraints, technical constraints, input-supply constraints and administrative constraints.

## 1. Introduction

India has a major share of the global population of the livestock with rich and vast genetic resources. Livestock industry plays an important role in national economy and socio-economic development of our country. Women play an important and vital role in animal husbandry occupation as manager, decision makers and skilled workers. Raising their participation is essential to the long-term strength of the dairy co-operative movement, for 130doorstep availability of domestic employment and thereby employment of women. Entrepreneurship as behaviour is a major contributing factor to development of dairy farming, it contributes to dairy industry in several ways, viz. assembling and harnessing the various inputs, bearing the risks, innovating and imitating the techniques of production to reduce the cost and increase its quality and quantity, expanding the horizons of the market, and co-coordinating and managing the productions.

## 2. Methodology

For the present study Banaskantha district was selected purposively being the leading district in milk production in Gujarat.

Multistage random sampling technique was used for selection of talukas, villages and the respondents. Total six talukas were selected randomly, from each taluka, two villages were included at random, thus making a total of 12 villages for survey. Ten respondents from each village were selected at random making a list of total 120 respondents for final interview schedule. The ex-post facto research design was followed. An interview schedule was developed in accordance with objectives of the study and it was pre tested and translated in to Gujarati. The Stastical measures such as percentage and rank method were used.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Constraints faced by the dairy farm women are enumerable. During the course of present investigation, the respondents expressed many constraints which were grouped into five categories viz., (i) economical, (ii) technological, (iii) input-supply, (iv) administrative constraints.

### Economical Constraints

The respondents had assigned first rank to high cost of concentrate feed, lack of loans, high cost of milch animals and also high cost of equipment

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From above discussion, it could be concluded that price of concentrate feed must be decreased and it should be made available at subsidized rate. The price of milk in co-operative should be increased present inflation rate accordingly. Easy availability of sufficient loan for purchase of animals and inputs at affordable interest rate is to be there. The constraints were ranked on the basis of the responses of the respondents and are presented in Table-1

### Technological Constraints

It can be inferred that majority of the respondents were faced lack of technical know-how about feeding and health management aspects (Rank II), knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry (Rank III), inadequate knowledge of vaccination schedule (Rank VII).

**Table1. Constraints experienced by dairy farm women in dairy farming.**

Sr. No.	Constraints experienced by dairy farm women	Resp. N=120	Per cent of Resp.	Rank
<b>I. ECONOMICAL CONSTRAINTS</b>				
1.	High cost of concentrate feed	120	100.00	I
2.	High rates of milch animals	120	100.00	I
3.	Lack of loan facilities	120	100.00	I
4.	High cost of equipment	120	100.00	I
<b>II. TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS</b>				
1.	Lack of knowledge about recommended practices of animal husbandry	105	87.50	III
2.	Lack of technical know-how about feeding and health management aspects	110	91.67	II
3.	Inadequate knowledge of vaccination schedule	90	75.00	VII
<b>III. INPUT-SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS</b>				
1.	Non-availability of good quality concentrate for high yielders	110	91.67	II
2.	Lack of supply of high yielding cows	104	86.67	IV
<b>IV. ADMINSTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS</b>				
1.	Lack of veterinary services and experts advice	95	79.17	VI
2.	Lack of proper training on animal husbandry practices	90	75.00	VII
3.	Lack of artificial insemination facility in villages and inadequate trained lay inseminators	103	85.83	V
4.	Irregularity in organization fertility improvement camp	90	75.00	VII
5.	No extra incentives for clean milk production	130	85.53	V

The veterinary services should be made available in time and at affordable charges, technical assistance regarding most modern technology related to milk and milk processing should be provided, expert services should be made readily available at village level to treat the poor productive and poor reproductive animals for better production and reproduction, dairy farm women should be motivated for clean milk production, campaign for awareness on importance of timely vaccination, deworming and management and health aspects of animal should be organized were some of the important suggestions from dairy farm women.

### Input-Supply Constraints

The data in Table 1 shows that dairy farm women endorsed major constraints were

: non-availability of good quality concentrate for high yielders (Rank II) and lack of supply of high yielding cows (Rank IV). The poor productiveness of animal is a major barricade in the success of livestock farming for dairy farm women and it is truly reflected in the suggestions like improvement of skill of lay inseminators and provision of required number of genetically proven bulls for natural services at village level and fertility improvement camp is to be held at village.

### Administrative Constraints

The data in Table 1 shows that lack of artificial insemination facility in villages and inadequate trained lay inseminators in villages and no extra incentives for clean milk production was the fifth major constraint endorsed by

dairy farm women, followed lack of veterinary services and expert's advice (Rank VI), Irregularity in organization fertility improvement camp and lack of proper training on animal husbandry (Rank VII). Health services are also a matter of concern and demand for timely vaccination at doorstep and treatment at affordable prices are also the need of the time and organization of awareness programme for farm women for importance of vaccination, deworming of animals, record keeping and clean milk production for best management practice for improved animal husbandry. This finding has been supported by the findings of Manoharan *et al.* (2003), Narendrareddy *et al.* (2003) and Singh *et al.* (2004).

## Conclusion

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that any activity whether of a single individual or a group, whether in private or public sector, whether concerning social, political, religious or economic matters is never without some sort of ordinary, moderate or acute constraint. If one considers dispassionately, even the most successful act is seldom without the existence of constraints, hurdles, road blocks of difficulties. It could at the best be said, in their context, that where we want our activity really a great successful one, whatsoever possible barriers/hurdles/problems/impediment there, be envisioned in advance and appropriate actions should be taken to eliminate or minimize their influence. It is not considered enough to merely cite the constraints, but the real purpose is to bring about consciousness and realizations for dealing with them based on further knowledge. Just as fore-warned is four-armed, the knowledge about constraints can make the implementations and planners of the programme, wise and boldly confident to minimize, if not completely eliminate, these constraints.

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