



DAIRY FARMERS OF KARNATAKA

A Sociological Analysis of Hukkeri Taluka

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ABSTRACT

When we come across the world 'white revolution' Dr. Vayese comes to our mind Dr. Vayese who is the founder of 'Amul' made his name all over the world.

The Dairy business in India, which is mostly in rural part of India, is steady income source for poor agriculturist. The business is done by farmers or their successors as adjoining income with agriculture business. This business is just an additional regular income of irregular income of agriculture.

In urban areas, people get milk through cans, bottles, tetra packs, plastic polythene bags, branded by the State Government owned milk federation as 'Nandini' or by private milk enterprises as Ajay, Aditya, Vinay or number of local, national level suppliers.

This article is just explaining the business of milk done in one part of India. Quality of milk matters in this article.

Key Words: Milk, farmers, agriculture, socio-economic condition, Society, Education etc

INTRODUCTION:

The Socio-Economic condition of Indian Society depends upon the agriculture and agro-based production. Dairy enterprise is a part of agriculture, which brings continuous income and possibility of improving the socio-economic conditions of families. This enterprise reduces the problem of unemployment to some extent. Large number of rural populations has the occupation of dairy business apart from agriculture. Dairy is an integral part of rural economy in India. The dairy is an instrument of social and economic development of India. The supplement income of rural family is dairy. It plays a vital role in the development of socio-economic condition of the rural area. It is the most suitable business for agriculturist family, because all raw materials are pertaining to dairy business available at their own agriculture land. Majority of the small and marginal farmers are directly involved in dairy business. The government is also encouraging such business as Government is providing buffaloes for Below Poverty Line families in rural areas in several animal husbandry schemes. The dairy business helped rural people for self-employment. Even most of the population from rural areas has the work in field during season and rest of the days are

remained unemployed. During these days they can involve in dairy business. This business leads a stable income for poor families.

Review of literature

An Economic Analysis of dairy business in Thanjavur district conducted by Jayakumar and Rajesh (2013) focuses on the availability of veterinary services in their places, failure of training, poor condition of infrastructure development and the system of credit facilities and the maintenance of dairy farm. They conducted survey method by using random sampling and selected 300 respondents and the same had been analysed in their work.

Meena and Singh (2013) analysed “Importance of information and communication technology tools among livestock farmers”. The study expressed about the usage of latest technology which improved the socio-economic condition of milkman. Out of all the respondents, 70 percent household are information on livestock health care followed by breeding and feeding. This has helped the milkman to take care of the livestock properly. The social and economic benefits obtained from mobile phones by the livestock in information and related to animal husbandry.

The analysis of cost and returns of urban milk production in Tamilnadu done by Serma Saravana Pandian, Shilpa Shree, Boopahti Rasa and Vetrivel (2013), describes that they had selected 30 dairy farmers by using random sampling technique. The total sample size of 90 dairy farmers are selected. Dairy farming provides income to the millions of small marginal farmers and landless labours to survive their regular life with minimum cost. In this sector, sometime the selling cost of milk is not sufficient to pay the labour charges and to buy the fodders for buffallos or cows. Higher use of green fodder and concentration increases the returns from daily animals.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Hukkeri Taluka during the year 2021-22 to know the socio-economic condition of milkman and maintenance of dairy farms by the farmers. 10 villages had been selected in different directions for the purpose of study. Out of these, 10 dairy livestock owners were selected from each village randomly having 2 milch animals minimum. Thus, the present study constituted 100 dairy livestock owners. The pilot study had been conducted with livestock owners and finalized the questionnaire and detailed survey had been conducted. The information collected through the survey was analyzed by using appropriate statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation etc.

The socio-economic characteristics of dairy farmers of Hukkeri Taluka of Belgaum district were studied and the results are presented in the following tables.

1. Age

Table 1: Distribution of Age among the dairy farmers

Sl No.	Age	Percentage
1.	Young age (Upto 35 years)	28
2.	Middle Age (26 to 45)	59
3.	Old (Above 45)	13

The study reveals the fact that, nearly (60%) of dairy farmers were middle-aged followed by young (28%) since they played a major role in income generation for the family. The overall analysis of above table indicates that, the age below 45 plays a significant role in maintaining the good economic condition of the farmers.

2. Education Status

Table 2: Educational Status among the farmers

Sl No.	Qualification	Percentage
1	Graduation and above	07
2	Pre-University	10
3	Upto High School	34
4	Middle School	22
5	Primary School	11
6	Illiterate	16

The information collected from the farmers about the education status has been analysed in the Table 2. This indicates that 34.00 per cent of the farmers high school education, 22.00 per cent of the farmers had middle school, 16.00 per cent of them were illiterate, 11 per cent has primary school, Pre-University (10.00 %) and graduation and above had attained by only 7.00 per cent of farmers. The above table can be concluded that majority of the farmer have completed their education upto High school and middle school. Countable figures of farmers have completed their education more than Pre-University.

3. Forms of Family

Table 3: Nature of Family

SI No	Type of family	Percentage
1	Nuclear	78
2	Joint	22

The table 3 indicates about the type of family in study area. The number of nuclear families are more, that is nearly 80 percent compared to joint family.

4. Occupation

Table 4: Occupational structure of the farmers

SI No.	Occupation	Percentage
1	Agriculture	67
	Dairy	7
2	Agriculture and dairy	14
3	Labour	12

Table 4 enunciates about the occupational structure of the farmers in sample areas. This indicates that (67.00 %) of farmers had agriculture as major occupation, whereas around 14 percent of the farmers involved in the occupation of both agriculture and dairy, 7 percent involved in dairy and around 12 percent of the farmer had the occupation of agriculture labour. The overall picture of the above table indicates that majority of the farmers had the occupation of agriculture.

5. Caste

Table 5: Distribution of caste among the dairy farmers

SI No.	Caste	Percentage
1	General	12
2	OBC	61
3	Scheduled Caste	18
4	Scheduled Tribe	9

Table 5 illustrates about the distribution of caste among the farmers. Nearly 75 percent of the respondents belongs to Other backward community and general, whereas scheduled caste is 18 percent and scheduled tribe is 9 percent. The above table can be concluded that the majority of the farmers belongs to other backward community.

6. Agricultural Land Holding

Table 6: Distribution of land owned by the farmers

SI No.	Type of farmers	Percentage
1	Landlord	4
2	Semi Medium	32
3	Medium	12
4	Small	52

The above table reveals the fact that more than 50 percent of the farmers belongs to small category, whereas 32 percent belongs to semi medium, 12 percent belongs to medium and less than 5 percent belongs landlord. The above table indicates that nearly 65 percent of the respondents belongs to small and medium category.

7. Annual Income dairy farmers

Table 7: Annual income of dairy farmers

SI No.	Annual Income (in Rs.)	Percentage
1	Less than 25000	47
2	25001-50000	29

3	50001 and above	24
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Table 7 describes about the annual income of dairy farmers. The present study expresses that majority of dairy farmers(47.00%) had low dairy annual income (<25000 Rs), whereas 24 per cent of them had high income (more than 50000 Rs). This might be due to their fertile agricultural land and they have been involved in animal husbandry and business related to agriculture.

8. Cows

Table 8: Current status of cows

Sl No.	Size of the Herd	Percentage
1	Less than 4 cattle	28
2	4-9 cattle	53
3	More than 10 cattle	19

Table 8 reveals the fact that the number of cattle with the farmers. More than 50 percent of farmers had the cattle between 4-9, whereas 19 percent of farmers had more than 10 and 28 percent of farmers had less than 4 cattle. The overall picture of the above table indicates that more than 70 percent of farmers had more than 4-10 cattle in their field/houses. Their main source of income is based on the cattle.

9. Yield of Milk

Table 9: Distribution of milk production

Sl No.	Production (in litres)	Percentage
1.	Less than 5	46
2	5-10	40
3	More than 10 litres	14

The above table enunciates about the yield of milk in their villages. Majority of the farmers yield the milk in between 5-10 litres per day and less than 50 percent of famers had the yield of less than 5 litres per day. This can be concluded that all the farmers had depended on the production of milk and this will be the additional source of income.

10. Findings

- ✓ Nearly 90 percent of the farmers involved in dairy activities- young and middle age group (upto 45 years)
- ✓ The educational status of dairy farmers between middle school to upto high school is more than 50 percent.
- ✓ Majority of the respondents have the occupation of agriculture,
- ✓ More than 60 percent of the respondents belongs to other backward community.
- ✓ More than 50 percent of the respondents involved in dairy activities belongs to small land owners
- ✓ Nearly 50 percent of the respondent's annual income of dairy farmers are less than Rs. 25000. It indicates majority of the families are poor
- ✓ More than 50 percent of the famers owns 4-9 cattle
- ✓ Nearly less than 50 percent of farmers produce the milk less than litres

11. Suggestions

- The percentage of involvement of youth in agriculture and diary should be increased
- Education
- The joint family system is to be increased because of majority of the families occupation is agriculture.
- The percentage of occupational structure towards agriculture and dairy is to be increased and

necessary awareness is to be created among the farmers.

- The Government should prepare an action plan for the improvement of annual income of dairy farmers.
- Awareness is to be conducted with the help of non-Governmental organizations to the farmers regarding the maintenance of cattle, so that the farmers can increase their production and similarly annual income of farmers can be increased

12. Conclusion

The overall study of the above article can be concluded that the majority of dairy farmers belong to middle and young age group. Their educational status is not upto the mark. It is between middle and high school. Dairy farmers who belong to Other Backward Community are more and their annual income is low. Their main occupation is agriculture and dairy income is partly added to the main income. Socio- economic parameters of Hukkeri dairy farmers reveals the fact that there is an opportunity for dairy farmers to improve their socio-economic status with the help of animal husbandry development.

13. References

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