

Gender Analysis in Livestock Production - An Exploratory Study in Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed at understanding the extent of participation of men and women in livestock management activities and gender disparities in different livestock activities. An exploratory research design was adopted for the study. Twenty farm women and twenty farm men were selected each from Bengaluru, Davangere and Belagavi district of Karnataka, thus a sample of 120 farmers were selected and interviewed. The result from the study revealed that, majority of farm women were involved in feeding the animals (90.00%) and cleaning the animal shed (88.33%), whereas majority of men farmers were involved in management of income generating activities like sale of milk (91.66%) and milch animal (90.00%). In case of decision making pattern, majority of women farmers were involved in health care of family (82.00%), but majority of men were involved in banking activities (92.00%). With respect to gender accessibility towards livestock activities, majority of men farmers were involved in cattle fair and krishimela (96.66%) and women farmers were involved in marketing livestock products (75.00%). In India, livestock production is largely in the hands of women. Besides considerable involvement and contribution of women, considerable gender inequalities do exist in Indian villages. Efforts are needed to increase the capacity of women to meet their strategic needs.

Key words: Gender, Livestock, Disparity, Karnataka.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the basis of Indian rural economy. Livestock production plays a dynamic and multipurpose role in the nation's agriculture system. The livestock sector alone contributes nearly 25.60% of value of output at current prices of the total value of output of agriculture. The overall contribution of livestock sector to total GDP (Gross Domestic

Production) is nearly 4.11% at current prices during 2012-13¹. India being agriculture based country, livestock sector is an integral component of it and livestock is generally considered a key asset for rural livelihoods. It offers advantages over other agricultural sectors and is an entry point for promoting gender balance in rural areas.

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In most societies, all household members have access to livestock and are involved in production and livestock production systems offer the potential for introducing a wide range of project activities to both genders². The cultures of rural India are largely gender stratified and male dominated, that exclude women. Gender discrimination, gender inequality and patriarchal domination go hand in hand. It dwells not only outside the household but also centrally within it. The essence of gender discrimination is unequal power relations. The social instruments for perpetuating such unequal power relations is restricting access to property, land, credit and inputs, technology and skill development opportunities, education, employment and training, social access and control over resources and assets, basic needs like food, sanitation and health care³. Gender analysis is the process of analyzing information in order to ensure development benefits and resources, effectively and equitably targeting to all members of the society. This is to successfully anticipate and avoid any negative impacts on development interventions which on gender relations². There are 75 million women engaged in dairying as against 15 million men and 20 million in animal husbandry as compared to 1.5 million men⁴. In recent years gender has picked attention never before has there been such momentum around the issue of gender parity on the global stage⁵. In spite of so much of attention still gender issues have remained unsolved and different governments though have formulated policies and strategies yet are struggling to alleviate these gender differences. The present study covers the role of men and women in livestock sector. Keeping the above facts in mind, present study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To explore the current status and understand their participation in livestock management activities.
2. To understand the gender disparities in different livestock activities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in Bengaluru, Davanagere and Belagavi districts of Karnataka. An exploratory research design

was adopted for the study. Total sample size was 120, comprising 60 farm men and 60 farm women, selected through proportionate random sampling. The respondent's perception was assessed through interview schedule concerning different dimensions of their work in animal husbandry and in routine household activities. The selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of a structured pre tested interview schedule and their responses were recorded. The data was collected by interview schedule and analysed for frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participation of men and women in livestock management activities

Participation of men and women in livestock management activities are presented in Table 1, revealed that majority of men farmers were involved in sale of milk (91.66%) followed by sale of milch animals (90.00%), purchase of animals (88.33%), taking animal for artificial insemination (86.66%), construction of animal shed (85.00%), getting the loans/credit from banks/ cooperatives (81.66%), taking animals for treatment/vaccination (76.66%), chaffing the fodder (75.00%), cleaning of animal sheds (65.00%), fodder collection (63.33%), taking the animal for pregnancy diagnosis (58.33%), milking the animal (55.00%), feeding the animals (45.00%), storage of feed and fodder and record maintenance (38.33%), washing and grooming the animal (31.66%), caring during parturition and watering the animals (28.33%), taking the animal for grazing (25.00%) and cleaning the milking equipment's (16.66%). The findings were partially similar to the Grover and Sethi⁸ who reported that men alone did the sale of milk and were more involved in income generating activity. Sheokand *et al.*⁹ found that with respect to purchase of animal men reported more than women, because women had lack of finance to purchase animal. The majority of women farmers were involved in feeding the animals (90.00%), followed by cleaning of the animal sheds (88.33%), watering the animals and cleaning the milking equipment's

(86.66%), washing and grooming of animals (85.00%), disposal of cow dung and caring of pregnant animals (76.66%), milking the animal (75.00%), sale of milk (71.66%), caring of new born calf (70.00%), pregnancy diagnosis and chaffing the fodder (68.33%), taking animals for treatment/vaccination (58.33%), fodder collection (53.33%), purchase of animals feed and fodder (48.33%), taking the animal for artificial insemination (40.00%), record maintenance (28.33%), sale of animal (20.00%), purchase of animals (18.33%), getting the loans/credit from banks/cooperatives (16.66%) and construction of animal sheds (13.33%). These findings are in partial agreement with the findings of Grover and Sethi⁸ who reported that majority of women farmers were involved in cleaning the animal shed (90.00%), followed by feeding the animals (55.00%).

Decision making pattern in livestock management activities

With respect to decision making pattern in livestock management activities are presented in Table 2. It revealed that majority of decision making by men farmers were regarding banking activities (92.00%), followed by selling of manure (88.33%), selling & buying of animal (83.33%), selection of animal (81.66%), investment decision on livestock enterprise (78.33%), selling of livestock products (73.33%), health care of family and family education (68.33%), animal health care (61.66%), animal Feeding (58.33%) and in spending money for family maintenance (53.33%). These findings were conformity with reports of Sharma, *et al.*¹⁰ who found that majority of male respondents took decisions regarding banking/economic activities (80%), selling and buying of animals (60.83%) and selling of manure (71.67%), because men had more control over financial resource and had much knowledge about economic activities than women. The majority of women farmers were involved in decision making of Health care of family (82.00%), followed by animal feeding (63.33%), animal health care (58.33%), family education (48.33%), selection of animal (43.33%), spending money

for family maintenance (38.33%), selling of livestock products (35.00%), investment decision on livestock enterprise (25.00%), selling of manure (20.00%), banking activities (16.66%), selling & buying of animal (13.33%). These findings are in partial agreement with the findings of Sharma, *et al.*¹⁰ who found that majority of women farmers were involved decision making regarding animal feeding activities such as feeding of concentrates (49.17%), feeding of green fodder (45.83%) and feeding of roughage (49.17%) and followed by health care of family, because women were mainly involved in household and farm activity. Their decision making regarding economic activity was comparatively very less.

Gender accessibility towards livestock activities

With regards to accessibility differences among men and women farmers towards livestock activities are presented in the Table 3. It revealed that men farmers had high (96.66%) access to participation in cattle fairs and krishi-melas followed by labour management activities (95.00%), access to information on A.H (93.33%), ability to make decisions & acceptance of decisions (91.66%), access to income of livestock production (90.00%), promotion of A.H activities through trainings (86.66%), marketing of livestock products (83.33%), access to non-institutional credit facilities (81.66%), access to knowledge on newer technologies (80.00%) and access to institutional credit facilities (51.66%). These findings are in partial agreement with Malik *et al.*⁶. In case of women farmers on ranking their level of accessibility towards livestock related activities, it was found that many of them (75.00%) had access to marketing of livestock products, followed by ability to make decisions & acceptance of decisions (70.00%), promotion of A.H activities through trainings (66.66%), access to income of livestock production (60.00%), access to knowledge on newer technologies (56.66%), access to information on A.H (51.66%), access to non-institutional credit facilities and labor management activities (31.66%), access to

participation in cattle fairs & krishimela (30.00%) and access to institutional credit facilities (20.00%).The study showed that in

villages, majority of women were involved in marketing livestock products and income generation activities⁷.

Table 1: Participation of men and women in livestock management activities

Sl No.	Activities	Men (N=60)		Women (N=60)	
		F	%	F	%
1	Purchase of animals	53	88.33	11	18.33
2	Purchase of animals feed and fodder	42	70.00	29	48.33
3	Construction of animal sheds	51	85.00	8	13.33
4	Taking the animal for grazing	15	25.00	39	65.00
5	Fodder collection	38	63.33	32	53.33
6	Chaffing the fodder	45	75.00	41	68.33
7	Storage of feed and fodder	23	38.33	33	55.00
8	Feeding the animals	27	45.00	54	90.00
9	Watering the animals	17	28.33	52	86.66
10	Cleaning of animal sheds	39	65.00	53	88.33
11	Washing and grooming of animals	19	31.66	51	85.00
12	Disposal of cow dung	22	36.33	46	76.66
13	Cleaning the milking equipments	10	16.66	52	86.66
14	Milking the animal	33	55.00	45	75.00
15	Sale of milk	55	91.66	43	71.66
16	Sale of milch animal	54	90.00	12	20.00
17	Taking the animal for A.I.	52	86.66	24	40.00
18	Detection of heat signs	28	46.66	37	61.66
19	Taking the animal for pregnancy diagnosis	35	58.33	41	68.33
20	Caring of pregnant animals	25	41.66	46	76.66
21	Caring during parturition	17	28.33	39	65.00
22	Caring of new born calf	21	35.00	42	70.00
23	Taking animals for treatment/vaccination	46	76.66	35	58.33
24	Getting the loans/credit from banks/ cooperatives	49	81.66	10	16.66
25	Record maintenance	23	38.33	17	28.33

Table 2: Decision making pattern in livestock management activities

Sl. No	Activities	Men (N=60)		Women (N=60)	
		F	%	F	%
1	Selection of animal	49	81.66	26	43.33
2	Animal housing	43	71.66	31	51.66
3	Animal feeding	35	58.33	38	63.33
4	Animal breeding	38	63.33	19	31.66
5	Animal health care	37	61.66	35	58.33
6	Health care of family	41	68.33	49	82.00
7	Family education	41	68.33	29	48.33
8	Spending money for family maintenance	32	53.33	23	38.33
9	Investment decision on livestock enterprise	47	78.33	15	25.00
10	Selling of livestock products	44	73.33	21	35.00
11	Selling & buying of animal	50	83.33	8	13.33
12	Selling of manure	53	88.33	12	20.00
13	Banking activities	55	92.00	10	16.66

Table 3: Gender accessibility towards livestock activities

Sl.No.	Variables	Men (N= 60)			Women (N=60)		
		F	%	Rank	F	%	Rank
1	Access to information on A H	56	93.33	III	31	51.66	VI
2	Access to participation in cattle fairs & krishimela	58	96.66	I	18	30.00	X
3	Marketing of livestock products	50	83.33	VIII	45	75.00	I
4	Access to knowledge on newer technologies	48	80.00	X	34	56.66	V
5	Access to fodder resource	53	88.33	VI	26	43.33	VIII
6	Access to income of livestock production	54	90.00	V	36	60.00	IV
7	Promotion of A H activities through trainings	52	86.66	VII	40	66.66	III
8	Ability to make decisions & acceptance of decisions	55	91.66	IV	42	70.00	II
9	Access to institutional credit facilities	31	51.66	XI	12	20.00	XI
10	Access to non-institutional credit facilities	49	81.66	IX	19	31.66	IX
11	Access to extension services	50	83.33	VIII	28	46.66	VII
12	Labor management activities	57	95.00	II	19	31.66	IX

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded from the result that participation of men and women in livestock management activities found that women farmers playing major role in livestock management activities whereas men farmers were involved in the economic activities. With regards to decision making in livestock activities both by men and women found that decision making by women was very low as compared to their male counterparts. Since India has patriarchal system, most of the decision making in family were taken by men only. It had found true in case of animal husbandry also. So the steps are needed to be taken to empower the women to take part in livestock sector. Training and awareness should be made on scientific method of feeding for women as they were more involved in the feeding activities, which intern increases the milk production. Need to strengthen the knowledge of women in clean milk production as majority of them are involved in cleaning activity, which increases the quality of milk and production of milk. Resources like cattle, shed and other subsidies should be given in the name of women to

empower them. They should be more incorporated in social decision making activities at the local government level. Also trainings especially focussed on personality building, confidence enhancement and entrepreneurship development should be given to women. This is possible only by revamping the animal husbandry sector in a gender friendly style.

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