

## Role of Women in Dairy Husbandry Practices in Uttarakhand

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### ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted in U.S. Nagar District of Uttarakhand to explore the role of women in dairy husbandry practices. The role of dairy farm women is not recognized as economic contribution and they remain as unpaid labour. This study emphasized the participation of women in dairy husbandry practices. A total of 180 farmers family who were actively involved in dairy animal husbandry practices. The data were collected through personal interview and subjected to analyzing the collected data. The findings of the study revealed that involvement of men and women in various animal husbandry practices clearly showed that the role of women in animal rearing was a predominant one.*

**Keywords:** Women, Animal, Dairy husbandry, Uttarakhand

### INTRODUCTION

Women play a significant and crucial role in animal husbandry practices and also play a key role in animal farm and home management. Women contribute nearly half of human capital in the country. They are still the most deprived and neglected segments of the society despite the constitutional guarantee for equal right and privileges for men and women. Farm women participated in different operations namely feeding, milking, and cleaning of dairy sheds and dairy animals. Rural women contribute a share of more than 75 percent in animal husbandry operations like feeding, milking and sale of milk (Upadhyay & Desai, 2011). Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry practices are performed by women besides fulfilling their responsibilities as home makers (Randhawa & Chandra, 1993). The

role of women in dairy husbandry practices is worthy enough to compare with their male counterparts. Women actively participate and take decision with regard to management of dairy animals, production and processing aspects of dairying. Thus a study was conducted on role of women in dairy animal husbandry with the objective to study their participation in feeding, cleaning and care of calf and various aspects of animal husbandry practices.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was based on the data obtained on animals, reared by 180 farmers' viz.: Pantnagar, Gadarapur, Bazpur, Kichha and Sitarganj in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand.

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Each cluster has villages and 36 farmers from each cluster were selected. Thus, the entire sample consisted of 180 respondents from six clusters of U.S. Nagar district of Uttarakhand. During the period, Jan 2017 to June 2017. The data of the present study were collected and then classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical tool like frequency and percentage were used for analyzing the collected data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role played by women in dairy farming is worthy enough to compare with their male counterparts. The survey was conducted with respect to the distribution of management operations like feeding, cleaning, grazing, sale of animals, care of young ones, breeding operation, assistance at the time of parturition, care of sick animals and sale of milk, spraying/dusting identified in animal husbandry practices. The findings of the study revealed that involvement of women in dairy husbandry practices is dominant and are presented in Table1. The results revealed that majority of the farm women 61.11 per cent performed feeding their animals at home followed by men 38.89 per cent. Majority of women 74.44 per cent were engaged in cleaning of shed. The cluster wise data found that the role of women in cleaning of shed was predominant in all five clusters as compared to the involvement of men. The results of the present study revealed that maximum percentage of men involved in sale of animals were seen in Pantnagar 61.11 per cent followed by Kichha 58.33 per cent. The results of present study revealed that overall 70 per cent women played role in care

of calves followed by 30 per cent men. The overall data shown in (Table1) revealed that the men performed major role in the breeding operations in 91.67 percent households whereas, only 8.33 per cent women played role in breeding operations like heat detection, insemination, parturition etc. The cluster wise data indicated that breeding operation were a men dominated activity in all five cluster .In most of the cases the men were involved in breeding operation whereas women were out for some other important household work. Majority of women 67.78 per cent actively involved in assistance at the time of parturition of animals followed by 32.22 per cent men. The overall data revealed that 61.11 per cent work related to care of sick animals was performed by women. The overall data also indicated that majority of women 58.33 per cent played a major role in spraying/ dusting for control of ecto-parasites followed by 41.67 per cent. The overall data revealed that majority of men 56.67 per cent were involved in sale of milk followed by women 43.33 per cent. The cluster wise data showed that men were predominantly active in sale of milk compared to women. Involvement of women was found more than men in different clusters in selected farmer's family for present study which indicated that women are playing an important role in animal husbandry practices and contributing in income generation with other family members. These findings were in close agreement with Chinnadurai et al. (2002), Gurjar and Pathodia (2004), Upadhyay and Desai (2011), Malik et al. (2015), and Gurjar (2004).

**Table 1: Involvement of human resources in different farm operations in different clusters of U.S. Nagar**

SI.	Particulars	Sitarganj	Gadarpur	Kichha	Bajpur	Pantnagar	Overall	X <sup>2</sup> value
		36	36	36	36	36	180	
1.	<b>Feeding operation</b>							
	Men	38.89(14)	44.44( 16)	36.12(13)	41.67(15)	33.33 (12)	38.89(70)	1.169
	Women	61.11 (22)	55.56 (20)	63.88(23)	58.33(21)	66.67 (24)	61.11(110)	
2.	<b>Cleaning of shed</b>							
	Men	27.78 (10)	22.22 (8)	33.33(12)	25 (9)	19.44 (7)	25.56(46)	2.161
	Women	72.22(26)	77.78 (28)	66.67(24)	75 (27)	80.56 (29)	74.44(134)	
3.	<b>Sale of animals</b>							
	Men	52.78 (19)	55.56(20)	58.33(21)	50 (18)	61.11(22)	55.56(100)	1.125
	Women	47.22 (17)	44.44(16)	41.67(15)	50 (18)	38.89(14)	44.44(80)	

4.	<b>Care of calves</b>							
	Men	30.56(11)	27.78(10)	36.11(13)	25 (9)	30.55 (11)	30 (54)	1.164
	Women	69.44(25)	72.22(26)	63.89(23)	75 (27)	69.45 (25)	70 (126)	
5.	<b>Breeding operation</b>							
	Men	86.12(31)	88.88 (32)	94.44(34)	91.67(33)	97.22(35)	91.67(165)	3.63
	Women	13.88(5)	11.12 (4)	5.56 (2)	8.33(3)	2.78(1)	8.33(15)	
6.	<b>Assistance at the time of parturition</b>							
	Men	33.33(12)	38.88(14)	27.78(10)	36.12(13)	25 (9)	32.22(58)	2.188
	Women	66.67(24)	61.12(22)	72.22(26)	63.88(23)	75 (27)	67.78(122)	
7.	<b>Care of sick animal</b>							
	Men	38.89(14)	44.44(16)	33.33(12)	41.67(15)	36.11(13)	38.89(70)	1.169
	Women	61.11(22)	55.56(20)	66.67(24)	58.33(21)	63.89(23)	61.11(110)	
8.	<b>Spraying/dusting</b>							
	Men	41.67(15)	36.12(13)	47.22(17)	38.88(14)	44.44(16)	41.67(75)	1.143
	Women	58.33(21)	63.88(23)	52.78(19)	61.12(22)	55.56(20)	58.33(105)	
9.	<b>Sale of milk</b>							
	Men	61.11(22)	55.56(20)	52.78(19)	55.56(20)	58.33(21)	56.67(102)	0.588
	Women	38.89(14)	44.44(16)	47.22(17)	44.44(16)	41.67(15)	43.33(78)	

Figure in parenthesis indicate frequency and \*Significant (P<0.05)

### CONCLUSION

The results related to involvement of men and women in various animal husbandry practices clearly showed that the role of women in animal rearing was a predominant one. Farm women significantly contributed in animal husbandry occupation. Participation was noticed more in the aspect of feeding, cleaning of shed, and care of calves, assistance at the time of parturition and care of sick animals. Less participation was observed in breeding operation and sale of milk. The study also implies that training programmes related to feeding management and scientific managerial practices should organize to motivate the rural farm women to acquire newer and easier scientific technologies and to enhance their productivity. The association between clusters and involvement of human resources in feeding, cleaning of shed, sale of animals, care of calves, breeding operation, assistance at the time of parturition and care of sick animals were non-significant.

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