



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND MILK COOPERATIVES IN KARNATAKA

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Abstract: Women play an important role in the dairy farming as they are the primary caretaker of the cattle. Milk cooperatives realized that Women participation in Dairy Cooperatives can help rural women in becoming self confident, self reliant and can run Dairy Cooperatives more efficiently at the same time it will create income and employment as result women became empowered through this milk cooperatives.

Keywords: women empowerment, milk cooperatives, income employment

Introduction

Live stock play very important in developing economies like India, for providing nutrition support, reducing rural poverty, inequity, ensuring food security for millions of rural households, and enhancing economic growth, particularly in rural areas. so women participation is increasing. Milk is produced daily and therefore can provide a regular cash income to milk farmers. Dairy production provides many non-marketed economic benefits, including manure for use on-farm as fuel or organic fertilizer (in several farming systems manure is the sole source of nutrients for crop production). The economic impact of the dairy industry in India is substantial. Most of the milk produced comes from buffaloes, cow milk is a close second, and goat milk a distant third. A large variety of dairy products are produced in India. Dairy imports into India are negligible and subject to tariffs. A society is a group of people involved in persistent social interaction, or a large social group sharing, caring the same spatial or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations. The important factor that gender statistics revealed by Census 2001, 532 million constituting 52 percent are males and 497 million constituting remaining 48 percent are females in the population. In sheer numbers, males outnumber females by 35 million in population that shows there was male population was more when compare female. Sex ratio is an important and useful indicator to assess relative excess of deficit of men or women in a given population at that point of time. Sex differentials can be due to difference in mortality rate, migration, sex ratio at birth and at times the undercounting of women at the time of population enumeration. It is commonly understood that males and females in the population balance each other in number. Little do they know sexes are

imbalanced in different population across the worlds in turn which will leads to different socio-economic problems in the country. . According to United Nation estimates, the world had 986 females against 1000 males in 2000. Except Indonesia and Japan, all other Asian countries have low sex ratios. However, most of the developed European countries have high sex ratio. Interestingly the sheer weight of the population of the four Asian countries, particularly China (944) and India (933) with low sex ratio contributes to the preponderance of males over female in world which is need of hour to solve the issues over this sex ratio problems by empowering women. Empowerment is the process women acquire the ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them Indian society comprises men and women. In earlier times, men were considered to be the leading members of a family. They were responsible for earning the livelihood and were the decision takers of the family. On the other hand, women were responsible for doing household work and upbringing of the children. So, the roles were mainly based on gender. There was no involvement of women in decision making. There has been an Increase of 181.96 Million Persons in Absolute Number of Population in India during 2001 -11. Growth Rate of Females (18.3%) is higher than Males (17.1%). Population of India grew by 17.7% during 2001 - 11, against 21.5% in the Previous decade so this data showing the importance given in the form women empowerment, if we assess our entire sector, then research says that women's issues are either focused on her reproductive role and her body or on her economic role as a worker. But even more importance needs to be given in empowering women. The present study is a modest attempt to make an appraisal of the women empowerment through milk cooperatives.

Objectives of the study.

The present study is focused on the following objectives

1. Highlight the impact of milk cooperatives in Social and economic life
2. Enlist milk cooperatives trends and issues and challenges for socio economic life of women.

Methodology

Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) of qualitative research methodology has been used in this research. The study was conducted among the different MCS Women involved in milk cooperative works. In state of Karnataka, India. Few milk cooperatives are selected, Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted among with general milk farmers to collect data regarding the women empowerment.

History of Indian dairy industry and women empowerment.

In 1848 AD when India got its first woman educator in the form of "Savitribai Phule" Women's empowerment as a concept was introduced at the UN's Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985, which defined it as a redistribution of social and economic powers and control of resources in favour of women. so this encouraged women empowerment in the modern society. Similarly, the history of dairy in the Indian subcontinent goes back roughly 8,000 years to the first domestication which is thought to have originated in India. By the beginning of the Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 3300 – c. 1300 BCE), zebu cattle had been fully domesticated and used for their milk. They are abundantly represented in the osteological remains and ceramics of the time. The water buffalo is also indigenous to South Asia. While wild populations were present long before domestication, they were domesticated and used for ploughing and milk by the time of the Indus Valley civilisation. Goats and sheep were also domesticated in the Indus valley, though it is uncertain if they were milked. In the Vedic period (c. 1500 – c. 500 BCE), milk was one of the primary elements of the typical diet Milk and milk products including clarified butter were consumed. The Vedas it refers to milk in a number of passages and contains over 700 references to cows, which are described with high regard and referred to as *agony* (not to be killed). Both the Vedas and the Pali canon, which are rich in descriptions of contemporary culture, contain numerous references to offerings of milk products and their processing. Milk, generally boiled cow milk, was used for preparing a mixture with grains, and gruel with parched barley. According to the Sutra literature, during the period c. 800 – c. 300 BCE, boiled rice with milk or curd continued to be a common food item. Cows used to be milked twice a day. The ones which were pregnant or undergoing their estrous cycle or nursing a calf of another cow were not milked. The preparation of payasa is also noted. *Madhuparka* – a mixture of honey with curds or ghee was used for welcoming guests. The preparation of a sweet with clarified butter as one of the ingredients is also mentioned. The Buddhist and Jain texts of the period also regard milk and its products important articles of food, with milk-rice being especially favoured. They mention preparations made from curds, butter and buttermilk. The milk of camels and goats were also in use, in addition to that of cows and buffaloes the history of this significance started significance in role of women empowerment.

An analysis role of milk cooperatives in women empowerment

Women play an important role in the dairy farming as they are the primary caretaker of the cattle. Milk cooperatives realized that Women participation in Dairy Cooperatives can help rural women in becoming self-confident, self-reliant and can run Dairy Cooperatives more efficiently. Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for Women was launched by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, as one of the measures to ensure empowerment of women in the traditional informal sector in the year 1986 and advocates the objective of extending training for upgradation of skills and sustainable employment for women through a variety of action-oriented projects which employ women in large numbers so in this connection. Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) initiated the STEP Programme in Karnataka from October 1997. Since then, KMF has organized 800 Women Dairy

Cooperative Societies (WDCS) in three Phases and in Phase IV converted 250 WDCS organized prior to the advent of STEP into STEP WDCS. STEP Scheme in Karnataka milk federation constitutes providing support services for organizing, nourishing the Cooperative Societies for sustainable functioning. The process is coupled with creating awareness campaigns for the member women concerning management of the societies, enhancement of milk production by providing Breeding, Feeding and Managerial services to the beneficiaries. The programme also addresses the gender mainstreaming, health orientation and exposure of the member women to the process of empowerment in economic, social, political and legal sectors. In addition to these in the year 2007, the Government of India has approved two more Phases – Phase V for organizing of 200 new WDCS and Phase VI for bringing the 200 existing WDCS into the fold of STEP. Thus 1450 WDCS are sanctioned by Government of India (till Jan'09 WDCS are 1189) at a total outlay of Rs.3974.64 lakh and has released up to January-2009 Rs.2686.10 lakh. Each WDCS gets a grant of approximately Rs.2.50 to 3.00 lakh for establishment, management and for granting interest-free loan for purchasing milch animals. Under the STEP programme intensive awareness programmes were also conducted to oversee animal health of a calf directly effects the reproductive capacity as well as the milk production. The initial months in a calf's life are of the utmost importance as it forms the foundation for a high milk-yielding animal. In the recent past, many measure and techniques were being adopted for productivity enhancement, but calf nutrition was often neglected. Adult animals that are well fed are still unable to yield high quantities of milk. This is because these animals were not well-fed during their crucial stages of growth, thus, resulting in poor reproductive capacity and poor milk production. The share of Government of India is 90% and implementing agency i.e., KMF and its Member Milk Unions share is 10% as result there is increase in the women participation in dairy business. WDCS is promotion of Self-Help Groups (SHG) by its Target Group Members. STEP Programme implementation proposes formation of at least one Self-Help Group. This will also create saving habit of women as a result entire society of family is empowered. In this way 4175 SHGs are formed with a savings of Rs.675.33 lakhs. The Nandini Self-Help Groups which are canters of empowerment are working for the socio-economic development of rural women so this is the way they will encourage economic inclusion by encouraging small saving at rural level. To create employment and eradicate poverty the national Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) supported by Government of Karnataka. The Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana launched in 1999 - focusing on self-employment programmes through self-mobilization of the poor into groups - had not succeeded in alleviating poverty. Hence, NRLM started 'Sanjeevini' focusing on three aspects - social inclusion which includes mobilization of the poor and building their institutions; financial inclusion which includes linking Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and banks, financial literacy and banking for those left out of the banking system; economic inclusion which includes livelihood promotion through milk cooperatives. As on 2016 there are 3550 WDCS functioning, in total 13500 MCS functioning with 23.6 lakh members an average 66LKPD milk procurement nearby about 38% MCS are exclusive of WDCS.

Findings of the study.

About 38% MCS are exclusive women participation in dairy development. Under STEP margin money of, Rs.5,000/- is provided as an interest-free loan to 15 members in Phase-V & 12 members in Phase-IV which remain as a revolving fund with the dairy cooperatives and enable the society to extend margin money benefit to rest of the Target Group Members of the WDCS on continuous basis. Thus Rs.60,000 to Rs.75,000/- is provided to each society. As result women participation has been increased. It is essential that farmers are aided with facilities which help them produce quality milk. Several initiatives sponsored by the State as well as Central Government have immensely assisted through training like STEP in this farmer to adopt productive activities which help to enhance not only the quantity, but quality of the milk as well therefore on yearly basis milk procurement is increasing. It is pertinent to mention, that at the back end, the quality of cattle, grade of feed, class of veterinary services, level of breed, and eminence of care go a long way in improving the age of the cattle, as well quantity and quality of milk which should surpass the designated standards for procurement there by income of an women increases and some what she became empowered in the society additionally children education, marriage, household articles which is resulted as women empowerment through milk cooperatives. KMF also Legal Literacy Programme is conducted at village level MCS with the assistance of eminent lady advocates who are taken to the village to impart awareness on rights of women in property, prevention of dowry, authorities to approach in case of domestic violence, harassment stopped and it will again enhance the status of women. This empowerment is to enhance women's bargaining power as members of the society by increasing their access and control over household and community resources. The important benefits when compared to other form of business the initial investment in dairy farming business is low in comparison to other Industry. It is environment-friendly. The demand for milk product is increasing rapidly. Cow dung is good organic manure it increases soil fertility. Cow dung can be used for the production of biogas, as result income in the hands of individual increases to spend.

Conclusion

Through milk cooperatives Women empowerment and achieving gender equality helps society ensure the sustainable development. This accepts environmental protection, social and economic development, including women's economic independence. In the context of women and development. . Race has an integral impact on women's empowerment in areas such as employment. Income and Employment can help create empowerment for women. Many scholars suggest that when we discuss women's empowerment, discussing the different barriers that underprivileged women face, which makes it more difficult for them to obtain empowerment in society, when talking about women's empowerment, many scholars suggest examining the social injustices on women in everyday organizational life that are influenced by race, class, and gender so this achieved from milk cooperative societies at various level. In particular, education empowers women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well-being, and chances of acquiring survival skills. Education informs others of preventing and containing a disease. Such education

empowers women to make choices that can improve their welfare, including marrying beyond childhood and having fewer children. Education can increase women's awareness of their rights, boost their self-esteem, and provide them the opportunity to assert their rights through the milk operatives these all-enhanced facilities have been are inculcated in rural women.

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