

Original Research Article

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## Socio-Economic Status and Problems Faced by Members of Dairy Co-operative Societies in Improving Socio-Economic Status

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### ABSTRACT

The agriculture, being only seasonal, the dairy industry provides off-season work, steady income and keeps the rural population employed throughout the year. The livestock sector has been playing an important role in the Indian economy and is an important subsector of Indian agriculture. Village milk cooperatives successfully supporting the socioeconomic status of village farmers after agriculture. Hence the present study was conducted in the Nanded district of Marathwada region. There are sixteen Talukas in Nanded district. Out of which, four talukas were chosen purposively. Nanded district consists of 20 dairy co-operative societies out of which 4 dairy co-operative societies were selected purposively. From each dairy co-operative society three villages were selected and each village ten members were selected. Thus a sample of 120 members from four dairy cooperative societies was selected. The respondents were interviewed with the help of a specially designed schedule. The ex-post facto research design was used for the present study. After membership of dairy co-operative societies, the majority 65.83 per cent members were having a medium level of socio-economic impact and majority of 82.50 per cent members were having a medium level of socio-economic status. Problems faced by the dairy members of dairy co-operative societies are a high cost of by reconstruction 91.66 %, Loan sanctioned by the bank was not adequate and timely 54.16 %, Absence of training facilities in dairy business 78.33 % and Non-availability of milk preservation facilities 92.50 %. The present study was used in a multistage sampling procedure. Collected data were classified, tabulated and analysed by using statistical methods like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

#### Keywords

Socio-economic impact, Socio-economic status, Problems and Dairy Co-operative Societies

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### Introduction

India is a densely populated country and maximum people live in villages. Majority of them are involved in agriculture. India produces only five per cent of the total quantity of milk produced in the world. This

amount is too inadequate to meet the country's demand. The supply of milk in some parts of India is higher than the local demand. On the other hand, the supply of milk in the rest of the country as well as in urban areas is much lower than the demand. Many dairy co-operatives have been formed

to meet local demand and to develop the dairy industry. Development of dairying in India is not only to increase milk production but also to provide assured employment to rural people. Dairying fits most appropriately in the country's development programme for increasing food production, rural employment and equitable distribution of income. In Punjab, dairy farming operates usually in the unorganized form. Milk producers sell their products to traders, private milk producers, and private dairies etc., which all act as middlemen and enjoy a huge share of profits. To check the exploitation of dairy farmers by these middlemen dairy co-operatives were started. The contribution of co-operatives India's dairy industry is enormous. These co-operatives are managed by farmers themselves according to the needs and demands of the community (Rao, 2004).

The Indian dairy farming is basically a smallholder production system, almost 70 per cent of milk producers in India are landless, small and marginal farmers characterized by milk production by the masses rather than mass milk production. More than 80 million households (about 73 per cent of rural households) keep some type of livestock. Small and marginal farmers who maintain one or two milch animals of low genetic potential for milk production primarily fed on crop residues and by-products and reared with the help of unemployed family members mostly female's members. It has been emphasized that dairy development provides subsidiary occupation to a large section of the society particularly to the people living in the drought-prone, hilly, tribal and other remote areas where crop production on its own may not be capable of engaging them fully. India with 271 Million cattle and buffaloes has 19 per cent of the world's total livestock. Maharashtra possess 230.51 lakh livestock out of total livestock, 160 lakh constitute local cows and 18.50 lakh constitute crossbred cows and 52.01 lakh constitute buffaloes.

Maharashtra state has achieved a spectacular success in dairy activities through the co-operative structure. In Maharashtra, there were 22 district dairy co-operative societies, 33 taluka dairy co-operatives, 13000 primary dairy co-operative societies and 20 lakh milk producers (Markenday, 2000).

The functioning of the dairy co-operative structure is also 3 tier system of Anand pattern, as at (1) village dairy Co-operative has the key function to collect the milk from village producers paying a fair price on the basis percentage of fats content and to provide micro-level inputs for enhancing milk production, (2) District milk unions collect the milk routes to dairies for processing and marketing and to provide macro-level input, (3) Federation of State-level which are making policy decisions and coordination milk unions in matters of procurement, processing and marketable surpluses, also Government implementing Scheme for providing the high yielding breeds above the age of 6 months to the members of co-operative societies. The place of dairy co-operative in the development of the dairy industry and thereby the agriculture the economy is fully recognized. Maharashtra has achieved a fairly good success in dairy activities through the co-operative structure which was not existing past by the instrument of socio-economic change is placed into hands of milk producers and consumers are encouraged.

The main objectives of this study to determine the socio-economic status of members of dairy co-operative societies. And also to find out the problems faced by the members of dairy co-operative societies status in improving socio-economic status.

### **Materials and Methods**

The present study was confined to the Nanded district of Maharashtra state. Nanded district

consists of 20 dairy co-operative societies out of which 4 dairy co-operative societies were selected purposively 1. Narshisahakaridugdhsantha Narshi, Tq. Naigaon. 2. Vasmatesahakaridugdhsantha Lohagaon, Tq. Biloli 3. Reliance sahakaridugdhsantha Khambalatq. Mudkhed 4. Ramling co-operative milk production societies Malegaon, Tq. Ardhapur.

From each dairy co-operative society three villages were selected and each village ten members were selected. Thus a sample of 120 members from four dairy cooperative societies was selected. Data collected from the members of dairy co-operative societies before and after membership of dairy co-operative societies through personal interview method with the help of a structured schedule specially designed for the purpose of the study. Collected data were classified, tabulated and analysed by using statistical methods like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. "Ex-Post-Facto" research the design was used for the present study.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Socio-economic status of members of dairy co-operative societies**

#### **Socio-economic impact**

The Socio-economic impact was measured in terms of change in socio-economic status. For that socio-economic status scale developed by Bawajir (1984) was used with slight modifications. Scale included occupation, education, family type, family size, annual income, land holding, social participation, members home material possession, crossbreed animals repaying loan etc.

Table 1 observed that before membership of dairy co-operative societies less than two-third(62.50 per cent) members were having a

'medium' level of socio-economic impact, one fifth (20.00 per cent) members were having 'low' socio-economic impact and less than one fifth (17.50 per cent)members were having a 'high' socio-economic impact. In case of after membership of dairy co-operative societies two-third (65.83 per cent) members were having a 'medium' level of socio-economic impact, 17.50 per cent members were having a 'high' socio-economic impact and 16.67 per cent members were having a 'low' socio-economic impact, respectively. Calculated 'Z' value showed that there was a significant difference in socioeconomic impact before and after membership of dairy co-operative societies.

#### **Level of Socio- economics status**

Table 2 found that before the membership of dairy co-operative societiesmajority 78.33 per cent members were having a 'medium' level of socio-economic status, 12.50 per cent members were having 'high' socio-economic status and 9.17 per cent members were having 'low' socio-economic status.In case of after membership of dairy co-operative societies. Majority 82.50 per cent members were having 'medium' level of socio-economic status, 9.17 per cent members were having 'high' socio-economic status and 8.33 per cent members were 'having' low socio-economic status, respectively.Findings of (Poonusamy and Ambasankar, 2006) and (Patel *et al.*, 2012).

#### **Problems faced by the members of dairy co-operative society's status in improving socio-economic status**

It can be observed from table 3 that problems faced by the dairy members which affects on their socio-economic status. Dairy members perceived problem faced as an important were non-availability of milk preservation facilities having rank first with 92.50 per cent high cost of reconstruction material having the second

rank with 91.66 per cent, while the other problems expressed were an as high cost of milch animal 87.50 per cent ranked third, the inadequate amount for the purchase of feed and fodder 79.16 per cent fourth rank, absence of training facilities in the dairy business 78.33 per cent fifth rank, lack of knowledge about milk processing 76.66 per cent sixth rank, no availability of labours for dairy occupation 74.16 per cent seventh rank, irregular payment of milk bills by societies 72.50 per cent rank eighth, irregular or no availability of medical facilities for dairy animals 69.16 per cent ninth rank, lack of knowledge about health management 67.50 per cent rank tenth, non-availability of green fodder throughout the year 62.50 per cent rank eleventh, sanction of loan by high interest rate 58.33 per cent rank twelfth, lack of scientific knowledge about feeds and fodder to be given to milch animals 57.50 per

cent rank thirteenth, while the other problems expressed were, non-availability of cross breed cows and pure breed buffaloes in local market 56.66 per cent rank fourteenth, loan sanctioned by the bank is not adequate and timely 54.16 per cent the fifteenth rank, collection of milk at only one time by dairy societies 53.33 per cent sixteenth rank, non-availability of artificial insemination facility in the village 45.83 per cent seventeenth rank, lack of road, transport facilities for providing milk in neighbouring village 44.16 per cent eighteenth rank, quality of feeds provided by dairy co-operative societies was not of good quality 25.00 per cent rank nineteenth and irregular collection of milk by the dairy societies 8.33 per cent twentieth rank, respectively. This finding is in consistent with findings of (Sawant and Siddiqui, 2003) and (Kharwadkar and Siddiqui, 2008).

**Table.1** Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic impact (N=120)

Sr. No.	Category	Before membership		After membership		'Z' Value
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Low	24	20.00	20	16.67	15.71**
2.	Medium	75	62.50	79	65.83	
3.	High	21	17.50	21	17.50	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>47.59</b>		<b>58.00</b>		
	<b>SD</b>	<b>4.44</b>		<b>5.73</b>		

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability

**Table.2** Distribution of respondents according to their level of socio- economic status (N=120)

Sr. No.	Category	Before membership		After membership		'Z' Value
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Low	11	9.17	10	8.33	17.97**
2.	Medium	94	78.33	99	82.50	
3.	High	15	12.50	11	9.17	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>	
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>32.7</b>		<b>44.90</b>		
	<b>SD</b>	<b>4.86</b>		<b>5.62</b>		

\*\* Significant d.f.0.01 level of probability

**Table.3** Problems faced by the members of dairy co-operative societies in improving socio-economic status N=120

Sr. No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	High cost of by reconstruction	110	91.66	
2.	High cost of milch animal	105	87.50	
3.	Inadequate amount for purchase of feed and fodder	95	79.16	
4.	Loan sanctioned by bank was not adequate and timely	65	54.16	
5.	Sanction of loan by high interest rate	70	58.33	
6.	Quality of feeds provided by dairy co-operative societies was not good quality	30	25.00	
7.	Non-availability of green fodder throughout the year	75	62.50	
8.	Irregular or non-availability of medical facilities for dairy animals	83	69.16	
9.	Non-availability of cross breed cows and pure breed buffaloes in local market	68	56.66	
10.	Non availability of artificial insemination facility in the village	55	45.83	
11.	Absence of training facilities in dairy business	94	78.33	
12.	Irregular collection of milk by the dairy societies	10	8.33	
13.	Non-availability of labours for dairy occupation	79	74.16	
14.	Lack of road, transport facilities for providing milk in neighbouring village	53	44.16	
15.	Irregular payment of milk bills by societies	87	72.50	
16.	Non-availability of milk preservation facilities	111	92.50	
17.	Collection of milk at only one time by dairy societies	64	53.33	
18.	Lack of knowledge about milk processing	92	76.66	
19.	Lack of scientific knowledge about feeds and fodder to be given to milch animals	69	57.50	
20.	Lack of knowledge about health management	81	67.50	

The present study was observed that majority of members belonged to medium socio-economic status followed by high socio-economic status and low socio-economic status, whereas before members of dairy co-operative societies, majority members belonged to medium socio-economic status followed by high socio-economic status to low socio-economic status, respectively. As regards their problems discussed in the present study towards the development of dairy enterprises the concerned agencies

should provide sufficient credit facilities, and incentives such as subsidy loans etc. with lower interest rates for purchase of feeds and fodder and milch animals in order to augment milk production and to improve their socio-economic status. Similarly, Animal Husbandry Department should also render better administrative services to the members in respect of artificial insemination, veterinary aids etc. Moreover, they should arrange extension training programmes like calf rallies, exhibition, meetings and milk

production competition so that farmers will become aware of the dairy business, thereby they will not face any major problems in future.

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