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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CONTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL FARMWOMEN IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

The Integrated Tribal Development Project, Dahod (ITDP Dahod) is one of the ITDP areas of Gujarat state which came in to existence on 17th June 1976 with the objectives to narrow the gap between the level of development of tribal and other areas of the State and to increase the income from agriculture & allied fields and thereby improve the quality of life of the tribal farmers. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other animal husbandry activities. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out the extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities. The result of the study revealed that most frequent activity performed by the tribal farmwomen was milking among all twenty animal husbandry activities. With reference to overall extent of contribution of the tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities, slightly more than three-fifth of the respondents were found in medium contribution group and about one-third of the respondents were found in high contribution group.

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INTRODUCTION

The tribal population of the country constitute 7.54 per cent of the total population. Gujarat is the fourth among the states with a sizable tribal population of 14.92 per cent. The Integrated Tribal Development Project, Dahod (ITDP Dahod) is one of the ITDP areas of Gujarat state which came in to existence on 17th June 1976 as a consequence of a planning process and the evolution of a new strategy and approach of integrated development of tribal areas and population in the country with the objectives to narrow the gap between the level of development of tribal and other areas of the State and to increase the income from agriculture & allied fields and thereby improve the quality of life of the tribal farmers. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other animal husbandry activities viz., milking, cleaning the cattle shed, feeding the animals, cutting

of dry and green fodder for animals, providing the water to animals/bringing the animals to water sources, carrying of green fodder from farm, grazing the animals, care of sick animals, making curd, whey, ghee and cheese etc., management of drought animals, marketing of milk and milk produces and purchase and sell of animals in the areas of ITDP Dahod. Thus, tribal farmwomen play an important role in animal husbandry activities which needs more reorganisation. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out the extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat in 2006. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly

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selected comprising total ten villages from five selected talukas of ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

Method of Data Collection

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was translated in Gujarati language and pre-tested in the field on a separate 20 non-sampled respondents. On the basis of pre-testing, necessary modifications were made in the final draft and used as the instrument for data collection.

Contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities

A list of different activities in which tribal farmwomen possibly participate in animal husbandry activities was prepared by reviewing past studies and literature. Addition, alteration, substitution and deduction of items related to animal husbandry activities were done after discussion with extension experts, field workers, officers of farmers training centres and technical officers of ITDP Dahod. Final list of items was used for present study.

least frequently” and not at all with the score value of 3, 2, 1 and 0, respectively. The weight age mean score was calculated to assign the rank to all the activities.

Measurement of overall extent of contribution

Overall extent of contribution of each tribal farmwoman was recorded in hours spent daily in various animal husbandry activities. With a view to categorize the overall extent of contribution of the tribal farmwomen into low, medium and high overall extent of contribution, mean and standard deviation were calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Contribution of tribal farmwomen in different animal husbandry activities

The data presented in Table 1 reveals the following:

As regards to carrying and cutting of green fodder from farm, majority of the respondents (79.00 per cent) participated most frequently whereas 5.50 per cent and 15.50 per cent participated frequently and least frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their extent of contribution in different animal husbandry activities

n = 200

| Sr. No. | Activities | Contribution | | | | Mean score | Rank |
|---------|--|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------|
| | | Most frequ-ently | Frequ- ently | Less frequ- ently | Not at all | | |
| 1 | Carrying of green fodder from farm | 158. (79.00) | 11 (5.50) | 31 (15.50) | 0 (0.00) | 2.63 | VI |
| 2 | Cutting of dry and green fodder for animals | 164 (82.00) | 13 (6.50) | 23 (11.50) | 0 (0.00) | 2.70 | IV |
| 3 | Grazing the animals | 153 (76.50) | 11 (5.50) | 36 (18.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2.58 | VII |
| 4 | Feeding the animals | 171 (85.50) | 14 (7.00) | 15 (7.50) | 0 (0.00) | 2.78 | III |
| 5 | Providing the water to animals/bringing the animals to water sources | 161 (80.50) | 12 (6.00) | 27 (13.50) | 0 (0.00) | 2.67 | V |
| 6 | Cleaning the cattle sheds and animals | 179 (89.50) | 15 (7.50) | 6 (3.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2.86 | II |
| 7 | Care of sick animals | 121 (60.50) | 23 (11.50) | 56 (28.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2.32 | VIII |
| 8 | Milking | 182 (91.00) | 16 (8.00) | 2 (1.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2.90 | I |
| 9 | Marketing of milk and milk produces | 71 (35.50) | 38 (19.00) | 91 (45.50) | 0 (0.00) | 1.90 | XI |
| 10 | Making curd, whey, ghee, cheese etc. | 87 (43.50) | 32 (16.00) | 81 (40.50) | 0 (0.00) | 2.03 | IX |
| 11 | Management of drought animals | 85 (42.50) | 31 (15.50) | 84 (42.00) | 0 (0.00) | 2.00 | X |
| 12 | Purchase and sell of animals | 51 (25.50) | 20 (10.00) | 107 (53.50) | 22 (11.00) | 1.5 | XII |

(Figures in parenthesis indicate parentages)

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their overall extent of contribution in different animal husbandry activities

n = 200

| Sr. No. | Categories | Frequency | Per cent |
|---------|---|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Low contribution (< 2.90 hrs.) | 04 | 2.00 |
| 2 | Medium contribution (2.90 to 5.66 hrs.) | 129 | 64.50 |
| 3 | High contribution (> 5.66 hrs.) | 67 | 33.50 |
| Total | | 200 | 100.00 |

Mean = 4.28 S.D. = 1.38

Measurement of extent of contribution

Extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities was measured in terms of their participation in various animal husbandry activities with the help of 4 point rating scale: “most frequently”, “frequently”,

As regards to cutting of dry and green fodder for animals, majority of the respondents (82.00 per cent) participated most frequently whereas 6.50 per cent and 11.50 per cent participated frequently and least frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to grazing the animals, more than three fourth (76.50 per cent) of the respondents had participated most

frequently. Whereas 18.00 per cent participated least frequently. While only 5.50 per cent of the respondents participated frequently. Not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to feeding the animals, majority (85.50 per cent) of the respondents participated most frequently whereas 7.50 per cent and 7.00 per cent participated least frequently and frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all.

As regards to task of providing the water to animals/bringing the animals to water source for drinking water, majority (80.50 per cent) of the respondents participated most frequently whereas 13.50 per cent and 6.00 per cent participated least frequently and frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to cleaning the cattle sheds and animals, majority (89.50 per cent) of the respondents had participated most frequently. Whereas 7.50 per cent participated frequently. While only 3.00 per cent of the respondents participated least frequently. Not a single respondent who had not participated at all.

As regards to care of sick animals, three fifth of the respondents (60.50 per cent) participated most frequently whereas 28.00 per cent and 11.50 per cent participated least frequently and frequently respectively. Not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to milking, majority of the respondents (91.00 per cent) participated most frequently whereas 8.00 per cent and 1.00 per cent participated frequently and least frequently. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to marketing of milk and milk products nearly half (45.50 per cent) of the respondents had participated least frequently. Whereas 35.50 per cent and 19.00 per cent participated most frequently and frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all.

As regards to activities of making curd, whey, ghee and cheese etc., nearly half of the respondents (43.50 per cent) had participated most frequently, whereas 40.50 per cent and 16.00 per cent participated least frequently and frequently respectively. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to management of drought animals, more than one third of the respondents (42.50 per cent) participated most frequently whereas 42.00 per cent and 15.50 per cent participated least frequently and frequently. While not a single respondent who had not participated at all. As regards to purchase and sell of animals, more than half (53.50 per cent) of the respondents had participated least frequently. Whereas 25.50 per cent and 10.00 per cent of respondents participated most frequently and frequently, respectively. While 11.00 per cent of the respondents had not participated at all.

Among all the twelve animal husbandry activities, milking had obtained highest mean score of 2.90 and secured first rank followed by cleaning the cattle shed and animals (2.86), feeding the animals (2.78) and cutting of dry and green fodder for animals (2.70), providing the water to animals/bringing the animals to water sources (2.67) and carrying of grain fodder from farm (2.63) were ranked second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. Rest six activities in order of priority were grazing the animals (2.58), care of sick animals (2.32), making curd, whey, ghee and cheese etc. (2.03), management of

drought animals (2.00), marketing of milk and milk produces (1.90) and purchase and sell of animals (1.50) were ranked seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelve, respectively.

The findings are in the line with the findings reported by Thakor and Patel (1994), Sheokhand et al. (1999), Patki et al. (2000), Hossain and Mishra (2002), Parte (2003) and Toppo (2005).

Overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in different animal husbandry activities

To know the overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in different animal husbandry activities the respondents were classified into three categories i.e. low contribution group, medium contribution group and high contribution group. The data regarding the same are presented in Table 2. The data presented in Table 2 reveal that slightly more than three fifth (64.50 per cent) of the respondents were in medium contribution group, followed by 33.50 per cent and 2.00 per cent in high and low contribution group, respectively. This finding is in the agreement with the findings of Chakravarty (1975) and Manjit Kaur and Shaguna Singla (2001).

Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that among all the twelve animal husbandry activities, milking had obtained highest mean score of 2.90 and secured first rank, followed by cleaning the cattle shed and animals (2.86), feeding the animals (2.78) and cutting of dry and green fodder for animals (2.70), providing the water to animals/bringing the animals to water sources (2.67) and carrying of grain fodder from farm (2.63) were ranked second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

Rest six activities in order of priority were grazing the animals (2.58), care of sick animals (2.32), making curd, whey, ghee and cheese etc. (2.03), management of drought animals (2.00), marketing of milk and milk produces (1.90) and purchase and sell of animals (1.50) were ranked seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth, respectively. It is also observed from the study that slightly more than three fifth (64.50 per cent) of the respondents were found in medium contribution group, followed by 33.50 per cent and 2.00 per cent in high and low contribution group, respectively.

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