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Stepwise analysis of Farmwomens participation toward decision making process with respect to animal husbandry practices in Junagadh district of Gujarat state

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Abstract
The present study was carried out farm women's participation toward decision making process with respect to animal husbandry practices. The study was carried out in Junagadh district of Gujarat State. The study revealed that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively. With regard stepwise analysis 69.79 per cent of total variation was found and explained by set of 19 independent variables together. Out of 19 variables, thirteen variables had significant contribution in decision making process.

Keywords: decision making, participation, education, social participation, economic motivation, innovativeness, extension participation, cosmopoliteness, scientific orientation and risk orientation

Introduction
India is a country of great tradition, where social customs and norms exert a firm grip over the behavioural patterns of individuals. Farm women constitute one of the most important and dynamic but deprived and long neglected sections of the Indian society. But the prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of women. The participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions is considered not only for ensuring political participation in the democratic process but also for realizing the development goals for women. It is a general fact that women are not lower than men in terms of intelligence, thinking, imagination, attitudes, courage and activities. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said "To awake people it is the woman who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves". After independence the constitution has given equal opportunities to men and women on paper yet women remain secondary to men.
Dairy farming in Gujarat has vital role in providing not only nutritional security but also generating income and employment to large segment of rural people of the state. The participation in decision making reflects the status of any individual which increases with the growing participation up to the final decision. Earlier, women were considered neither knowledgeable nor competent enough to participate in the decision making process. But the role and the status of women have been undergoing a continuous change in recent years. Women now play a vital role in decision making regarding householder resources which are specifically used by them.

Methodology
The present study was undertaken in Junagadh district which is operational area of Junagadh Agricultural University. In Junagadh district, six talukas were purposively selected where maximum number of dairy cooperative society existence. Two villages were purposively selected from each taluka having more number of members of dairy cooperative society. Total twelve villages were selected for the study. Twenty farm women were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. In all, 240 farm women were selected to serve as the respondents for the study. The data were collected in the light of the objectives of the study with the help of well structured pre tested Gujarati version interview schedule. The data so collected were coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the finding meaningful. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean score, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation, regression and step wise regression analysis.

Results and Discussion
Overall extent of participation of farm women in decision making in relation to animal husbandry practices.

Table 1: Distribution of farm women according to their extent of participation in decision making with respect to animal husbandry practices n=240

Sr. No.	Extent of participation	Frequency	Percent
1.	Low level participation (up to 20.99 score)	044	18.33
2.	Medium level participation (in between 21.00 to 23.62 score)	150	62.50
3.	High level participation (above 23.62 score)	046	19.17
Total		240	100.00

Mean =22.30 S.D. = 1.31

The data in Table 1 revealed that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively.

Multiple regression analysis between characteristics of farm women and the extent of participation in decision making process

The nineteen variables had shown significant association with decision making of farm women in animal husbandry practices in zero-order correlation analysis. These variables were considered for multiple regression analysis and the following regression model was obtained. The results obtained were shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of decision making with respect to animal husbandry practices n=240

Sr. No.	Name of the variable	Regression coefficient	S.E. of bi	't' value
1.	Age (X_1)	-0.1780	0.0333	-5.340**
2.	Education (X_2)	1.5501	0.4689	3.306**
3.	Experience in animal husbandry practices (X_3)	0.2244	0.0397	5.650**
4.	Occupation (X_4)	-0.4637	0.5589	-0.830
5.	Size of land holding (X_5)	0.0461	0.0361	1.277
6.	Annual income (X_6)	1.4009	6.6458	0.211
7.	Herd size (X_7)	-0.2746	0.1088	-2.523**
8.	Milk production (X_8)	0.1261	0.0167	7.574**
9.	Area under fodder crop (X_9)	-0.0676	0.1118	0.604
10.	Type of family (X_{10})	2.0593	0.8282	2.487**
11.	Size of family (X_{11})	-0.2992	0.1605	-1.863*
12.	Social participation (X_{12})	1.1706	0.4497	2.603**
13.	Mass media exposure (X_{13})	0.2432	0.0986	2.465**
14.	Extension participation (X_{14})	0.0290	0.0409	0.708
15.	Cosmopoliteness (X_{15})	-0.0259	0.0582	-0.445
16.	Scientific orientation (X_{16})	0.1757	0.0429	4.094**
17.	Risk orientation (X_{17})	0.1089	0.0484	2.250**
18.	Economic motivation (X_{18})	0.1345	0.0451	2.983**
19.	Innovative proneness (X_{19})	0.0714	0.0379	1.886*

*Significant at 0.05 level (table value= $\pm$1.46)
**Significant at 0.01 level (table value= $\pm$1.91)
$R^2 = 0.6979$

Data showing in the Table 2 indicated that 69.79 per cent of total variation was found and explained by set of 19 independent variables together. Out of 19 variables, thirteen variables had significant contribution in decision making process. The variable milk production explains highest variation (7.574) as shown in table. So it indicates that milk production plays most important role towards the decision making of farm women in respect to animal husbandry practices.

Stepwise multiple regression analysis

In stepwise regression analysis, all the 19 independent variables were considered and the results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Stepwise multiple regression analysis of decision making with respect to animal husbandry practices n=240

Sr.no.	Independent variables	Partial regression coefficient	S.E. of (bi)	't' value	'f' value	Standard partial regression coefficient	Rank
1.	Milk production (X_8)	0.1813	0.0153	0.0000	140.595**	0.3466	I
2.	Scientific orientation (X_{16})	0.3269	0.0491	0.0000	44.348**	0.1576	II
3.	Education (X_2)	2.4754	0.4797	0.0000	26.628**	0.1014	IV
4.	Economic motivation (X_{18})	0.2459	0.0481	0.0000	26.104**	0.1000	V
5.	Experience in animal husbandry practices (X_3)	0.1572	0.0362	0.00002	18.826**	0.0745	VI
6.	Age (X_1)	-0.1850	0.0344	0.0000	28.976**	0.1106	III
7.	Herd size (X_7)	-0.2707	0.1112	0.01566	5.928**	0.0249	VII
8.	Social participation (X_{12})	1.0605	0.4514	0.01967	5.518**	0.0233	VIII
9.	Risk orientation (X_{17})	0.1058	0.0479	0.02823	4.875**	0.0208	X
10.	Mass media exposure (X_{13})	0.2186	0.0982	0.02693	4.959**	0.0212	IX
11.	Innovative proneness (X_{19})	0.0762	0.0377	0.04438	4.087**	0.0176	XI
12.	Type of family (X_{10})	1.3755	0.7378	0.6356	3.476**	0.0151	XIII
13.	Size of family (X_{11})	-0.3014	0.1561	0.5484	3.726**	0.0162	XII

-CONSTANAT = 105.0323, Multiple R = 0.8354
*Significant at 0.05 level (table value=1.46)
**Significant at 0.01 level (table value=1.91)
$R^2 = 0.6937$

It is clear form Table 3 that thirteen variables viz., milk production, scientific orientation, education, economic motivation, experience in animal husbandry, age, herd size, social participation, risk orientation, mass media exposure, innovative proneness, type of family and size of family put together explained as much 69.37 per cent of total variation in the decision making with respect to animal husbandry practices.

Conclusion

The finding of the study shows that slightly more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the farm women had medium level participation. Whereas, 19.17 and 18.33 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of participation in decision making process, respectively. With view to multiple regressions, out of 19 variables, thirteen variables had significant contribution in decision making process. The variable milk production explains highest variation (7.574). So it indicates that milk production plays most important role towards the decision making of farm women in respect to animal husbandry practices. With regard stepwise analysis 69.79 per cent of total variation was found and explained by set of 19 independent variables together. Out of 19 variables, thirteen variables had significant contribution in decision making process.

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