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## Time utilisation pattern on dairy management practices by women in Mumbai metropolitan

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### Abstract

This study was carried out to ascertain the time utilization pattern on dairy management practices by women involved in small scale dairy farming. Research area selected was Vasai block of Mumbai metropolitan from where a sample size of 150 respondents were selected. Data was collected with the help of well-structured and pretested interview schedule. Majority of the women respondents were of middle aged, educated, married with nuclear family of small size, having a marginal land with agricultural farming as their main occupation with high annual income group with small livestock possession & spent on an average half an hour to an hour for various dairy activities like feeding, watering and other managerial practices.

**Keywords:** Women, dairy, metropolitan, management, time

### Introduction

The women folk can easily be considered as backbone of any nation and better half of the men in almost all spheres of community development, of which India is not an exception. Rural women, who constitute about half of total rural population, play an active role in all spheres of economic life and contribute richly towards national income. (Subrahmanyeswari *et al.* 2007) [8]. Of the major rural enterprises, dairy enterprise has been regarded as an important instrument of economic and social change to supplement the income and employment to the rural sector in general and rural women in particular. Cattle and buffaloes are reared in almost every household as a source of income, nutritional subsistence and as farm power in the field. Participation of women in this enterprise is very high (Tripathi and Arya, 1995) [11]. Livestock provides stability to family income especially in arid and semiarid regions of the country. Livestock plays an important & vital role in providing nutritive food to families both in rural & urban areas. The nature & extent of participation, is largely depending on geographical area, caste, community & type of livestock reared. Most of the work involving livestock management is considered the traditional responsibility of women. Research conducted by reveals that there is no single operation in livestock sector that is exclusively performed by men whereas some activities were found to be the exclusive domain of women (Jain and Verma 1992a, 1992b) [4, 5]. These activities widely ranges from care of animals, grazing, fodder collection, cleaning of animal sheds, processing of milk. There is a great scope for women to participate in dairy production, because it creates more income as well as employment to their family.

### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted from the Vasai block of Mumbai metropolitan region. The place was purposively selected owing to the fact that it is having small scale dairy farms in large extent supplying milk to Mumbai on large scale. The list of villages having small scale dairy farms was obtained from Panchayat Samiti office of Vasai and then out of them 15 villages were selected by using stratified random sampling method. Ten women respondents rearing more than 5 but less than 20 dairy animals were selected randomly from each village. Thus in total 150 respondents were selected for the study. Personal interview method was used for collecting the information from the respondents. A total of 11 independent variables *viz.*

Age, education, marital status, family size, family type, occupation, land holding, livestock possession, annual income, social participation, time utilization pattern were selected for the study.

## Results and Discussion

### Age

Table No. 1 indicates that a majority of the respondents (69.33%) belonged to the middle age group. This was followed by 17.34% belonging to young age category and the remaining 13.33% respondents were observed in the old age category. Major percentage of respondents were in middle aged category because this respondents thinks that dairy farming can be a subsidiary occupation for agricultural farming & also dairy farming can become another source of income for family.

### Education

The findings in the table showed that more or less equal distribution was found in middle education categories & illiterate categories with 40% and 38.67% respectively. Only 11.33% of the respondents had high school and above education. A very meager portion of respondents (4.67 per cent) were from the primary education categories. Also the respondents who could read and read and write have been found with very less percentage of 4 & 1.33% respectively. This might be due to the reason that women need to look after the home affairs and traditionally they were not encouraged to go for higher education. A similar finding was reported by Rathod (2009) [7].

### Marital Status

Table showed that a majority of 96% of respondents were married where as 2.67 and 1.33% belonged to the widow & unmarried category. This is in line with the findings of Bharathi (2006) [1].

### Family Size

Majority of families (73.33%) belonged to small family size of 2-5 members. About 22% of the respondents belonged to medium family size & only 4.67% of respondents belonged to large family size.

### Family Type

An analysis of family structure showed that 88.67% of respondents had nuclear family and 11.33% had joint

families. These findings are in line with the findings reported by Bhopale and Alka (1998) [2].

### Occupation

It was observed that majority of the respondents (78.67%) had agriculture as main and dairy as their subsidiary venture. The result further revealed that 17.33% of the respondents were having dairy as their main occupation whereas only 2% respondents were either serving in different field and farm labourers. It was interesting to note that majority of the respondents had dairy as their major subsidiary source of income generation.

### Land Holding

Table revealed that majority of the respondents (68.67%) were marginal farmers having less than 2.5 acres of land. The distribution of land holdings were in the order 14, 12 and 5.33% as landless, small and big farmers respectively. This is in line with the findings of Devaki (1999) [3].

### Livestock Possession

The study indicated that 65.33% respondents had maintained small livestock units followed by medium (24.67%) and large (10%) farms.

### Annual Income

The present study indicated that 20% of the respondents belonged to families earning between Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 60,000 annually followed by 36% from the Rs. 60,001 to Rs. 85,299 rupees group. Further 44% of the respondents had their annual income more than 85,300. Similar findings had been reported by Devi and Reddy (1984) [6].

### Social Participation

The table indicated that a higher percentage (94.67%) belonged to the low level participation category. This has followed by 4.67% of respondents with medium level of social participation and only 0.66% of the respondents belonged to the high participation level. The respondents are too much engaged in household & dairy farm schedule. So they didn't get much more time to participate in social activities. While the dairy activities require cleaning the sheds, making dung cakes, collecting fodder, feeding & watering of animals which had to be carried out only by women. Thus women hardly finds any time and this might be the probable reason for their low participation. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Surve (2007) [10].

**Table 1:** Distribution of the women respondents engaged in dairy farming

Sr. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	<b>Age</b>		
	Young (25-38)	26	17.34
	Middle (39-60)	104	69.33
	Old (61 - 72)	20	13.33
2	<b>Education</b>		
	Illiterate	58	38.67
	Can read	6	4
	Can read and write	2	1.33
	Primary	6	4.67
	Middle	60	40
	High School and above	17	11.33
3	<b>Marital status</b>		
	Married	144	96

	Unmarried	2	1.33
	Widow	4	2.67
4	<b>Family Size</b>		
	Small (2-5 members)	110	73.33
	Medium (6-8)	33	22
	Large (9-11)	7	4.67
5	<b>Family Type</b>		
	Nuclear	133	88.67
	Joint	17	11.33
6	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Labour	03	02
	Agriculture + dairy	118	78.67
	Dairy	26	17.33
	Service	03	02
7	<b>Land holding</b>		
	Landless (0 acres)	21	14
	Marginal (0.1- 2.5 acres)	103	68.67
	Small (2.6 - 5 acres)	18	12
	Large (above 5 acres)	8	5.33
8	<b>Livestock Possession</b>		
	Small (0.2 - 3)	98	65.33
	Medium (3.1 - 6.4)	37	24.67
	Large (6.5 - 22)	15	10
9	<b>Annual Income</b>		
	Low (45,000 - 60,000)	30	20
	Medium (60,001 - 85,299)	54	36
	High (Above 85,300)	66	44
10	<b>Social Participation</b>		
	Low	142	94.67
	Medium	7	4.67
	High	1	0.66

### Time Utilization Pattern

The overall time spent on dairy monumental activities was studied in the range of minutes average percentage were calculated in that range. A critical look at the data presented in the table No. 2 revealed that maximum of 44.47% women spent their time in the range of 31-60 minutes while on an average, 33.04% women spent their time in the range of 1-30 minutes and 22.47% women spent their time in the range of more than 60 minutes on dairy management activities. Activities wise results indicated that 98% of the respondents spent an average of 30 minutes time on breeding practices, particularly in identification of animals in heat. For breeding

practices they preferred to call a veterinarian at their own places by making a single phone call. 77.33% spent an average of 30 minutes time on processing & marketing. Further when 31-60 minutes were considered 90% of the respondents spend their time in milking followed by 86% in animal health care practices. More than half of the respondents were engaged in maintaining hygiene at the farm and in giving water to the animal. When more than an hour (more than 60 minutes) was considered, 83.33% spent for feeding, 43.33% for hygiene and 14% for processing & marketing. Only 1.33% of respondents were engaged in watering & milking activity.

**Table 2:** Time spent on dairy management activities.

Sr. No	Particulars	1-30 minutes		31-60 minutes		More than 60 minutes	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Feeding	3	2	22	14.66	125	83.33
2	Watering	60	40	88	58.66	2	1.33
3	Milking	13	8.66	135	90	2	1.33
4	Hygiene	7	4.66	78	52	65	43.33
5	Breeding	147	98	2	1.33	1	0.68
6	Animal Health care	1	0.66	129	86	20	13.33
7	Processing & Marketing	116	77.33	13	8.66	21	14
	Total Average	49.57	33.04	66.71	44.47	33.71	22.49

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