

## **Constraints Faced by Women Self Help Groups Involved in Dairy Farming from Hingoli District of Maharashtra**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present investigation was carried out to ascertain the perceived constraints faced by women Self Help Groups. The study was carried out in Hingoli, Aundha and Basmat *talukas* of Hingoli district of Maharashtra with a sample size of 120 respondents with the help of well structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The data collected were subjected to statistical analysis and results were interpreted. High cost of feed, high cost of medicines / treatment, non-availability of green fodder, lack of technical guidance, less number of doctors, receiving low price of milk, high cost of high yielding breeds, non-availability of credit, lack of training programmes, higher incidences of diseases, lack of knowledge regarding vaccination and de-worming schedule, inadequate knowledge about feeding, delay in payments from dairy co-operative societies, low conception rate through A.I., lack of preservation facilities for their milk, inadequate knowledge of diseases and their prevention and control, low productivity of local breeds, distant location of milk collection centers were the major constraints faced by respondents in dairy farming.

**Keywords:** Self-Help Groups, Constraints, Dairy Co-operative, Farm Women.

### **INTRODUCTION**

A large section of rural population in the country remains locked in poverty despite of relatively high GDP growth rate. Rural poverty in India is multi-dimensional i.e. resource-poor, majority of belongs to the socially marginalized groups with limited skill base and are engaged in low productivity occupations. Poverty denies the poor households access to wide range of market and services, including credit which intensifies their poverty and affects their food security, health and nutritional status. Major reform take place in 1999 when Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) transformed into *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana* (SGSY) in which self employment through organizing poor into SHG emerged as new strategy of poverty alleviation. The study was mainly confined to women who have undertaken various activities in align with animal husbandry practices as one of the subsidiary enterprises, which is providing additional income, apart from employment to the rural people, while playing a vital role in improving their socio-economic conditions and providing ample opportunities to improve their standard of living by studying the constraints faced by the women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Hingoli District of Maharashtra.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Hingoli Aundha and Basmat blocks of Hingoli district in Maharashtra. Random sampling method was used for selecting the villages from these *talukas* and thus in total twelve villages were selected, from each selected villages 10 dairy farmers were selected by quota sampling method. Thus, in total 120 respondents were selected for the study. The collected data was codified, tabulated, classified and further categorized for the systematic statistical analysis. The statistical techniques such as mean, frequency and percentage were carried out and the results were interpreted for meaningful conclusions. Constraints were measured on the basis of frequency and percentage and categorized into feeding, breeding, health care, marketing and miscellaneous dimensions.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Dairy farmers involved in livestock farming encounter numerous constraints in their day to day affairs. The important constraints expressed by the respondents are presented in table no.1

It could be ascertained from table 1 that high cost of feed (94.66 %) was the first and major constraints faced by dairy women due to less availability of resources and inequitable distribution of lands among farm women. Similar findings were reported by Chaudhari (2010).

High cost of medicine / treatment (87.50 %) was perceived as second most important constraints in the dairy farming due to poor economic condition prevails in area as annual income and saving habit up to medium level persist among farm women.

**Table 1: Constraints faced by women SHGs involved in dairy farming**

S.N.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
<b>1.</b>	<b>Feeding</b>			
A	High cost of feed.	113	94.66	I
B	Non-availability of green fodder.	102	85.00	III
C	Inadequate knowledge about feeding.	54	45.00	XII
<b>2.</b>	<b>Breeding</b>			
A	Low conception rate through A.I. / distant A.I. centres.	48	40.00	XIV
B	High cost of high yielding breeds.	80	66.66	VII
C	Low productivity of local breeds.	32	26.66	XVII
<b>3.</b>	<b>Health care</b>			
A	High cost of medicine / treatment / unavailability of medicines.	105	87.50	II
B	Less number of veterinarians Lack of knowledge regarding vaccination & de-worming schedule.	96	80.00	V
C	Higher incidences of diseases.	63	53.33	XI
D	Higher incidences of diseases.	69	57.50	X
E	Inadequate knowledge of disease, their prevention & control.	38	31.66	XVI
<b>4.</b>	<b>Marketing services</b>			
A	Low price of milk.	82	68.33	VI
B	Delay in payment from dairy co-operatives.	50	41.66	XIII
C	Distant location of milk collection centres.	24	20.00	XVIII
<b>5.</b>	<b>Others</b>			
A	Lack of training programmes.	74	61.66	IX
B	Lack of technical guidance.	98	81.66	IV
C	Non-availability of credits / loans.	75	63.11	VIII
D	Lack of preservation facilities for their milk.	40	33.33	XV

Non-availability of green fodder (85%) was the third important constraints came to notice by dairy farm women due to shortage of land and water resources in the area. This findings were similar with Patel *et al.* (2012).

Lack of technical guidance (81.66%) was the fourth constraints perceived by the farm women due to low literacy level among dairy women, inadequacy of technical staff in village area, poor contact with extension personnel were the major factor contributed to low technical guidance.

Less number of veterinarians / doctors (80%) was observed as fifth constraints by dairy farm women,

inadequacy of staff and poor quality physical facilities available by which the veterinarians were reluctant to work in area.

Receiving low price of milk (68.33%) was perceived as sixth constraints by dairy farm women due to poor marketing network and lack of storage facilities. High cost of high yielding breeds (66.66%) was observed seventh constraints faced by farm women.

Non-availability of credits / loans (63.11%) came to notice as eighth constraints by dairy women due to poor access to banking facilities and high rate of interest on loans which would be difficult to repay within stipulated period. Similar results were recorded by Rathod (2010).

Lack of training programmes was observed ninth constraints by farm women as there was no availability of trained extension worker and poor delivery of extension services. Higher incidences of diseases came to notice as tenth constraints among dairy farm women.

Lack of knowledge regarding vaccination and de-worming schedule, inadequate knowledge about feeding, delay in payments from dairy co-operative societies, low conception rate through A.I., lack of preservation facilities for their milk, inadequate knowledge of disease their preservation and control, low productivity of local breeds, distant location of milk collection centers were the major constraints perceived by the respondents in dairy farming. Similar findings have been identified by Chaudhari (2008) and Patil *et al.*(2009).

## CONCLUSION

Majority of the constraints are virtue of poor economic condition, illiteracy among the respondents and less availability of resources to sustain the dairy farming. To address this, there should be priority to make microfinance as effective instrument through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which is maintained by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), creating and enhancing production skills and securing appreciable and sustained increase in income and employment.

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