

Study of Socio-Personal Characteristics of Dairy Farmers in Daund Tahsil, Pune District

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Abstract: *The present study examines the socio-personal characteristics of dairy farmers in Daund Tahsil of Pune District, Maharashtra. Key variables such as age, education, family size, landholding, type of housing, irrigation facilities, capital formation, income, milk production, consumption, and knowledge level were analyzed to understand their influence on dairy farming practices. The study reveals that middle-aged farmers dominate dairy activities due to their experience and willingness for long-term investment, whereas youth participation is comparatively low. Education and irrigation facilities significantly enhance productivity and income. Joint family systems support dairy farming through labor availability. However, limited technical knowledge and low awareness of modern practices restrict the growth potential of dairy farming in the region. The study highlights the need for training programs, financial support, and awareness initiatives to improve dairy productivity and sustainability.*

Keywords: Dairy Farming, Socio-Personal Characteristics, Irrigation, Income, Milk Production, Knowledge

I. INTRODUCTION

Dairy farming is an important subsidiary occupation in rural India, contributing significantly to income generation, employment, and nutritional security. In Maharashtra, particularly in Pune district, dairy farming plays a complementary role to agriculture. The socio-personal characteristics of farmers, such as age, education, family structure, and landholding, greatly influence their adoption of improved dairy practices and overall productivity.

Understanding these characteristics helps in identifying constraints and opportunities for the development of the dairy sector. Daund Tahsil presents a diverse agricultural landscape with variations in irrigation facilities, landholding patterns, and socio-economic conditions, making it an ideal area for such a study.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on field observations and primary data collected from dairy farmers in Daund Tahsil. The respondents were categorized based on various socio-personal variables such as age, education, family size, landholding, and income. Comparative analysis was carried out between irrigated and non-irrigated regions to understand the variations in dairy practices and productivity.



III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Age Distribution

The study indicates that farmers in the age group of 40–60 years are more actively involved in dairy farming due to their experience and patience for long-term returns. Younger farmers (21–40 years) are energetic but less inclined toward dairy farming due to low profitability and delayed returns.

3.2 Educational Status

Education plays a crucial role in improving dairy practices. Farmers in irrigated regions generally possess secondary or higher education, enabling better management of herd health, feeding practices, and marketing systems. However, non-irrigated regions show lower educational attainment.

3.3 Family Size and Structure

Joint families provide sufficient labor for dairy operations, making them more suitable for this activity. Nuclear families face labor shortages and show less involvement in dairy farming.

3.4 Landholding Pattern

Most farmers possess small and marginal landholdings. Irrigated regions have relatively larger landholdings compared to non-irrigated areas. Land size influences fodder availability and overall dairy productivity.

3.5 Type of Stables

Modern stables with proper ventilation and hygiene contribute to higher milk yield and better animal health, whereas traditional stables limit productivity.

3.6 Irrigation Facilities

Irrigation significantly enhances agricultural and dairy productivity by ensuring fodder availability. Farmers with access to irrigation demonstrate better economic outcomes.

3.7 Capital Formation

Initial investment is essential for establishing dairy units. Small and medium farmers often face financial constraints, limiting expansion opportunities.

3.8 Annual Income

A majority of farmers fall under the low-income category. Farmers in irrigated regions earn comparatively higher incomes than those in non-irrigated regions.

3.9 Milk Production and Consumption

Milk production is directly related to herd size and the number of milch animals. The study shows a steady increase in milk production over the years. Consumption is minimal as most of the milk is marketed.

3.10 Knowledge Level

The study reveals a lack of technical knowledge among farmers, especially youth. Limited awareness of modern dairy practices and government schemes restricts the growth of dairy farming.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study concludes that socio-personal characteristics significantly influence dairy farming practices in Daund Tahsil. Age, education, irrigation, and landholding are key determinants of productivity and income. There is a need to



enhance farmer awareness through training programs, extension services, and financial support mechanisms. Encouraging youth participation and improving access to modern technologies can lead to sustainable development of the dairy sector.

V. DISCUSSION

The findings of the study align with previous research indicating that education, irrigation, and experience are critical factors in determining dairy productivity. The dominance of middle-aged farmers suggests the importance of experience in managing dairy enterprises. However, the low participation of youth highlights a need for policy interventions to make dairy farming more attractive and profitable.

The disparity between irrigated and non-irrigated regions emphasizes the role of infrastructure in rural development. Furthermore, the lack of technical knowledge calls for strengthening extension services and farmer training programs.

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