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Cost economics trends in milk production of variable socio economic households in women cooperative society

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Abstract
The study on the cost economics trends in milk production of variable socio economic groups of Mulakanoor Women cooperative society showed that the average cost of milk production by cooperative is lower when compared to the non-member. The different socioeconomic variables had much impact on cost of milk production with in the member and non-members. The cost of milk production (Rs/Lt) in small farming group (20.44), other caste (18.70), in old age group (18.70) with larger family (18.28) processing graduation and above educational status (12.80) and with animal holdings of more than four animal (14.25) was lower in the members group. Whereas in non-members land less dairy farmer (22.71), scheduled caste (21.82), old age (20.10), medium family (22.09), graduate and above(9.7)and more than four animal holding women dairy farmers showing lower cost of milk production compared to other category.

Keywords: Cost of milk production, women dairy cooperative

1. Introduction
Almost 70 percent, cost of milk production depends up on the cost of feed and feed material and its judicious utilization. There are several other socio economic factors which effects the cost of milk production which are governed by land holding, social status, age, family size, education, animal holding and scientific utilization of resources available. The study was under taken at Mulukanoor Women Dairy Cooperative involving 2000 member and 850 Non-members to analyze the cost economics trends depending on variables.

2. Methodology
The study was under taken at Mulukanoor Women Cooperative Dairy Societies of Karimnagar district Telangana State. Two thousand eight hundred fifty co-operative and non cooperative member producers were selected randomly for the investigation. The basic tool used for the study was Structured Interview Schedule. The data was collected through personal interviews of the individuals, so as to get valid and complete responses. Personal interview technique was used for collection of data. The data collected by interviewed respondents were coded, classified and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful subjected to standard statistical procedures of Snedecor and Cochran (2004) [8]. The cost of milk production was calculated by taking into the consideration of all the inputs such as cost of feed & fodder, medicine, labour cost and insurance cost prevailing in the milk shed area.

3. Results and Discussion
Results of the study revealed that, cost of milk production per liter was highest in marginal land holder Rs.21.19 followed by landless (Rs.20.44) and small farmers (Rs.21.19) in member group land holding categories. Whereas as cost of milk production in member group was highest among the small farmers Rs.26.80, followed by marginal farmers Rs.22.70. The differences in cost of milk production between the member and nonmembers was highest among the small farmers and the cost of milk production in nonmember was more than that of member, this shows that resource utilization among the member was optimum in compared to non member and since the availability of agricultural land and its by product utilization in the small farmers was more which cost Rs.6.36 highest among the other group. The studies are in comparable with the studies of Ashlatha *et.al*. (2004) [1].

In accordance to the social status the cost of milk production both in member and non member was high among the scheduled tribe group as Rs. 22.23 and 27.71, whereas the other caste dairy farm women in members costing the milk production at the rate of Rs. 18.70&24.99 and scheduled caste dairy farm women Rs. 20.74&21.82 in member and non members. The difference in the cost of milk production in both the group was Rs.6.59, among the backward class farm women the cost of milk production in nonmember was high in compared to member group and the difference was less. In accordance to the social status other caste dairy women farmer in member and scheduled caste dairy women farmer in nonmember producing milk at lower cost.

The cost of milk production was also differs within the age group. Young age farmer were able to produce one liter of milk at the cost of Rs.20.84vs25.54 followed by middle and old age groups Rs.20.30vs21.63 and 18.87 both in member and nonmembers respectively. Similarly with the differences of cost of milk production Rs.4.70,1.33 and 1.23 in young, middle and old women dairy farmer group respectively. Similar studies also reported by Kumar *et.al.* (2008) [4]

In relation to the family size the cost of milk production, the small sized family members had spent Rs.21.40, followed by medium sized family and large sized family @ Rs.20.80 and 18.28 per liter respectively. Whereas the nonmembers costing an amount of Rs. 26.00 in small families and Rs.22.09 in medium family with net differences of Rs.4.80,7.82 and1.29 respectively. This indicates that the involvement of large family in dairy farming is more effective and obtaining profit at higher levels. Meena *et.al*. (2009) [5], reported that family labour utilization was comparatively higher in large family group.

Education reflects the knowledge level of individuals, based on the educational status the graduate and above groups were producing the milk at the rate of Rs.12.80 per liter which was the lowest among the groups, whereas highest cost of milk production was in primary educational standard Rs.21.71 followed by illiterate and higher secondary standard group Rs.19.88 and Rs.16.64, respectively. In case of nonmember producers cost of milk was highest in primary education group (Rs.28.36) followed by illiterate (Rs.26.00) with net differences of Rs.16.64 was highest in farmers with higher secondary education followed by graduate and above, illiterate and primary education standard. Bhushan, *et.al.* (2010) [2] reported that the maximum numbers of dairy farmers are illiterate.

The animal holding pattern had immense impact on cost of milk production, it was 30 percent more in one animal holding group (Rs.20.50) when compared to four and more animal holdings (Rs.14.25) group of farmers, the two and three animal holding group of farmers produced milk @ Rs.21.55 and 19.12, respectively. Whereas one animal holding dairy farmer investing more (Rs.23.40) for milk production followed by two, three and four and above animal holding with net difference among member and non members Rs.-2.91, 0.96,3.00 and 4.55 respectively. Singh *et.al*. (2007) [6] found that daily milk production per house hold was highest in larger herd size. This indicates that the resources utilization in four and above animal holding was efficient and this brought maximum returns from milk as the herd size increased the cost of milk production was reduced. These results are incomparable with the results of Kumar *et.al*. (2008) [4]. The over all study results revealed that the cost of milk production was lowest in dairy cooperative members than nonmembers. Similarly Singh and Sharma (2006) [7], Kadian and Gopalshankala (2009) [3] and Meena *et.al.* (2009) [5] reported that the cost of milk production in member group was lower than non member and getting highest returns from sale of milk per day.

Table 1: Cost of milk production based on independent socio economic variables and differences among members and non members group

S. No.	Variables	Member group	Non member group	
		Cost of milk/ Lt. (Rs.)	Cost of milk/ Lt (Rs.)	Difference
1	Land holdings			
	Landless	20.44	22.71	02.27
	Marginal farmer	21.19	22.72	01.53
	Small Farmer	20.44	26.80	06.36
2	Social status			
	Scheduled Caste	20.74	21.82	01.08
	Scheduled Tribe	22.23	27.71	05.48
	Backward Class	20.64	27.23	06.59
	Other Caste	18.70	24.99	06.29
3	Age			
	Young	20.84	25.54	04.70
	Middle	20.30	21.63	01.33
	Old	18.87	20.10	01.23
4	Family size			
	Small	21.40	26.20	04.80
	Medium	20.80	22.09	01.29
	Large	18.28	26.10	07.82
5	Educational status			
	Illiterate	19.88	26.00	06.12
	Primary	21.71	28.36	06.65
	Higher secondary	16.64	26.84	10.20
	Graduate and above	12.80	22.50	09.70
6	Animal holding			

	One animal	20.50	23.40	02.91
	Two animal	21.55	22.51	00.96
	Three animal	19.12	22.12	03.00
	Four and above animal	14.25	18.80	04.55

4. Conclusion

The cost of milk production was observed to be lower in the member group when compared to the non member group irrespective of the socio economic status of the respondents. Among the socio economic variables, the educational status and social status and the animal holding pattern of the farmers showed profound effect on the cost of milk production. The farmers of the member group with higher education produced milk at a low cost of Rs.12.80 per ltr. Which is for below when compared to all other socio economic variables, followed by four and above animal holdings (Rs.14.25) and other castes (Rs.18.70). This indicates that the farmers of member group with higher education, more animal holdings and better financial status produced milk at low cost when compared to others with better utilization of inputs and technical know how. The members maintained improved breed, more herd size, adopted scientific management practices and received services and inputs from the cooperative which enabled them to gain more milk yield with lower cost and thus profit from their animals.

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