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## Gender-wise participation of Gowli's in dairy activity

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### Abstract

The term participation in the study refers to the extent of taking part or involvement of the individual actively in the dairy activity. A survey based study was carried out to ascertain the participation of Gowli's in dairy farming, using a pretested self- structured interview schedule by personal interview for sample size of 120 families from Haliyal taluk. The study revealed that Gowli men participation was found more in marketing activities like selling the animals (100%) and purchasing the animals (97.50%) whereas in health care management activities like breeding (100%), purchase of medicines (97.50%) and vaccination (93.33%) were dominated by men. While women involvement was found to be maximum in housing management as care of the pregnant animals (95.83%) and cleaning of the shed (93.33%). Regarding nutrition management activities like special care / nutrition for sick animals (67.50%) and storage of fodder (58.33%). Therefore the total participation indices of men was 30.09 per cent, women was 26.48 per cent and jointly was 8.17 per cent which indicates men participated more than women but their participation was observed low. So, there is need to educate these community people about scientific management practices for increasing livestock production.

**Keywords:** Gowli, gender-wise participation, dairy activity

### Introduction

The contribution of dairy animal is widely recognized. Our country is blessed with vast dairy resource. Dairy farming involves a group of interaction of many factors that influence production and reproduction, environment and management. Dairying is acknowledged as the major instrument in bringing about socio-economic transformation of rural poor in our country and an important role in improving the economy by supplementing the family income and generating gainful employment to the weaker section of society. (Kavithaa and Rajkumar, 2014). Milk is the second largest agricultural commodity produced in our country next only to rice. According to 2011 censuses, India's bovine population is about 19.20 per cent of world's and 51.0 per cent of Asia's population with annual production of about 121.50 million tons of milk. (Kumar *et al.* 2012) <sup>[5]</sup>.

India houses more than 70 million tribal communities mainly named after their livelihood activity. Gowli's have been practicing dairy and animal husbandry for their livelihood since generations. These are the herdsman of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The name is derived from Hindi word gai or gao meaning the cow. These community people are also called as "Dangar Gowli". The word "Dangar" means wanderer and Gowli means a milkmen or herdsmen in the Marathi language. The traditional occupation of Gowli is cow, goat, cattle herders and agriculture. They are classified as OBC (Other Backward Class) but not as tribes. They are also known as Gowari, Gowli, Gavali, Gopa, Krishna *etc.*,

Gowli's are spread out in thick forest of Western Ghats and in Sub-urban areas of Belgaum, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka has been rising since they have settled. They have remained backward economically, socially, educationally and politically, apart from the constitutional safeguards which are enjoyed by the Scheduled Tribes. Still more than 80 per cent of Gowli people are engaged in cow and buffalo rearing and Gowli men mainly participate in marketing and financial activities whereas, women's role in dairy activities ranges from grazing, collecting, cleaning animal shed, processing of milk and products. Despite the fact that Gowli's do most of the work in animal husbandry yet their contribution has largely been ignored and inadequately acknowledged. They always remain invisible workers. In view of all these points, it was considered relevant to quantify the Gowli's work in the field of dairy farming.

### Material and Methods

The present investigation was designed to study the participation of Gowli families in dairy farming.

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Purposive sampling technique was used for selecting samples of Haliyal taluk of Uttar Kannada District on the basis of increased population of Gowli's who were involved in traditional dairy practices. The villages selected were Narnalli, Bhagwati, Rayapattan and Donkanala. Total one hundred twenty families were selected for the study by proportionate random sampling technique. About 35 operations of dairy farming were finalised in consultation with experts and were broadly categorized into four aspects as nutrition, health care, housing and marketing management. The data was collected personally with the help of self-structured interview schedule. Data collected were statistically analyzed with the help of frequency, percentages, indices, co-relation co-efficient and z-test.

### Results and discussion

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

### Participation of respondents in nutrition management

Table 1 revealed that most of the work regarding nutrition management was carried out by women folk. They were responsible for the activities like storage of fodder (58.33%), colostrums feeding (43.33%), special care/ nutrition for sick animals (67.50%) and processing of the milk in to by-products (69.16%). Whereas, the activities like cultivation of the fodder (23.33%), harvesting the fodder (38.33%), purchase of the fodder (82.5%) and fodder transportation (40.83%) were carried out mostly by the men. There are some of the activities which are carried out both by men and women were special care/ nutrition for the sick animals (30.00%), fodder chaffing (21.66%) and colostrums feeding (20.00%). This activity was solely taken care by women folk, as they could not engage in the activities which require more of physical strength. On the other hand, women in the middle age group involved themselves in all the activities equally as per the family requirements. The results are in line with Prakash *et al.* (2011)<sup>[6]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Participation of respondents in nutrition management (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Dairy activities	Women alone	Men alone	Jointly	No participation
		F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
I Nutrition management					
1	Cultivation of fodder	-	28 (23.33)	22 (18.33)	70 (58.33)
2	Harvesting the fodder	-	46 (38.33)	04 (3.33)	70 (58.33)
3	Storage of fodder	70 (58.33)	25 (20.83)	18 (15)	07 (5.83)
4	Fodder chaffing	-	22 (18.33)	26 (21.66)	72 (60)
5	Purchase of fodder	03 (2.5)	99 (82.5)	18 (15)	-
6	Preparation of concentrate	10 (8.33)	02 (1.66)	02 (1.66)	106 (88.33)
7	Watering of animals	06 (05)	24 (20)	12 (10)	78 (65)
8	Colostrum feeding	52 (43.33)	44 (36.66)	24 (20)	-
9	Preparation of silage	01 (0.83)	01 (0.83)	05 (4.16)	113 (94.16)
10	Fodder transportation	-	49 (40.83)	-	71 (59.16)
11	Special care / nutrition for sick animals	81 (67.5)	03 (2.5)	36 (30)	-
12	Processing of milk (curd, ghee, khoa etc..)	83 (69.16)	15 (12.5)	22 (18.33)	-

Some of the activities like preparation of the silage (94.16%) and preparation of the concentrate (88.33%) were least participated by the respondents, may be because of less knowledge about the preparation of concentrates and wide variety of concentrates are available in the market places.

### Participation of respondents in health care management activities

From the table 2, the activities related to health care were mainly carried out by men in the study area. Some of the

activities were breeding (100%), purchase of the medicines (97.50%), vaccination (93.33%), providing medicines to the sick animals (95.00%) and taking animals for grazing (33.33%). Activities like care for the new born (86.66%) and taking the animals for grazing were carried out by women. Both (30.83%) of them take the animals for grazing as the animals will be large in numbers. Cent per cent of the respondents reported that taking the calf for dehorning and ear tagging was not practised by the respondents due to religious beliefs.

**Table 2:** Participation of respondents in health care management activities (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Dairy activities	Women alone	Men alone	Jointly	No participation
		F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
II Health care management					
1	Vaccination	-	112 (93.33)	08 (6.66)	-
2	Breeding	-	120 (100)	-	-
3	Care of new born	104 (86.66)	01 (0.83)	15 (12.5)	-
4	Identification of sick animals	34 (28.33)	70 (58.33)	16 (13.33)	-
5	Purchase of medicines	03 (2.5)	117 (97.5)	-	-
6	Providing medicine to sick animals	02 (1.66)	114 (95)	04 (3.33)	-
7	Taking the calf for dehorning	-	-	-	120 (100)
8	Ear tagging	-	-	-	120 (100)
9	Taking animals for grazing	35 (29.16)	40 (33.33)	37 (30.83)	08 (6.66)
10	Maintaining health card	08 (6.66)	06 (05)	-	106 (88.33)

The reason behind slight increase in participation of men may be due to more exposure to urban areas and frequent visits to veterinary doctors and they learn the things very easily but women lack exposure and need to learn through lot of observation and experience. So, major activities with regard to health care were carried out by men in the study area as women required lot of training and knowledge. Findings were in line with Prakash *et al.* (2011) [6].

#### Participation of respondents in housing and marketing management activities

Table 3 depicts that, major activity where women participated actively was housing management of livestock. Majority of the women will be interested in domestic activities so they

play very major role in this component of dairy farming. The work of animal shed construction (75.83%), cleaning of shed (93.33%), disinfection of the shed (85.00%), care of the pregnant animals (95.83%) and collection and disposal of the dung (80.00%) *etc.* Less number of men participated in the housing management. Women played major role in housing management as they spend most of the time at home and interested in such activities because of the familiarity. Another possible reasons observed were that, they seem to have low risk taking behaviour, lack of interest in other activities, lack of extension contact and being confined to the dwelling area. Therefore, participation index of women was high (84.33%).

**Table 3:** Participation of respondents in housing and marketing management activities (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Dairy activities	Women alone	Men alone	Jointly	No participation
		F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
III Housing management					
1	Construction of shed	91 (75.83)	06 (05)	23 (19.16)	-
2	Cleaning of shed	112 (93.33)	-	08 (6.66)	-
3	Disinfection of shed	102 (85)	04 (3.33)	14 (11.66)	-
4	Collection and disposal of dung	96 (80)	-	24 (20)	-
5	Care of the pregnant animals	115 (95.83)	01 (0.83)	04 (3.33)	-
IV Marketing management					
1	Selling the milk	84 (70)	16 (13.33)	20 (16.66)	-
2	Purchasing the animal	-	117 (97.5)	03 (2.5)	-
3	Selling the animals	-	120 (100)	-	-
4	Selling the manure	-	-	-	120 (100)
5	Selling of the skin of the dead animals	-	-	-	120 (100)
6	Maintaining of accounts	-	-	-	120 (100)
7	Taking loans	03 (2.5)	116 (96.66)	01 (0.83)	-
8	Record keeping	-	02 (1.66)	-	118 (98.33)

Regarding marketing management, most of the activities were carried out by men. The study revealed that cent per cent of them were involved in selling of the animals, 97.50 per cent in purchasing of the animals and 96.66 per cent of them were solely responsible for taking of loans and only 1.66 per cent of them maintained record whereas women were ignorant in taking loans and record keeping. Activities like selling of the manure, selling of the skin of the dead animals and maintaining of the accounts were not participated by the respondents. The reason behind this may be because of illiteracy. But (70.00%) of the women were involved in supplying of the milk to the dairy co-operatives. The reason for this may be illiteracy and less of women involvement in financial activities. Even the income derived from dairy activity was handled solely by men. But (70.00%) of the women were involved in supplying of the milk to the dairy co-operatives. The results were in line with Durgga rani and Jadav (2014) [2], Adhiti *et al.* (2015) [1] and Kulvir (2015) [4].

#### Participation indices of the respondents in different components

With regard to participation indices observed in table 4, the data revealed that most of the men were engaged in health care management (47.91%) and marketing management (38.02%). Least was found in housing management (1.83%). So, the overall participation indices of men was 30.09 per cent. As men have more exposure to the outside world compared women, and are probably good in managing financial activities. They come across many things and learn through observation and experience. Therefore health care

and marketing activities are taken care by the men respondents.

**Table 4:** Participation indices of the respondents in different components (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Components	Participation indices (%)		
		Men alone	Women alone	Jointly
1	Nutrition management	23.01	23.33	12.11
2	Health care management	47.91	15.41	6.75
3	Housing management	1.83	84.33	13.83
4	Marketing management	38.02	9.27	2.70
Overall participation indices (%)		30.09	26.48	08.77

While, women participation was more in housing management (84.33%) and slightly more than men in nutrition management (23.33%). It was found least in health care management (15.41%) and marketing management (9.27%). Therefore, the overall participation indices of women was 26.48 per cent. As women folk spend most of their time at home and are interested in the same activities because of familiarity. They could not engage in the outside activities and which requires physical strength. Another reasons may be due to low risk taking behaviour, low literacy level and lack of socialization with other people.

Whereas, in case of participating jointly it showed that in housing management (13.83%) and nutrition management (12.11%) indices was higher as compared to other two components. Some activities which need more of physical strength, due to interest and during their free time the activities were carried out by both men and women.

### Difference of participation level among men and women

It is evident from the table 5 that, with regard to men and women all the components (health care, housing and marketing management) differed significantly except nutrition management. It is clear that, men participate more in health care and marketing management. Whereas, women participated more in housing and nutrition management.

**Table 5:** Difference in participation level among men and women (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Components	Men mean (SD)	Women mean (SD)	z-value
1	Nutrition management	2.99 (1.98)	3.03 (1.07)	0.202 NS
2	Health care management	4.77 (0.92)	1.54 (0.90)	27.409**
3	Housing management	0.025 (0.15)	4.21 (0.988)	45.861**
4	Marketing management	3.04 (0.47)	0.74 (0.51)	36.157**

\*\* Significant at 1% level; NS- Non-Significant

### Conclusion

Dairy farming is the backbone of rural economic in our country. It is either main or subsidiary occupation of these community people since generation. From this study, it can be concluded that men and women were actively involved. Most of the activities related to housing management of dairy animals were performed by gowli women though their efforts remain unacknowledged. Their involvement was minimum in economic activities like procurement of loans and maintaining of the records. This might be due to lack of education, awareness and being confined to the dwelling area. While, gowli men participated more than women in financial activities like marketing and health care management whereas their involvement was minimum in other activities like nutrition and housing management activities. Because of the exposure to the urban areas and frequent visits to veterinary doctors and extension agencies have helped them to learn many things. Their participation level was observed low and usage of scientific management practices was less which results in decrease of clean milk production. Hence, there is an urgent need to educate and motivate the community (both men and women) about scientific management practices and develop technologies which will help them to minimize drudgery and physical exertion and build the friendly relationship with the extension agencies.

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