

Milch Animals Maintaining Capacity of the Punjab Women under Dairy Project Jogender Singh¹, Kuldeep Singh² and Rita Sengupta³

1.DES (Extension Education), CCSHAU, KVK, Sonipat (Haryana), 2.DES (Agril. Engg.), CCSHAU, KVK, Sonipat (Haryana), 3.Ex- Director (B/S), NIESBUD, Noida, (UP)

Abstract

The Ministry OF Women and Child Development, Government of India has been administering 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme' since 1986-87 as a 'Central Sector Scheme'. The STEP Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. The study was conducted in all the six districts of Punjab under STEP project by covering more than 25% of the total women beneficiaries. Majority of the women (31.98 percent) were in the age group of 26-35 years, which is the most productive age of women. The each woman on an average possessed 3-4 milch animals. On an average 37.7 percent of women supplied 11-15 liter milk per day to the societies.

Key words : Women, Dairy, STEP.

Introduction

The Support to training and Employment Programme (STEP) aims to make a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and providing employment to such women on a project basis by mobilizing women in viable groups, improving skills, arranging for productive assets, creating backward and forward linkages, improving/arranging for support services, providing access to credit, awareness generation, gender sensitization, nutrition education, sensitization of project functionaries.

Thus, STEP advocates and integrated development of poor women in traditional sectors. The ultimate endeavor of each project should be to develop the group to thrive on a self-sustaining basis in the market place with the minimal Governmental support and intervention after the project period is over.

Enterprise and endeavour, these two words symbolize the essential spirit of the people in Punjab. Its average growth rate of 10% is amongst the highest in the country, clearly reflecting the progressive economy on the state. Today Punjab has become a land of

boundless opportunities, offering distinct advantages for investment and industry. Punjab is the 2nd highest producer of milk with highest per capita availability of milk in the country.

The Punjab Sate Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited, popularly known as MILKFED, came into existence in 1973. Presently MILKFED have 9 milk plants at district level with handling capacity of 15.25 lack liters per day, two cattle feed making plants at Gurdaspur and Khanna of capacity 300 MTs per day, one Frozen Semen Station to cater the needs of dairy farmers.

The STEP project entitled Punjab Women Dairy Project was implemented by the Punjab MILKFED in six districts of Punjab viz., Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Ropar, Patiala and Hoshiarpur since 2003. During these years 123 women societies were formed, which involve 5610 women beneficiaries.

At the instance of the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)

undertook this evaluation to study the sectoral impact of STEP Project on the Women

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in all the six districts of Punjab under STEP project by covering more than 25% of the total women beneficiaries. A multisite evaluation approach was adopted to generate primary and secondary information using structured questionnaires developed at the state, district,

Result and Discussion

Profile of the Women Beneficiaries:

A total of 3443 women beneficiaries were interviewed who's profile are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Age distribution of the women Beneficiaries

Age group (Years)	Number	Percentage
15-25	356	10.34
26-35	1101	31.98
36-45	803	23.32
46-55	742	21.55
56-65	401	11.65
66 & above	40	1.16
Total	3443	100.00

The data presented in table 1 show that the maximum numbers of women beneficiaries were between the age group of 26-35 years (n=1101, 31.98%), followed by the age group of 36- to 45 (n=803, 23.32).

Beneficiaries and on implementing agency (MILKFED).

women milk producers cooperative (WMPSs), village and household levels. Employing multistage stratified random sampling procedure, 6 districts, 70 WMPSs, 70 villages, 34543 members, 50 non-members (in project area) were selected and interviewed in the study.

Majority of the women were in the age group of 26-35 years, which is the most productive age of women. It also suggests that most of the women in this age group don't have small children. It indicates the possibility of increased participation in dairy activity.

Table 2 Educational Distribution of the Women Beneficiaries

Factors	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	3443	34.24
Primary	710	20.62
Middle	799	23.21
Matric	622	18.07
Intermediate	91	2.64
Graduation	40	1.16
Post Graduation	2	0.06
Total	3443	100.00

The data presented in the table 2 indicated that the maximum number of women beneficiaries were illiterate (34.24%), followed by middle, primary and matric (23.21, 20.62 and 18.07%), respectively^[1,2].

Possession of Milch Animals and Milk Supply

The data presented in table 3 show that 49.70 percent of the respondents

possessed 6-10 milch animals followed by 35.9 percent and 14.4 percent possessed 1-5 and 11-15 milch animals, respectively. Further, data presented in table 4 reflected that 37.70 percent of the women supplying 11-15 liters of milk to the societies daily followed by 34.20 percent (6-10 liters).

Table 3 Distribution of respondents according to Possession of Milch Animals

Number of Milch animals	Number	Percentage
1-5	1236	35.90
6-10	1710	49.70
11-15	497	14.4
Total	3443	100.00

Table 4 Distribution of respondents according to Milk Supply to societies

Milk Supply (liters)	Number	Percentage
1-5	389	11.30
6-10	1178	34.20
11-15	1297	37.70
16 and above	579	16.80
Total	3443	100.00

In most of the groups, the individual women on an average possess 3-4 milch animals. However, the animals are possessed by women ranging from 1- 15 and supplying 0.32-4.00 quintal milk per day per society.

Increase in Income Level

Before the women societies came into existence in villages, private vendors purchased milk from the women on a flat rate

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the project has significant impact on the women's life and they have set up the STD Booth at the Milk collection centre. Further, women beneficiaries have already organized Self help groups (SHGs) in their society for availing the loan. The impact of the project was visible among

of Rs. 5 per liter of cow and Rs. 7-8 per liter of buffalo. After the society was formed under STEP project women members sell their milk based on the fat content, @ Rs. 8/ liter of cow and Rs. 12-14/liter of buffalo and now it has increased up to Rs. 40/liter. Hence the income of the women has increased almost 70-80% as compared to earlier^[3,4].

women beneficiaries in terms of their knowledge, skill and attitude. Although it is too early to evaluate the impact of the project, yet an attempt has been made to locate results. The project has to some extent been able to reduce rural unemployment especially among women.

References

1. Ahmad, Nafees; Singh, S.P. and Parihar, P. (2012). Farmers' Assessment of KVK Training Programme. Indian Research Journal of Extension Education, Special Issue I:186-188.
2. Gupta, S. and Verma, S. (2013). Impact of KVK on Knowledge level of farm women. *The Journal of Rural and Agricultural Research*, 13(2): 87-89.
3. Rana, K. K., Rajan, P. and Singh, S. R. K. (2018). Assessing Impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra on Employment Generation of Rural Youth. *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci.* Special Issue-6: 2822-2826
4. Singhal, S. and Vatta, L. (2017). Impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra on Adoption of Improved Agricultural Production Practices International Journal of Science, Environment and Technology, 6(2): 993 – 1000.