

## WOMEN'S ROLE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

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**Abstract:** women comprise half of the rural population. And the livestock sector offer tremendous opportunities for improving house hold incomes through women's participation. But the livestock sector needs stronger institutional support for more credit and upgrading women's livestock farming skills. The present study was conducted to identify the role of women in livestock production .Two villages at RPPP, Proddatur . Kadapa District, Andhrapradesh were taken and data were collected about feeding management, vaccination and for processing of dairy products were taken. From two villages 20 women involved and the data revealed that women face problems in livestock management activities having less opportunity to attend training and educational sessions related to livestock management and also negligible extension services. In spite of their contribution in livestock production, they have still more potential to attain food security and food sovereignty in the country. However other factors also hinder their maximum participation in crop and livestock production and management activities, which need to be explored .

The present study was designed to investigate the extent of participation or involvement of rural women in different livestock management activities and also to identify the factors that hinder the participation of rural women in these activities.

**Key words :**Hindering factors affecting women participation, role of women in livestock, Participation of women in Livestock management.

**Introduction:** Livestock is an important subsector of the agricultural economy and contributes close to 50% of the agriculture income and 10.6% of GDP by strengthening and expanding micro credit support programmes ,encouraging private sector participation and targeting rural women's role in livestock management and lot of rural women can be improved . The women have suffered because their role in rural economy has never been fully appreciated . Micro studies reveal that women undertake a wide range of activities at the farms and at home .Role of women in livestock sector is worthwhile because many livestock management activities take place in or around their homes. Women take part in livestock activities like cleaning of animals ,making of dung cakes and providing fodder to livestock . In addition to house hold activities role of women in national economy vary from nation to nation , locally to locality and region according to social norms and values . women are facing many problems as they have less opportunities and do not have decision making rights due to male dominance society . Which negatively affect their role in every field of life especially in Agriculture & Livestock sector.

**Materials and methods:** Two villages were selected and from each village 25 women involved in livestock activities were selected as respondents making a sample size of 50 respondents. Interview questions on five point Likert scale ( 1 = to some extent 2 = below average extent, 3 = an average extent 4 = above average extent , 5 = too much extent ) were prepared to collect the quantitative data regarding factors that inhibit their participation in livestock management activities , while three point Likert scale ( 1 = always , 2 = rarely 3 = never ) was used to determine their participation in such activities . The qualitative data were collected through focus group discussion meetings and key informat

interviews . The quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS software. The ranking of different activities performed by rural women and factors that inhibit their participation , was calculated on the basis of mean value. Qualitative data analyzed using content analysis.

### Results and Discussion

**Extent of participation in livestock activities:** The data ( table 1 ) showed that participation of rural women in the study area was high in selling of milk and milk products with mean of 1.28 of and SD 0.67 as compared to other activities. Minimum participation of rural women was found in poultry raising ( M = 2.32 ) and selling of eggs ( M = 2.12). These results agree those of earlier workers. Younas etal ( 2007) observed that women take responsibilities of cutting fodder, cleaning shed, milking dairy animals, poultry care , processing of animal's products and looking after the livestock. Taj etal ( 2012) also noted that livestock care and management activities like cleaning of sheds, cleanliness of animals , milking , fodder cutting, chopping & feeding , watering , bathing of animals, dung collection and making dung cakes, collection of FYM and health care were mostly undertaken by rural women. But majority of rural women works under the supervision of males or assists them. On an average they spend more than Six hours per day as compared to men who spend about 3 hrs per day on livestock care and management activities. similar results have also been noted in present study particular about poultry raising

**Factors inhibiting rural women participation in livestock management activities:** Rural women were actively participating in different livestock management and care activities but still they face many difficulties and constraints which hinder their maximum participation.The data ( Table -2) revealed that among different factors, literacy level was on the top with

highest men value ( 4.38) followed by social conflicts, lack of self confidence (4.21), social security (4.12) , Lack of media information (4.12) hindering the women participation in livestock production and management activities . The lack of self confidence is due to low literacy rate of rural females in study area. Self

confidence of an individual increases with the increase of educational level. On the other hand low payment for women labour is also a factor which inhibits the participation of rural women in different livestock production and management activities with lowest mean value (2.16. ).

Activities	Mean	Standard deviation
Egg& Ghee selling	2.12	0.79
Poultry raising	2.32	0.99
Shed cleaning	1.86	0.84
Raising of sheep & Goat	1.60	0.78
Making of dung cakes	1.50	0.81
Milking	1.32	0.59
Solving of milk & Milk production	1.32	0.67

( Scale : 1 = Always , 2 = Rarely ,3= never)

Factors	Mean	Standard deviation SD
Lacks of self confidence	4.21	0.66
Social security	4.21	0.61
Literacy level	4.38	
Social conflicts		0.75
Lack of media information	4.27	4.12
Poor economic condition		1.04
Lack of women organization	2.73	2.26
Lava of legal ,economic and political literacy		0.75
Women work not recognized	2.36	2.20
Low payment of work for women	2.16	0.64

Scale ( 1 = to some extent , 2 = to below average extent 3 = to an average extent , 4 = to above average extent , 5 = to much extent )

**Conclusion:** The study concludes that women in study area are actively involved in selling milk and milk products with mean value of 1.28 on Likert scale. Poultry related activities like selling of egg/ghee and poultry raising were minimum participated in with mean value of 2.12 and 2.32, respectively. Among different inhibiting factors lack of Literary level was the major factor with highest mean value (4.38). on the other hand low payment of work for women had the least mean value

(2.16) among these factors. The areas of literacy ,feeding ,management, vaccination and processing of dairy products to be addressed more effectively. Livestock and dairy development should launch more development schemes focusing on the socioeconomic development of women folk. The women trained in livestock production activities will help increase milk and meat production at the national level and raise household incomes.

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