

## **A Study on Socio-Economic Condition of Dairy Labours in Mandya District: A Case Study**

**DR.ARVIND PRASAD**

Research Scholar

Department of Co-operation, Maharaja's College, University of Mysore, Mysuru

**DR.BRAD BEST GFD**

Professor of Co-operation, Maharaja's College, University of Mysore, Mysuru

### ***Abstract***

*The study was conducted on socio-economic condition of dairy labours of Mandya district of Karnataka. Dairy farming plays an important role in social and economic livelihood of the labours. The variable of the study includes such as Age, Caste, Education, Type of Family, Size of the Family, Occupation, Land Holding, Annual income, types of cooking faced by the dairy labours. It is observed that most of the sample labours were of middle age group (46.5%) The reason for the above result may be the fact that dairying is a recurrent income generating programme and also 66.6 per cent of the dairy labours were from OBC category followed by 20.0 and 13.4 per cent were from SC/ST. The present study exhibited that majority of dairy labours income (33.3%) between Rs. 35001 to 50000 and 26.6 per cent of the labours income from Rs.50001 to 65000. Whereas, 18.8 percent of the labours income above Rs.65.0001.*

**Keywords: Socio-economic, Dairy, Labours, Agriculture, Income.**

### **Introduction**

India is predominantly an agrarian society where animal husbandry forms the backbone of national economy. Dairy enterprise, next to agriculture, not only provides continuous income and improves the dietary standards of family, but also reduces unemployment to an extent. Various studies suggest that dairying has enormous potential to improve the socio-economic status of the large percentage of rural population. Dairying is an integral part of the Indian economy, more so, the rural economy.

Dairy Farming is a class of agricultural, rearing of cattle, buffalos and goats, or certain other milch animal for long term milk production, which may be either processed on site or transported to organized dairy for processing (Shinde, 2011). Dairy farming being the major

contributor to the overall GDP of the country, the overall contribution of Livestock Sector in total GDP was nearly 4.11 per cent at current prices during 2019-20 (NDDDB-2019-20). Dairy farming is a main source of additional income to small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural laborers in the state. The dairy farming has an important role in subsistence farming as well as commercial farming for low as well as moderate income households. Dairy sector have great potentiality and scope for enhancing the socio- economic situation of small, marginal farmers and agricultural laborers since it provides higher production and profit short time as compared to others enterprises.

It has more income, employment generation and man day's works force in short span of time in the state. The dairy farmers of Uttar Pradesh rear lactating animals for the generating of income which is complementary for the crop farming. If we see the growing trends of population in the state it must be required to fulfill the food security as well as nutritional security through milk and milk products. Another scenario is that the population raises different issues related to food insecurity, notional insecurity, unemployment etc. for the overcome of these issues the government is taking effective and efficient steps. The present study was conducted to study the socio-economic condition of dairy labors in Karnataka: the special reference to the Mandya District.

### **Objectives and Methodology of the study**

The study was conducted to study the Socio-economic condition of Dairy Labours and to explore the different aspect of dairy farming and status of milk production, livestock, sale and problems faced by farmers. For the study in Mandya District and Mandya District was selected purposively. From the respondents were selected randomly. Thus, total number of sample size was 90. Primary method of data collection was conducted through a structured interview schedule which was developed for this purpose. The variable of the study was includes such as Age, Caste, Education, Type of Family, Size of the Family, Occupation, Land Holding, Annual income, types of cooking faced by the dairy labours.

### **Result and Discussion**

The socio-economic characteristics of the sample dairy farmers in the study area are depicted in below Tables and are discussed here.

**Table 1: Age of the Respondents**

	Frequency	Percentage
Up to 35 years	28	31.0
36 to 45 years	42	46.5
Above 45 years	23	25.5
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

With respect to the age of the sample dairy labours, it is observed that most of the sample labours were of middle age group (46.5%) The reason for the above result may be the fact that dairying is a recurrent income generating programme and it adds significantly to the family income. The income from dairy is assured unlike agriculture which is uncertain one. Therefore most of middle aged farmers are taking up dairying as subsidiary occupation.

**Table-2 Caste of the Respondent**

	Frequency	Percentage
General	12	13.4
OBC	60	66.6
SC/ST	18	20.0
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

Caste As evident from the data in Table 2 that 66.6 per cent of the dairy labours were from OBC category followed by 20.0 and 13.4 per cent were from SC/ST.

**Table 2: Education level of the Respondents**

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	15	16.6
Primary and Secondary	05	5.5
High school	11	12.2
Puc	31	34.4
Graduation	28	31.1
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

With regard to education level of the sample respondents, it was noticed that 16.6 per cent of the labours were illiterates. Among literates, education level of sample respondents ranged from primary to degree level. The labours receptive capacity eased the process and adoption of new technology. And on the other hand to take care of the illiterates, there is need for the extension workers to educate the farmers regarding recent developments in dairy, agriculture and other enterprises to increase their level of income and productivity on the farm.

**Table 4: Type of Family**

Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear Family	79	87.7
Joint Family	11	12.3
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

Table 4 presents the types of family in the study area. The majority (87.7%) of the labours belonged to nuclear family. This might be due to their awareness regarding the increased cost of living and difficulties in maintenance of big family and they might have found to have medium families to lead better and comfortable life. The predominance of nuclear family was due to the realization of advantages of nuclear family in terms of running family, fewer responsibilities, privacy and more freedom of action in taking family decisions.

**Table 5 Size of the Family**

Family size	Frequency	Percentage
Small (<5)	49	54.4
Medium (5to7)	37	41.1
Large (>7)	04	4.5
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

It is observed from the table 5 that, clearly three size groups of sample dairy labours emerged i.e., small size (upto5 members), medium size (5-7 members) and large size (>7 members). Of the sample farmers 49 labours belonged to small dairy labourcategory, 37 belonged to medium category and 04 belonged to large category. Which means in the study area Small (<5)were commonly found in a family.

**Table 6: Occupation of the Respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Only dairy (Main)	14	15.5
Agriculture + dairy (subsidiary)	64	71.1
Dairy +Others (labor, business and services)	12	13.4
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

The table 6 indicated the occupational pattern of the sample labours practicing agriculture as main occupation with dairy as a subsidiary occupation accounted for 71.1 per cent, dairy as main occupation contributed about 14.0 per cent and labours practicing other than others and dairy as main occupation were 15.5 per cent.

**Table 7: Land Holding**

Land Holding	Frequency	Percentage
Up to 1 hector	18	20.0
1 to 2 hector	20	22.2
2 to 3 hector	44	48.9
4 & above hector	08	8.9
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

From the table7 it could also be seen that 10.83 per cent of the dairy labours possessed marginal land holding, 24.17 per cent of labours had small land holding and semi medium land holding, 20.83 per cent of farmers had medium land holding, 15.83 per cent of farmers had big land holding, and 4.17 per cent labours were landless. The results revealed that the majority of the sample dairy farmers belonged to small and medium labours category.

**Table 8: Annual income of the Respondents**

Income	Frequency	Percentage
Below Rs.30000	07	7.7
Rs.30001-60000	12	13.3
Rs.60001-90000	30	33.3
Rs.90001-120000	24	26.6
Above Rs.120001	17	18.8
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

The present study exhibited that majority of dairy labours income (33.3%) between Rs.60001 to 90000 and 26.6 per cent of the labours income from Rs.90001 to 120000. Whereas, 18.8 percent of the labours income above Rs.120001 and remaining 7.7 percent of the dairy labours income below Rs.30000 only.

**Table-9 Types of House**

Income	Frequency	Percentage
Pucca	37	41.1
Semi Pucca	43	47.7
Kaccha	10	11.2
Total	90	100

Source: Field work

The type of house is another socio- economic factor that indicates the social status and economic status of the dairy labours. It is clear as depicted in above table 9 that 41.1percent of the respondents are residing in pucca houses whereas 47.7 percent of the member farmers are staying in the semi pucca houses and remaining 11.2 percent of the respondents are inhabited in kaccha houses.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that majority of dairy labours were belonged middle to young age group, educated up to secondary level and belonged to OBC category, had low annual dairy income and majority of them belonged to nuclear family with animal husbandry plus agriculture as main occupation, had medium extension participation, extension contact and mass media exposure, majority of respondents had small size of herd. Socioeconomic parameters of Mandya district reveals that there is a scope for further improvement in socio-economic condition, which ultimately lead to dairy labours.

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