



Economic Empowerment of Women Pourers and Palamitras in Dairying in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

To take advantage of government policy and programme women enter into dairying on a large scale in Chittoor district. The freedom of respondents in spending their income had greatly increased among pourers and palamitras. A good percentage of respondents have declined in the lower option, moved up in the middle option and formed afresh in the higher option in the post dairying period. The number of respondents with no control over income and their classifications on the basis of age, education, caste affiliation, nature of family and level of monthly income has decreased in the post-period. A contrary situation prevails in the case of respondents who have control over income to some extent. Further, none of the respondents have enjoyed control over income to a great extent in the pre-period but they are found afresh across all the variables in the post-period. More than 60 per cent of pourers and 44 per cent of palamitras have saved less than Rs. 3000 per month in the post dairying period. The share of respondents who believe that there was no control over family resources became negligible in the post-period. Evidently, there is an increase in the number of respondents with control over family resources in the post-dairying period. The respondents with 'control over family resources to a great extent' have formed in the after-period only. The respondents who had enjoyed 'no control over resources' have decreased correspondingly increasing the share of respondents who had exercised control over resources to some extent in the post-period. No doubt, dairying has resulted in the economic empowerment of women.

Keywords: Dairying, Empowerment, Palamitras, Women Pourers and Palamitras

I. Introduction

The economic independence of women is viewed as a major component in their empowerment process. It requires 'that women should have access to and control over productive resources like income, savings, assets, credit knowledge, skills and so on. Once economic empowerment is achieved, in turn,

it exercises influence on the overall empowerment of women. But, in India, the ownership of resources is heavily biased in favour of male members of the family. Against this backdrop, an attempt is made to assess the level of economic empowerment attained by women after entering into dairying. Therefore, an ardent



bid is made in this article to analyze the economic empowerment of select women pourers and palamitras, who have taken up dairying in the district. Four variables namely, access to income, control over own income, access to savings and control over family resources are used to measure the extent of economic empowerment among the sample respondents. As a prelude, reasonableness of price, sale of dung, cattle insurance, regularity of payment, expenses incurred deductions and so on, are also discussed. There are so many variables that are likely to influence economic empowerment levels of women. These include age, educational qualification, caste affiliation, nature of family and level of income. Therefore, these are to be taken into account while assigning the place of economic empowerment among the respondents. Before and after approach has been followed to assess how far dairying has resulted in the pace of economic empowerment of women.

To take advantage of remunerative milk prices in the recent past; frequent recurrence of drought prone conditions in Andhra Pradesh (AP) in general, Rayalaseema districts in particular and more such conditions in Chittoor district; avail the benefit of government measures for the spread dairying viz. supply of chaff cutters, animals, medicines, silage making units, milking machines, training programmes etc. at concessional rate/free of cost; establishment of bulk milk chilling units (BMCUs) for women and so on have prompted women to enter into dairying on a large scale in Chittoor district. In recent times, in production and

procurement of milk, the district is in the forefront and ranks first among the districts of AP. In this context, it may be specially noted that the concept of palamitras came into existence from 2005 in AP including Chittoor district.

II. Methodology

For the present study, women engaged in dairying in Chittoor district only constitute the universe. The sample respondents are chosen out of the milk pourers and palamitras in the district. An aggregate of 300 women, 250 pourers and 50 palamitras, are conveniently selected through stratified random sampling technique. The primary data have been collected through a schedule designed for the purpose by personal interview method. The tools employed include percentages, Likert’s three-point scale and chi-square test.

III. Income Generation

In addition to sale of milk, respondents derive income from sale of dung if they do not use it for their agricultural purpose. In the case of pourers, 85.60 per cent have used dung for their agricultural activities. While the rest, 14.40 per cent sold it in the market. With regard to palamitras, 90 per cent used their dung for farm activities and the remaining sell it in the market. It may be said that, the majority of respondents use the dung for their agricultural operations. It is more pronounced among palamitras as compared to pourers. This is because the former own more land than the latter.

Table 1: Classification of Respondents on the Basis of Sale and Own use of Dung

Own use/sale	Category of Respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
Own use	214(85.60)	45(90.00)	259(86.33)
Sale	36(14.40)	5(10.00)	41(13.67)
Total	250(100)	50(100)	300(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey



Among the pourers, 96 per cent are of the opinion that the milk price is reasonable whereas the remaining 4 per cent felt that it is unreasonable (see Table 2). In the case of palamitras, 92 per cent have perceived that the milk price is

reasonable vis-à-vis the rest, 8 per cent have stated that it is less reasonable. It may be concluded that the price of milk is adequate for most of the respondents in the study area. This is more so in the summer season when compared to the winter.

Table 2: Perceptions of Respondents on the Price of Milk

Opinion on reasonableness of price	Category of Respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
Reasonable	240(96.00)	46(92.00)	290(96.67)
Unreasonable	10(4.00)	4(8.00)	10(3.33)
Total	250(100)	50(100)	300(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total
Source: Sample survey

Generally, prices are charged at a fixed rate on the basis of solid not fat (SNF) and fat content of milk throughout the season. In summer season, all the milk sold may or may not be good. On certain occasions, milk is procured from several places and pourers/palamitras may spoil it. In such

situations, purchase price of spoiled milk may be deducted from sale proceeds as the case may be. Then the respondents receive less than what is due to them. Therefore, in such situations, difference may arise between what is paid and expected.

Table 3: Opinions of Respondents on Payment of Sale Proceeds of Milk

Status of milk	Category of Respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
Quality	186(86.11)	29(76.32)	215(84.65)
Spoiled	30(13.89)	9(23.68)	39(15.35)
Total	216(100)	38(100)	254(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total
Source: Sample survey

A look at the Table 3 reveals that, a little over 86 per cent of pourers have reported that they have supplied quality milk and, therefore, payments are usual. The remaining percentage of women have complained that they were paid less on the pretext of spoiled milk. With regard to palamitras, the former and the latter constituted

76.32 per cent and 23.68 per cent respectively. In this context, the researcher is of the opinion that the spoilage occurs in summer while very rarely in winter. Therefore, there is no uniformity in payment throughout the year apart from SNF and fat content of milk. It may be inferred that a greater proportion of palamitras have made a



complaint about differential payment as compared to pourers. The reasons for this are not far to seek. They collect milk from a number of pourers including their own. Hence, the chance of spoilt milk is more and it is frequent among palamitras as against pourers.

The BMCUs make payment to pourers and palamitras once in fifteen days. In the case of pourers, 93.60 per cent stated that they have

received payments regularly for the milk sold as fixed by BMCUs and the rest, 6.40 per cent reported that there is no regularity in payment. Almost a similar situation prevails among palamitras. The former and the latter have constituted 94 per cent and 6 per cent sequentially. It may be concluded that more than 90 per cent of respondents are paid sale proceeds of milk regularly without any sort of delay either by palamitras or BMCUs.

Table 4: Categorization of Respondents by Regularity in the Payment of Sale Proceeds of Milk

Payment	Category of Respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
Regular	234(93.60)	47(94.00)	281(93.67)
Irregular	16(6.40)	3(6.00)	19(6.33)
Total	250(100)	50(100)	300(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey

Table 5: Relationship between Land Holding Size and Level of Income in the Post-Period

Extent of land holding size (acres)	Upto 4000	Level of monthly income (Rs)				Total
		4000-8000	8000-1200	12000-16000	16000 and more	
Upto 0.5	10	34	15	9	7	75
0.50-1.00	5	16	9	4	2	36
1.00-1.50	2	12	5	6	6	31
1.50-2.00	2	8	3	3	3	19
2.00-2.50	2	10	3	6	2	23
2.50 and above	5	18	22	11	11	67
Total	26	98	57	39	31	251
Pearson's correlation coefficient (r)						0.37
6 Probable error(r)						0.034

Source: Sample survey



It can be observed from the Table 5 that the 'r' works out to 0.37 whereas 6 PE (r) 0.034. The 'r' is positive and highly significant. As the value of 'r' is significant, it implies that, generally, the higher the land holding size, the higher is the income generated by the respondents and the lower the size of land, the lower is the income. It may be concluded that the relationship between the extent of land held by the women and the income derived from it are positively related and highly significant.

A look at the Table 6 reveals that the 'r' is found to be 0.68 whereas 6 PE (r) 0.021. Hence, the 'r' is highly significant. It infers that the greater the number of animals, the greater is the average monthly income and vice-versa. This is based on the fact that the 'r' is positive and highly significant. We may sum up that the income of respondents goes up with the increase in the number of animals.

Table 6: Association between Number of Animals and Level of Income in the Post-Period

Level of income per month (Rs)	Level of monthly income (Rs)					
	1	2	3	4	5 and more	Total
Upto 4000	16	16	2	-	-	34
4000-8000	17	77	23	1	-	118
8000-12000	2	26	35	2	1	66
12000-16000	-	13	25	7	3	48
16000 and more	1	1	7	1	24	34
Total	36	133	92	11	28	300
Pearson's correlation coefficient (r)						0.68
6 Probable error(r)						0.021

Source: Sample survey

It can be observed from the Table 7 that the 'r' is positive and is highly, significant. This is evident from the fact that the r is found to be 0.21 vis-à-vis 6 PE (r) 0.037. As r is significant, it can be inferred that, commonly, the greater the

literacy rate among the respondents, the greater is the income. Lesser the level of education lesser is the level of income. Therefore, we may say that the status of education and level of income of women have improved in the post-period.



Table 7: Relationship between Educational Status and Monthly Income in the Post-Period

Educational status	Level of monthly income (Rs)					Total
	Upto 4000	4000-8000	8000-1200	12000-16000	16000 and more	
Illiterate	15	52	17	17	7	108
Less than SSC	7	36	26	15	11	95
SSC	9	25	15	11	10	70
Intermediate	3	2	6	5	2	18
Undergraduate	0	3	2	0	4	9
Total	34	118	66	48	34	300
Pearson's correlation coefficient (r)						0.21
6 Probable error(r)						0.037

Source: Sample survey

IV. Access to Income

Access to income is a crucial element in the economic empowerment of women. In fact, earning an independent income increases their bargaining power at the household level, enhances their autonomy and may even reduce their traditional seclusion. It may result in an increase in their decision-making power at the household level. Women, especially with low incomes, tend to have less control over household resources, less access to information and health services and less control over their time. A glance at the Table 8 shows that, among the pourers, the highest, 42.80 per cent are in the income level of Rs. 4000-8000, 21.20 per cent in the range of Rs. 8000-12000, 13.60 per cent earn less than

Rs. 4000, 12.80 per cent in the income range of Rs. 12000-16000 and the rest, 9.60 per cent, in the frequency of Rs. 16000 and above. Out of palamitras, none had earned income below Rs.4000. Further, 32 per cent are in the income range of Rs. 12000-16000 followed by 26 per cent in the income range of Rs 8000-12000, 22 per cent in the class interval of Rs. 4000-8000 and the remaining, 20 per cent earn an income of Rs. 16000 and more. It can be concluded that, sample women are distributed over several income groups in varying proportions. The share of respondents in the income range of Rs.4000-8000 and Rs.12000-16000 ranks first among pourers and palamitras respectively. A contrary situation prevails in the share of respondents with an income level of Rs.16000 and more.



Table 8: Income-wise Classification of Respondents during the Post Dairying Period

Level of monthly income (Rs.)	Category of respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
Below 4000	34(13.60)	-	34(11.33)
4000- 8000	107(42.80)	11(22.00)	118(39.33)
8000- 12000	53(21.20)	13(26.00)	66(22.00)
12000- 16000	32(12.80)	16(32.00)	48(16.00)
16000 and above	24(9.60)	10(20.00)	34(11.33)
Total	250(100)	50(100)	300(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey

V. Control Over Income

Access to income is mainly determined by the ability of women to spend their earnings. Freedom to take decisions regarding the items on which their earnings are spent reflects their real access to income. Women shall not only be income earners but also the decision-makers in spending their income. A three-point scale was employed, marking ‘no

control’, ‘to some extent’ and ‘to a great extent’ to measure the change in this aspect. It is evident from the Table 9 that, in the case of pourers, the proportion of respondents with ‘no control over income’ has declined drastically from 90 per cent in the pre-period to 4.80 per cent in the post-period. As against this, those with ‘control to some extent’ have rapidly increased to 87.60 per cent in the post-period from 10 per cent in the pre-period.

Table 9: Responses on the Extent of Control over Income

Control	Pre			Post		
	Pourers	Palamitras	Total	Pourers	Palamitras	Total
No control	225 (90.00)	39 (78.00)	264 (88.00)	12 (4.80)	2 (4.00)	14 (4.67)
To some extent	25 (10.00)	11 (22.00)	36 (12.00)	219 (87.60)	39 (78.00)	258 (86.00)
To a great extent	-	-	-	19 (7.60)	9 (18.00)	28 (9.33)
Total	250 (100)	50 (100)	300 (100)	250 (100)	50 (100)	300 (100)
χ^2	5.68*			5.33 ^{ns}		

Note: * Indicates significant at one per cent level ns: Not significant

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey



However, those with 'control to a great extent' were 7.60 per cent in the post-period and no one had enjoyed 'control over income to a great extent' in the pre-period. With regard to palamitras, respondents with no control over income had decreased from 78 per cent in the pre-period to 4 per cent in the post-period. A contrary situation prevails in the proportion of respondents who had enjoyed control over income to some extent. In other words, their share had shot up from 12 per cent in the pre-period to 78 per cent in the post-period. The palamitras who had enjoyed control over income to a great extent were absent before entering into dairying. Now their proportion stood at 18 per cent. To find out the relationship between category-wise classification of respondents and their opinions on the extent of control over income in the pre and post-periods, chi-square test χ^2 was employed. The calculated value of χ^2 was found to be significant at one per cent level in the pre-period while it was found to be insignificant in the post-period. Therefore, it can be inferred that, the classifications of respondents into pourers and palamitras and their opinions on the extent of control over income in the pre-period are dependent on each other. But in the post-period, they are independent of each other. It may be summed up that, the freedom of respondents in spending their income had greatly increased in both the kinds of respondents. In other words, in the dairying period, a good percentage of respondents have moved to higher options and declined in the lower option. This clearly shows that there is an improvement in the freedom to spend their/family income. It means that dairying

has caused economic empowerment among women.

The views of respondents on the control over income from the angle of age, level of education, caste affiliation, nature of family and monthly income are analyzed. It can be observed from the Table 10 that, the respondents in the monthly income range of less than Rs. 4000, Rs.4000-8000, Rs.8000-12000, Rs.12000-16000 and Rs.16000 or more have substantially declined in the post-period over the pre-period. A converse situation exists in the case of respondents who have enjoyed control over income to some extent. It may be noted that, those in the order of below Rs.4000 are absent in the pre-period while they formed 94.12 per cent in the post-period. The share of respondents who had enjoyed control over income to a great extent were nil in the pre-period. But there are respondents who have enjoyed control over income to a great extent in the post-period. Their share was 12.50 per cent, 11.76 per cent, 10.61 per cent and 9.32 per cent in the class interval of Rs.12000-16000, Rs.16000 and more, Rs.8000-12000 and Rs.4000-8000 respectively. There was no respondent with control over income to a great extent in the income range of less than Rs.4000 after entering into dairying. It can be concluded that the number of respondents with no control over income have declined while those with control to some extent have remarkably increased across the income categories. But respondents with control over income to a great extent formed afresh after the period except those in the income range of below Rs.4000. These are absent the pre and post periods.



Table 10: Characteristic Feature-wise Perceptions of Respondents on the Extent of Control over Income

Characteristic feature		Pre			χ^2	Post			χ^2
		Extent of control				Extent of control			
		N.C	S.E	GE		N.C	S.E	GE	
Age (years)	20-29	39 (88.64)	5 (11.36)	-	1.61- NS	3 (6.82)	38 (86.36)	3 (6.82)	6.26 NS
	30-39	103 (88.79)	13 (11.21)	-		6 (5.17)	97 (83.62)	13 (11.21)	
	40-49	88 (86.28)	14 (13.72)	-		4 (3.92)	89 (87.26)	9 (8.82)	
	50-59	26 (92.86)	2 (7.14)	-		-	27 (96.43)	1 (3.57)	
	60 and above	8 (80.00)	2 (20.00)	-		1 (10.00)	7 (70.00)	2 (20.00)	
Education	Illiterate	100 (92.59)	8 (7.41)	-	9.30- NS	4 (3.70)	98 (90.74)	6 (5.56)	8.40 NS
	Below SSC	79 (83.16)	16 (16.84)	-		4 (4.21)	82 (86.32)	9 (9.47)	
	SSC	64 (91.43)	6 (8.57)	-		3 (4.29)	59 (84.29)	8 (11.42)	
	Intermediate	15 (83.33)	3 (16.67)	-		2 (11.11)	13 (72.22)	3 (16.67)	
	Under- graduate	6 (66.67)	3 (33.33)	-		1 (11.11)	6 (66.67)	2 (22.22)	
Caste	OCs	49 (85.97)	8 (14.03)	-	7.91 NS	5 (8.77)	47 (82.26)	5 (8.77)	26.7 9*
	BCs	88 (87.13)	13 (12.87)	-		5 (4.96)	87 (86.14)	9 (8.90)	
	SCs	118 (92.92)	11 (7.08)	-		4 (3.54)	103 (91.15)	6 (5.31)	



	STs	13 (81.25)	3 (18.75)	-		-	14 (87.50)	2 (12.50)	
	MCs	9 (69.23)	4 (30.77)	-		-	7 (53.39)	6 (46.61)	
Nature of family	Nuclear	173 (92.02)	15 (7.98)	-	7.71*	5 (2.66)	167 (88.83)	16 (8.51)	5.18 NS
	Joint	91 (81.25)	21 (18.75)	-		9 (8.04)	91 (81.25)	12 (10.71)	
Monthly income (Rs.)	Upto 4000	34 (100)	-	-	6.59- NS	2 (5.88)	32 (94.12)	-	9.96 NS
	4000-8000	105 (88.98)	13 (11.02)	-		5 (4.24)	102 (86.44)	11 (9.32)	
	8000-12000	56 (84.85)	10 (15.15)	-		1 (1.52)	58 (87.88)	7 (10.61)	
	12000-16000	40 (83.33)	8 (16.67)	-		2 (4.17)	40 (83.33)	6 (12.50)	
	16000 and above	29 (85.29)	5 (14.71)	-		4 (11.77)	26 (76.47)	4 (11.76)	

Note: * Indicates significant at one percent level

NS: Not significant

NC: No control; SE: To some extent; and GE: To a great extent.

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey

The share of respondents marked with no control over income has declined in the post-period in all the age-wise classifications of respondents excluding those in the class interval of 50-59 years. In this category, they have completely disappeared in the post period from 92.86 per cent in the pre-period. Number of respondents with control over income to some extent increased substantially in all the age-wise groups of respondents without any exception after entering into dairying

It may be pointed out that, the respondents with control over income to a great extent exist in

the post-period only. Their proportion was in the range of 3.57 - 20 per cent. These respondents were absent in all the class intervals in the pre-period. The illiterates with no control over income have declined from 92.59 per cent in the pre-period to 3.70 per cent in the post-period. The proportion of educated respondents with no control over income decreased in all the levels of education. A contrary trend prevails in the share of respondents with control over income to some extent in the post-period. There are respondents who have enjoyed control over



income to a great extent in all the classes of education in the post-period alone. Their share varied between 5.56 per cent and 22.22 per cent. They were absent in the pre-period. Respondents with no control over income have decreased in the post-period. Respondents with control over income to some extent have increased and those with control over income to a great extent have formed afresh in the post period only.

The caste- wise analysis shows that, in the pre-period, the percentage of STs and MCs with no control over income was 81.25 per cent and 69.23 per cent respectively whereas it was nil in the post-period. The share of OCs, BCs and SCs had declined in the post-period. Respondents in all the caste groups with control over income to some extent have spectacularly increased in the post-period. The respondents with control over income to a great extent were absent in all the caste groups in the pre-period while these have formed afresh in the post-period. Their proportion varied between 5.31 per cent and 46.61 per cent. In the case of joint and nuclear families, the proportion of respondents with no control over income had declined whereas those with control over income to some extent rose and those with control over income to a great extent constituted afresh in the post-period. The relationship between the classification of respondents on the basis of caste and nature of family of respondents and their views on extent of control over income is significant at one per cent level only in the post and pre-period respectively. It may be concluded that the number of respondents with no control over income and their classification on the basis of age, education, caste affiliation, nature of family and level of income had decreased in the post-period over the pre-period. A contrary situation prevails in the case of respondents who have control over income to some extent in all the aforesaid categories. Further, none of the

respondents have enjoyed control over income to a great extent in the pre-period but they are found afresh across all the variables in the post-period. Across all the demographic features, the percentage of respondents with no control over income had substantially declined as against an increase in the proportion of respondents who had enjoyed control over income to some extent in the post period. At the same time, those with control over income to a great extent were found afresh in the post-period only. It may be inferred that dairying has led to economic empowerment of women measured in terms of control over income with regard to caste affiliation, educational status, age, monthly income and nature of family. The percentage of women in the lower option had declined, in the middle option increased and in the higher option formed afresh in the post-period only.

VI. Access to Savings

Access to savings is one of the important elements of economic empowerment, especially among poor women. Economic activity promotes savings among respondents and enables them to use the pooled savings to meet the emergent needs including consumption. The savings increase accretion to assets and often eliminate debts to money lenders, which directly enhances autonomy. Savings are considered an instrument to overcome poverty. Besides, savings habit provides staying power at times of distress, increases creditworthiness, acts as leverage for accessing internal credit, helps construct a house and educate children and perform their marriage. A glance at the Table 11 reveals that, among the pourers, the highest, 31.20 per cent, have saved income in the level of Rs.1000-2000 followed by 20.40 percent in the order of Rs.2000-3000, 15.20 per cent in the range of less than Rs.1000, 14.80 per cent in the range of Rs.3000-4000 and 9.20 per cent each in the range of Rs.4000-5000 and Rs.5000 and more. In the case of palamitras, 26 per cent were in the range of Rs.5000 and more,



22 per cent each in the frequency of Rs.1000-2000 and Rs. 2000-3000, 18 per cent in the class interval of Rs.4000-5000 and 12 per cent in the income range of Rs. 3000-4000. None of the palamitras have saved less than Rs.1000. It may be summed up that

the proportion of savers is higher among palamitras when compared to pourers. This is in tune with the level of income as shown in Table 8. Generally savings depend on the level of income, other things being equal.

Table 11: Savings-wise Segregation of Respondents after Entering into Dairying

Level of savings (Rs.)	Category of Respondents		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras	
upto 1000	38(15.20)	-	38(12.67)
1000-2000	78(31.20)	11(22.00)	89(29.67)
2000-3000	51(20.40)	11(22.00)	62(20.67)
3000-4000	37(14.80)	6(12.00)	43(14.33)
4000-5000	23(9.20)	9(18.00)	32(10.67)
5000 and more	23(9.20)	13(26.00)	36(12.00)
Total	250(100)	50(100)	300(100)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey

VII. Control Over Resources

Control over resources is a key indicator of economic empowerment of women. Women living in poverty are often denied access to and control over resources like cash, credit, bank balance, landed property and other material goods. The nutritional needs of women are not accorded priority compared to those of men over the years. Women lack sufficient access to education and support services. The participation of women in decision-making at home and community are at the lowest ebb. Here the changes that have occurred in the control over resources between pre and post dairying periods are analyzed. It can be observed from the Table 12 that, of the pourers, 80.40 per cent had no control over family resources and the rest, 19.60 per cent had control to some extent only. No one had control over

resources to a great extent in the pre-period. In the post-period, the former had substantially declined to 2.40 per cent whereas the latter remarkably increased to 82.80 per cent. Those who have enjoyed control over resources to a great extent have newly formed at 14.20 per cent in the post period. It shows the extent of change that has taken place in the percentage of pourers in the extent of control over resources. With regard to palamitras, the respondents with no control were 70 per cent in the pre-period while 2 per cent in the post-period. Those who had control to some extent are 30 per cent and 58 per cent in the former and the latter sequentially. Those who have enjoyed control over resources to a great extent have increased from zero per cent in the pre-period to 40 per cent in the post-period.



Table 12: Category- wise Views of Respondents on the Extent of Control over Family Recourses

Nature of control	Pre		Total	Post		Total
	Pourers	Palamitras		Pourers	Palamitras	
No control	201 (80.40)	35 (70.00)	236 (78.67)	6 (2.40)	1 (2.00)	7 (2.33)
To some extent	49 (19.60)	15 (30.00)	64 (21.33)	207 (82.80)	29 (58.00)	236 (78.67)
To a great extent	-	-	-	37 (14.80)	20 (40.00)	57 (19.00)
Total	250 (100)	50 (100)	300 (100)	250 (100)	50 (100)	300 (100)
χ^2	2.69 NS			17.21*		

Note : * Indicates significant at one per cent level
 NS : Not significant
 Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total
 Source: Sample survey

The relationship between the classification of respondents and their opinions on the extent of control over resources is insignificant in the pre-period vis-à-vis significant at one per cent level in the post-period. It may be summed up that dairying has a positive impact on the access to control over resources in the post-period. Thus, the share of respondents who believe that there was no control over family resources became negligible in the post-period. On the other hand, there is an increase in the account of respondents with control over family resources in the post-period. The respondents with control over family resources to a great extent have formed in the post-period only.

In the age group of 20-29 years and 60 and above years, the proportion of respondents with no control over family resources had been completely wiped out in the post-period (see Table

13). In the remaining age groups, their proportion had substantially declined. In the case of respondents who had enjoyed control over resources to some extent, their number had significantly increased in the post-period. The respondents with control over resources to a great extent were absent in the pre-period in all the age-wise classifications. It may be noteworthy that there are respondents who had exercised control over resources to a great extent in all the age groups without any exception in the post-period. Their share had varied between 9.52 per cent and 24.51 per cent. The SSC qualified and intermediate respondents with no control over resources have completely disappeared in the post-period. In all the remaining levels of education, the share of respondents with no control over resources had substantially declined in the post-period. A contrary picture exists in the proportion of respondents with



control over resources to some extent in all the levels of education excluding undergraduates. There is no change in them. The representation of women who had enjoyed control over resources to a great extent was absent in the pre-period. The respondents in all the categories of education who had exercised control over resources to a great extent were found in the range of 12.32 - 44.44 per cent in the post- period. These were absent in the pre-period. It can be noted that the percentage of OCs, BCs, SCs, STs and MCs with no control over resources had

remarkably declined in the post-period. As against this, the proportion of the aforesaid with control over resources to some extent had substantially increased. Further, none of the respondents with control over resources to a great extent were present in the pre-period. But respondents in these categories who had enjoyed control over resources to a great extent were found in the post-period only. Their share was in the range of 11.50 - 38.46 per cent. The share of respondents in the monthly income of less than Rs.4000 and Rs.12000-16000 is completely nil in the post-period. The respondents

Table 13: Feature – wise Opinions of Respondents on the Extent of Control over Family Resources

Feature		Pre			χ^2	Post			χ^2
		Extent of control				Extent of control			
		N.C	S.E	G.E		N.C	S.E	G.E	
Age (years)	20-29	36 (81.81)	8 (19.19)	-	3.70 NS	-	38 (90.48)	6 (9.52)	6.89 NS
	30-39	96 (82.76)	20 (17.24)	-		4 (3.45)	90 (77.59)	22 (18.96)	
	40-49	74 (72.55)	28 (27.45)	-		2 (1.96)	75 (73.53)	25 (24.51)	
	50-59	22 (78.57)	6 (21.43)	-		1 (3.57)	24 (85.71)	3 (10.71)	
	60 and above	8 (80.00)	2 (20.00)	-		-	9 (90.00)	1 (10.00)	
Education	Illiterate	90 (83.33)	18 (16.67)	-	7.07 NS	1 (0.93)	94 (87.04)	13 (12.03)	19.89*
	Below SSC	69 (72.63)	26 (27.37)	-		5 (5.26)	67 (70.53)	23 (24.21)	
	SSC	58 (82.86)	12 (17.14)	-		-	57 (81.43)	13 (18.57)	
	Intermediate	14 (77.78)	4 (22.22)	-		-	14 (77.78)	4 (28.22)	
	Under-graduate	5 (55.56)	4 (44.44)	-		1 (11.11)	4 (44.44)	4 (44.44)	



Caste	OCs	42 (73.68)	15 (26.32)	-	4.45 NS	1 (1.75)	44 (77.19)	12 (21.05)	13.25 NS
	BCs	79 (78.22)	22 (21.78)	-		2 (1.98)	77 (76.24)	22 (21.78)	
	SCs	95 (84.07)	18 (15.93)	-		2 (1.77)	98 (86.73)	13 (11.50)	
	STs	11 (68.75)	5 (31.25)	-		1 (6.25)	10 (62.50)	5 (31.25)	
	MCs	9 (69.23)	4 (30.77)	-		1 (7.69)	7 (53.85)	5 (38.46)	
Nature of family	Nuclear	153 (81.38)	35 (18.62)	-	2.21 NS	3 (1.60)	152 (80.85)	33 (17.55)	2.03 NS
	Joint	83 (74.11)	29 (25.89)	-		4 (3.57)	84 (75.00)	24 (21.43)	
Monthly income (Rs.)	Upto 4000	25 (73.53)	9 (26.47)	-	1.93 Ns	-	29 (85.29)	5 (14.71)	8.24 Ns
	4000-8000	93 (78.81)	25 (21.19)	-		4 (3.39)	98 (83.05)	16 (13.56)	
	8000-12000	55 (83.33)	11 (26.67)	-		2 (3.03)	49 (74.24)	15 (22.72)	
	12000-16000	38 (79.17)	10 (20.83)	-		-	36 (75.00)	12 (25.00)	
	16000 and above	25 (73.53)	9 (26.47)	-		1 (2.94)	24 (70.59)	9 (26.47)	

Notes: * Indicates significant at one per cent level

NS: Not significant

NC: No control; SE: To some extent; and GE: To a great extent.

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to total

Source: Sample survey

in other levels of income who had enjoyed control over resources to some extent had substantially declined in the post-period. A converse situation emerges in the proportion of respondents who had enjoyed control over resources to some extent in the post-period. The

respondents in all the ranges of income who had exercised control over resources to a great extent were non-existent in the pre-period. Such respondents who have envisaged control over resources to a great extent are found in all the levels of income in the post-period. Their share was in the order of 13.56 - 26.47 percent.



The respondents in the nuclear and joint families with no control over resources had declined as against an increase in the respondents with control over resources to some extent in the post-period. None of the respondents in both the categories of families enjoyed control over resources to a great extent in the pre-period. But some of these respondents had freedom to use resources to a great extent in the post-period only. Their proportion was 17.55 per cent and 21.43 per cent in the nuclear and joint families sequentially. The respondents with different characteristic features who had enjoyed no control over resources has decreased while it increased in the case of respondents who had exercised control over resources to some extent in the post-period. Despite non-existence of respondents who had enjoyed control over resources to a great extent in the pre-period, such respondents emerged in the post-period. The relationship between the classification of respondents on the basis of age, caste affiliation, range of income and nature of family and their perceptions on the extent of control over resources is insignificant. But, it is significant in the level of education in the post-period only. The decrease in the share of respondents in the lower option, growth in the middle option and either increase or emergence in the higher option testifies the fact that dairying has enhanced the economic empowerment of women.

VIII. Conclusion

Eighty-five to ninety per cent of respondents use the by-product of dairying, that is, dung for their farm activities. For more than 90 per cent of respondents, price of milk is reasonable. A greater proportion of palamitras have made a complaint about differential payment between them and pourers. Around 94 per cent of respondents have expressed the view that there is no delay in the payment for milk. The income

of respondents has gone up due to increase in the number of animals. The higher the literacy rate among the respondents, the higher is the income and vice-versa. The share of respondents in the income range of Rs. 4000-8000 and Rs.12000-16000 ranks first among the pourers and palamitras respectively. The freedom of respondents in spending their income had greatly increased among pourers and palamitras. A good percentage of respondents have declined in the lower option, moved up in the middle option and formed afresh in the higher option in the post dairying period. The number of respondents with no control over income and their classifications on the basis of age, education, caste affiliation, nature of family and level of monthly income has decreased in the post-period. A contrary situation prevails in the case of respondents who have control over income to some extent. Further, none of the respondents have enjoyed control over income to a great extent in the pre-period but they are found afresh across all the variables in the post-period.

More than 60 per cent of pourers and 44 per cent of palamitras have saved less than Rs. 3000 per month in the post dairying period. The share of respondents who believe that there was no control over family resources became negligible in the post-period. On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of respondents with control over family resources in the post dairying period. The respondents with control over family resources to a great extent have formed in the after period only. The respondents with different characteristic features who had enjoyed no control over resources has decreased while it increased in the case of respondents who had exercised control over resources to some extent in the post-period. Despite non-existence of respondents who had enjoyed control over resources to a great extent in the pre-period, such



respondents emerged in the post-period. Dairying has enhanced the economic empowerment. This is based on the fact that there is a decrease in the number of those in the lower option, increase in the number of those in the middle option and either increase or existence with those in the higher option. An identical trend is found in the relationship between the segregation of respondents on the basis of age, income, education, nature of family and caste and their views on economic empowerment measured in terms of extent of control over income and family resources between pre and post dairying periods.

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