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# **An Overview of Women Milk Producing Co-Operatives in Karnataka**

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**Abstract:** *This paper analyzed the dairy development is one the strategies for women empowerment in developing countries like India. In this direction the present paper tries to highlight on the growth of milk production in India and also look into the status of women milk cooperatives in Karnataka along with some diary development programmes. It is revealed that there is a positive growth in the milk production in India over a period. At present, KMF evolved itself as a premier and most profitable dairy farmers' organization in the State of Karnataka. In Karnataka, it is found that even though the total of women milk cooperatives increased over a period, the annual growth rate of it is decreased. The existing policies regarding dairy development particularly women should be strength.*

**Keywords:** *Milk Production, Women, STEP, Sanjeevini, Women Milk Co-operatives*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Dairy farming is one of the agriculture allied sector in India as well as Karnataka. It provides to socio-economic development, empowering women, political, employment and income generation, rural women poverty reduction, improvement of children education, and sustainable livelihood to millions of household in rural country and State. Women empowerment is one of the challenging tasks in the present scenario. Most of the women in India both in rural and semi-urban are employed in order to meet the financial demands for endurance in the country. A majority of them are engaged in agriculture and allied activities like-animal husbandry, dairy farming, fisheries development, cattle and buffaloes rearing, and other allied activities. Income from agricultural activities has been as irregular as the monsoon is uneven. Hence, rural people are forced to think of generating additional revenues. Since these people are less literate and possess limited skills, the hunt for alternate source of income is constrained to a few occupations. A majority of them choose rearing of milk cattle and selling the milk and milk products as a source of secondary income. Cattle rearing are a diversification from existing agricultural activity and creating additional income and employment generation.

Dairy Farming is a major occupation of women in village level. The major constraints faced by the women dairy farmers are shortage of food for animals, lack of management, insufficient veterinary services and lack of access to finance. Although, India is emerging as a leading dairy nation, the dairy industry is highly fragmented. Almost two-thirds of the dairy activities are mostly in the hands of small and marginal farmers and landless laborers. There is a significant change in the economic condition of the women after taking up dairy farming. Profitability, job security, promotional measures of the Government, easy marketing, self-esteem, financial independence etc. had influenced the opinion of the women dairy farmers about the benefit of dairy farming. Shortage of fodder for cattle, lack of veterinary services, late payment by purchasers, sickness of dairy animals and lack of proper management were identified as the major problems of dairy farmers.

## **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

There are plenty of research works done on the role of dairy cooperatives at macro level. But there are few studies existed regarding the women milk producing cooperatives in India and Karnataka level. Some of the literature reviews regarding this is given below. Manish and Tanaka (2007) examined the how daily activities can empower rural women by analyzing dairy activities of KISHAN cooperative in India. Focusing on the three dimensions of women's empowerment, this paper measures the extent of women's empowerment. This paper also analyses the factors contribute to women empowerment. Trivedi, et,all (2011) focused on the effort to study the role of district cooperative dairies in helping the women to be self-reliant, self-employed, self-diligent, and empowered. A

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majority of them choose rearing of milk cattle and selling the milk as a source of secondary income. Cattle's rearing is a diversification from existing agricultural activity. Largely, rural women are engaged in this activity. These rural women, besides doing hard household chores, also undertake the taxing job of cattle rearing. They supply the milk to the well-established district cooperative dairies working successfully on the Anand model. Ramananda (2012) made an attempt to understand the situations of women dairy co-operative societies' membership, their economic upliftment and empowerment of Women as dairy entrepreneurs. The study mainly based on secondary as well as primary data. Women empowerment is an issue which has occupied 'center stage' in the developmental agenda of the nation. Vallapureddy (2013) analyzed the aim of the study is an attempt to identify the various factors/dimensions that have contributed to the growth of this rural women initiative. The focus on analysis of the growth path is particularly important as the development sector is trying more and more to discover the process of enhancing large number of livelihoods for rural poor and producers..

### A. Objectives and Methodology

The present study is carried out to highlight on the growth of milk production in India and to look into the status of women milk cooperatives in Karnataka. The present paper is based on only secondary data. It is collected from Reports of Karnataka Milk Federation, AMUL, National Dairy Development Board, and related websites. Analysis of data is carried out using simple statistical tools such percentage and AGR.

### B. Role of Dairy Farming in India

The importance of dairying in our country hardly needs emphasizing. The vast resources of livestock population in the country play an important role in the national economy as well as in the socio-economic development of millions of urban-rural households. Dairy farming is an important source of subsidiary income to small/marginal farmers and agricultural laborers in the country. The manure from animals provides a good source of organic matter for improving soil fertility and crop yields. It is provide gober gas from the dung is used as fuel for domestic purposes as also for running engines for drawing water from well. The main beneficiaries of dairy programmes are small/marginal farmers and landless labourers.

India is endowed with the largest livestock population in the world. It accounts for about 57.3 per cent of the world's buffalo population and 14.7 per cent of the cattle population. The value of output of milk is Rs. 3, 05,484 crore in 2011-12. The total milk production in the country is 127.9 million tones per annum at the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12) and the demand is expected to be 180 million tones by 2020. To achieve this demand annual growth rate in milk production has to be increased from the present 2.5 percent to 5 percent. The Annual growth rate for production of milk is about 5 percent in 2011-12. Thus, there is a tremendous scope/potential for increasing the milk production through profitable dairy farming.

Table-1 Growth and Milk Production in India

Years	Milk Production (Million Tonnes)	AGR	Per capita Availability (gms/ days)
2005-06	97.1	-	241
2006-07	102.6	5.66	251
2007-08	107.9	5.17	260
2008-09	112.2	3.99	266
2009-10	116.4	3.74	273
2010-11	121.8	4.64	281
2011-12	127.9	5.01	290
2012-13	132.4	3.52	299
2013-14	137.7	4.00	307
2014-15	146.3	6.25	322

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, 2015

Table-1 shows that the growth and milk production in India during 2005-2015. It is found that the annual growth rate of milk production has increased to 6.25 (2014-15) from 5.66 (2005-06). It is revealed that there is a positive growth in the milk production

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over a period. In terms of million tonnes it has increased to 146 million tonne in 2014-15 from 97 million tonne in 2005-06. The per capita availability of milk has risen to 322 grams per day in 2014-15 from 241grams in 2005-06. This is shows that the demand for milk products has increased over a period due the increase in population, economic benefits, and financial supports and increased the concentration on agricultural allied activities

### C. Karnataka Milk Federation

Karnataka Milk Federation which is most popular as KMF evolved itself as a premier and most profitable dairy farmers' organization in the State of Karnataka and an agency in 1975 to implement the World Bank aided Dairy Development Projects. Karnataka Dairy Development Corporation (KDDC) was formed. The company grew itself fast and as it spreads, the wing of new found rural economic activity, and dairying all over the State. The genesis of Apex Co-operative body took the shape of KMF in 1983 encompassing entire State with 13 District Co-operative Milk Unions executing the various parameters of Dairy activity, organization of Dairy co-operatives, Milk Routes, Veterinary Services, Procurement of Milk into shifts of the day, Chilling, Processing of Milk, distribution of milk and also establishment of cattle Feed Plants at Hesarghatta as its main stay.

The entire system was reconstructed on the model of now well know 'ANAND' pattern dairy co-operative societies. The eight southern districts of Karnataka was considered initially with a target of organizing 1800 Dairy Co-operative Societies, four Milk Unions and processing facilities were set up to the tune of 6.5 lakhs tones per day by 1974. The organization is three tiered on co-operative principles, there are

Dairy Co-operative Societies at grass root level

District Co-operative Milk Unions at single/multi district level.

The Milk Federation at State level.

All the above three are governed by a democratically elected board from among the milk producers'. Under the direction of elected board of KMF, various functional Units and Unions are performing the assigned tasks to ensure fulfillment of organizations objectives. Presently under the supervision of KMF, there are thirteen milk unions functioning by undertaking dairy activities in Karnataka.

Table-2 Women Milk Cooperatives in Karnataka

Year	No.of.Milk cooperatives	No of women Milk cooperatives	AGR	%of women milk cooperatives to total cooperatives
2004-05	8266	1245	-	15.06
2005-06	8674	1409	4.70	16.24
2006-07	9084	1589	4.51	17.49
2007-08	9422	1798	3.58	19.08
2008-09	9924	2043	5.05	20.58
2009-10	10415	2285	4.71	21.93
2010-11	10923	2486	4.65	22.75
2011-12	11568	2746	5.57	23.73
2012-13	12072	2928	4.17	24.25
2013-14	12320	3007	2.01	24.40

Table 2 presents the total number of milk cooperatives, number of women milk cooperatives and percentage of women milk cooperatives to total cooperatives in Karnataka during 2005-2014. The number of milk cooperatives increasing every year and finally reached to 12320 (2013-14) from 8266 (2004-05). Along with the increase in total number of milk cooperatives the women milk cooperatives also increased from 1245 (2004-05) to 3007 (2013-14). Even though the total of women milk cooperatives increased over a period, the annual growth rate of it is decreased. It means that it is reduced to 2% in the year 2013-14 from 4.17% in 2012-13. But the percentage of women cooperatives increased to 24.40% in 2013-14 from 15% in 2004-05.

### D. Women Dairy Development Policies: An Overview

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STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women) policy under the Government of India's department of Women and Child Development. The project aims at improving the economic status of rural women through efficient and modern dairy management. Making assistance for dairy farming available in the form of subsidized cattle feed, fodder, animal healthcare, cattle insurance, group insurance coverage and training programmes. The KMF initiated the STEP Programme in Karnataka from October 1997. Since then, KMF has organized 800 Women Dairy Cooperative Societies (WDCS) in three Phases and in Phase IV converted 250 WDCS organized prior to the advent of STEP into STEP WDCS. In addition to these in the year 2007, the Government of India has approved two more Phases – Phase V for organizing of 200 new WDCS and Phase VI for bringing the 200 existing WDCS into the fold of STEP. Thus 1450 WDCS are sanctioned by Government of India (till Jan'09 WDCS are 1189) at a total outlay of Rs.3974.64 lakh and has released till January-2009 Rs.2686.10 lakh. Each WDCS gets a grant of approximately Rs.2.50 to 3.00 lakh for establishment, management and for granting interest-free loan for purchasing milk animals. The share of Government of India is 90% and implementing agency i.e. KMF and its Member Milk Unions share is 10%.

The main objective of STEP is to upgrade skills and provide employment to women on a project basis, and mobilize them into viable groups, which has been successfully done in Karnataka. The KMF is implementing STEP Scheme through its 13 Member District Milk Unions. The District Milk Unions form the STEP Core Team which through Bench Mark Survey identifies the Target Group Members that include the marginalized, asset less, wage laborers, women headed households, migrant laborers, tribal's and other dispossessed rural women. Thus the beneficiaries in the project will be poor or asset less marginalized women with special focus on SC/ST households, woman headed households and families below poverty line. The main features of the STEP Scheme are Training, Providing margin money conducting Awareness Generation Programme at village level and visit to Amul in Anand, Gujarat. The STEP WDCS also carries out programme for the benefit of rural women, apart from milk procurement, milk marketing and providing technical input for their members

Another important feature of WDCS is promotion of Self-Help Groups (SHG) by its Target Group Members. STEP Programme implementation proposes formation of at least one Self-Help Group. In this way 1375 SHGs are formed with a savings of Rs.475.33 lakhs. The Nandini Self-Help Groups which are centers of empowerment are working for the socio-economic development of rural women. The positive intervention by KMF with the help of Government of India is resulting in slow emergent of movement of rural women, who have seen little beyond their immediate work at home, their farm and the village. The aim is to enhance women's bargaining power as members of the society by increasing their access and control over household and community resources.

### *E. Sanjeevini: Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS)*

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) launched Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS), aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities of the rural poor. Sanjeevini-KSRLPS part of the national Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) supported by Government of Karnataka. The Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana launched in 1999 - focusing on self-employment programmes through self-mobilization of the poor into groups - had not succeeded in alleviating poverty. Hence, NRLM started 'Sanjeevini' focusing on three aspects - social inclusion which includes mobilization of the poor and building their institutions; financial inclusion which includes linking Self-Help Groups(SHG)s and banks, financial literacy and banking for those left out of the banking system; economic inclusion which includes livelihood promotion.

### III. CONCLUSION

In the fast moving world particularly in a country like India, one forgets or does not care to stop for a while and have a lot at women dairy farmers who are poor in their personal as well as social life. They are very low in their economic status and their opinions and views are not given much importance. It is a common understanding that people in the rural areas are engaged in agriculture. Dairy farming is an allied activity of agriculture, which gives an added income to those involved in agriculture. In order to learn the part played by women in dairy farming, the present study was taken up. Women dairy farmers are able to get more income and were happy with these benefits which are reflected in higher intake of quality food, improved health conditions, better clothing, enhanced savings and finally leading to increased status.

Dairy development is one the tool for women empowerment in developing countries like India. It found that It is found that the annual growth rate of milk production in India has increased to 6.25 (2014-15) from 5.66 (2005-06). It is revealed that there is a positive growth in the milk production over a period. This is shows that the demand for milk products has increased over a period due the increase in population, economic benefits, and financial supports and increased the concentration on agricultural allied activities. At Karnataka level, KMF evolved itself as a premier and most profitable dairy farmers' organization in the State of

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