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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PARTICIPATION OF FARM WOMEN IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN SHIMOGA, KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Animal husbandry signifies as the second largest economical activity and provides employment and economic support to rural families. Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry are performed by women besides their responsibilities as home makers but the role of dairy farm women is not recognized as economic contribution and they remain as unpaid labour. This study emphasized the analysis of participation of dairy farm women in animal husbandry occupation. The study was conducted in Shimoga district of Karnataka. Data were collected from 120 farm women using structured interview schedule. The participation was observed more in the aspects related to milking, feeding, health care and management, breeding and less in finance management.

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INTRODUCTION

Even though dairying is a subsidiary occupation in India, it plays an important role in the agricultural development of a country. Farming in India is mainly family based and farm women are the back bone of dairy farming. There has been little realization about the contribution of women in the economic activities of a country. The female population constitutes nearly half of the total population and more than 80 % of dairy operations have been traditionally handled by women. Women generally are responsible for the feeding, grazing, fodder collection, milking, processing, dung management, while men who manage the finances generally sale of milk and milk products (Sethi, 2010). They are actively participating in various dairy farming practices including harvesting and bringing of fodder from field, care of sick animal, feed preparation, feeding the animal, cleaning of animal shed, milking, cow dung collection and cake making, etc. (Farinde and Ajayi, 2005, Narmatha *et al*., 2009). Considering the the significant role of women in dairying and allied activities, the study was conducted to assess the rural woman's participation in animal husbandry in Shimoga, Karnataka.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in the Shimoga district of the Karnataka state, which is a hilly backward district of Karnataka. More than 70 % of the population is engaged in dairy and animal husbandry activities. The Shivamogga District Milk Producers' Societies' Union Limited covers 3 Districts-Shivamogga, Davanagere and Chitradurga procures on an AVG 3.61 lakh kg/day of milk and sales 1.78 lakh litres/per day. The study was conducted during the year 2015-16. A total of 120 respondents were taken from three blocks of Shivamogga selected randomly namely Shimoga, Bhadravathi and Thirthahalli having minimum dairy animals two and maximum ten. Finally by using random sampling technique, 40 respondents from each block were selected, thus a random sample of 120 respondents was selected for the study. The structured interview schedule keeping in view the objectives of the study was prepared

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of Socio-economic Characteristic of women dairy farmers

It is observed from Figure 1 that majority (54.00 per cent) of the respondents was from lower middle age group followed by

upper middle group (23.67 per cent) young age (17.33 per cent) group and 5.00 percent of old age group. This implies that the younger and old women were less involved in dairy husbandry practices. It is also observed from Figure 2 that majority of the respondents were having education up to higher secondary (36.66 per cent), 22.02 per cent respondents were college educated, 14.66 per cent secondary and 15.33 per cent primary education followed by illiterate (10.33 per cent). The low percentage of illiterates had positively influenced adoption of innovations in dairy farming. Results on family size show that majority of the respondents (63.33 per cent) of the farm women belonged to middle size family where as 23.33 per cent and 13.33 per cent respondent belonged to small size and big size family respectively. While looking at the martial status of respondents result revealed that most of the respondents (96.00 per cent) were married followed by widow (2.00 per cent) and divorced (1.00 per cent), whereas only one percent of the respondent was unmarried. The finding shows that majority of the member respondent i.e. 53.33 per cent possessed medium herd size (4-10) milch animals where as 13.33 per cent and 33.34 respondents were having big as well as small herd size. It is evident from Figure 6 that majority (63.34 per cent) of the respondents were farming as occupation followed by entrepreneur (16.66 per cent, non wage earner (10.00 per cent), farm labour (6.66 per cent), and service (3.33 percent). From Figure 7 it can be interpreted that among the respondents, majority (75.00 per cent) respondents produced the milk between 10-20 liters per day where as 22.00 per cent and 3.00 per cent respondents produce milk low (<10 liters) and high (>20 liters) levels respectively. Results on social participation (Figure:8) show that more than half (57.00 per cent) of respondents were having medium social participation and 32.00 per cent of respondents have low social participation, followed by 10.00 per cent respondent had high social participation and only few (1.00 percent) have no social participation . The findings also indicate that majority (53.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by 40.00 per cent low knowledge level and 6.66 per cent high knowledge level.

Participation/ involvement of women in different activities

Role performed by women in various activities of dairy farming including feeding management, financial management, breeding, healthcare and processing and marketing of milk was analyzed and depicted in Table 1. Participation of women in feeding of livestock was analyzed and presented in Table 1, which indicate that most of the respondents were involved in storage of concentrates (87.50 per cent), feeding young calf (92.50 per cent), watering the livestock (89.16 per cent), offering the concentrate mixture (95.66 per cent) and soaking of concentrates (82.50 Per cent). Similar results were also reported by Chayal *et al*. (2009) and Lahoti *et al*. (2012). Analysis of financial management shows that involvement in very less with Dairy Co-operative involvement (7.50 per cent), taking loan (9.16 per cent), insurance for animals (9.16 per cent) and maintenance of farm records (9.16 per cent). These findings are in conformity with the findings of Chayal *et al*. (2009) and Lahoti *et al*. (2012). These findings show that men are having an upper hand in financial management compared to women. The expansion of dairy farming is being hindered by the lack of proper inputs and credit (Aparna R and Jancy G, 2014). Data presented in Table1 shows that involvement of respondent farm women in feeding young calf` was 92.50 percent. These findings are in agreement with the findings reported by Uma Sah *et al*. (2006) and Chayal *et al*. (2009). The Table reveals that majority of the women involved in feed management, offering concentrate mixture, soaking of concentrates, storage of concentrates feeding young calf and watering of livestock. It is also observed that only 6.67 percent of respondent woman participated in enrichment of dry fodder. Majority of the respondents were involved in care of new born calf (70.83 per cent), care at the time of pregnancy (91.67 per cent) and weaning and management of calf (94.17 per cent). Perusal of data presented in Table 1 reveals majority (91.67 Per cent) respondent women involved in care during pregnancy however they were less involved during care at time of calving (54.16 Per cent), care of new born calf (70.83 Per cent). For weaning

Table 1. Distribution of farm women according to their participation in animal husbandry (N=120)

Animal husbandry operations	Frequency	Percentage
Feeding Management		
Enrichment of dry fodder	8	6.67
Soaking of concentrates	99	82.50
Offering concentrate mixture	114	95.00
Feeding young calf`	111	92.50
Storage of concentrates	105	87.5
Watering the livestock	107	89.16
Financial Participation		
Maintenance of farm records	11	9.16
Involvement in Dairy Co-operative	9	7.50
Taking loans	11	9.16
Insurance of animals	11	9.16
Breeding of milch animals		
Carrying out AI	21	17.50
Castration of male calves	63	52.5
Care during pregnancy	110	91.67
Care at the time of calving	65	54.16
Care of new born calf	85	70.83
Weaning management of calf	113	94.17
Health care & Livestock Management		
Diagnosis of common diseases and care at house level	116	96.67
Care of sick animals	117	97.5
Disposal of infected litter material	94	78.33
Grooming, cleaning and bathing buffalos/cows	94	78.33
Vaccination	62	51.66
Milking & preparing milk products		
Milking the animals	83	69.16
Cleaning milk vessels	119	99.16
Sale through co-operative dairy society	11	9.16

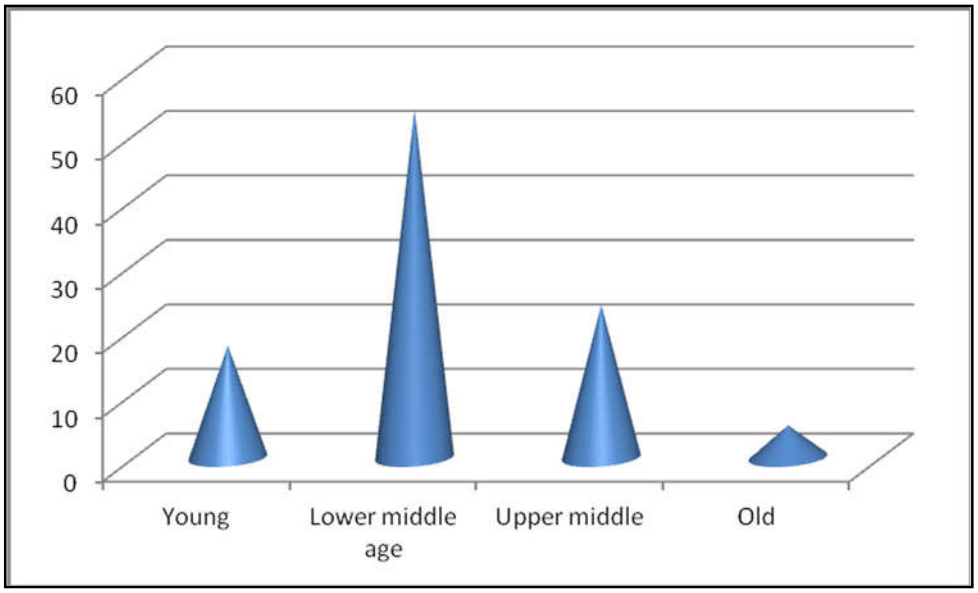

Fig.1. Distribution of respondents according to their age group

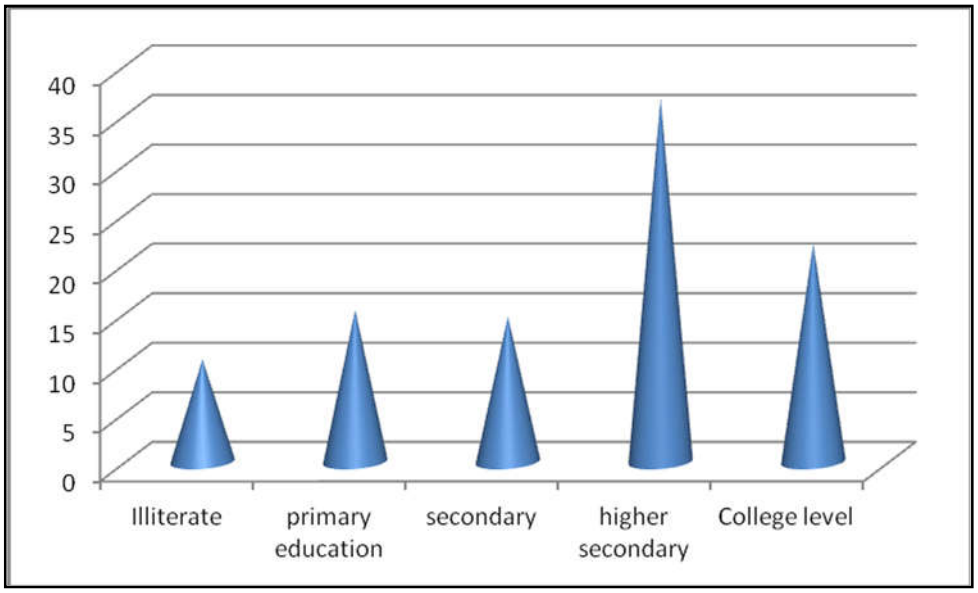

Fig.2. Distribution of respondents according to their educational status

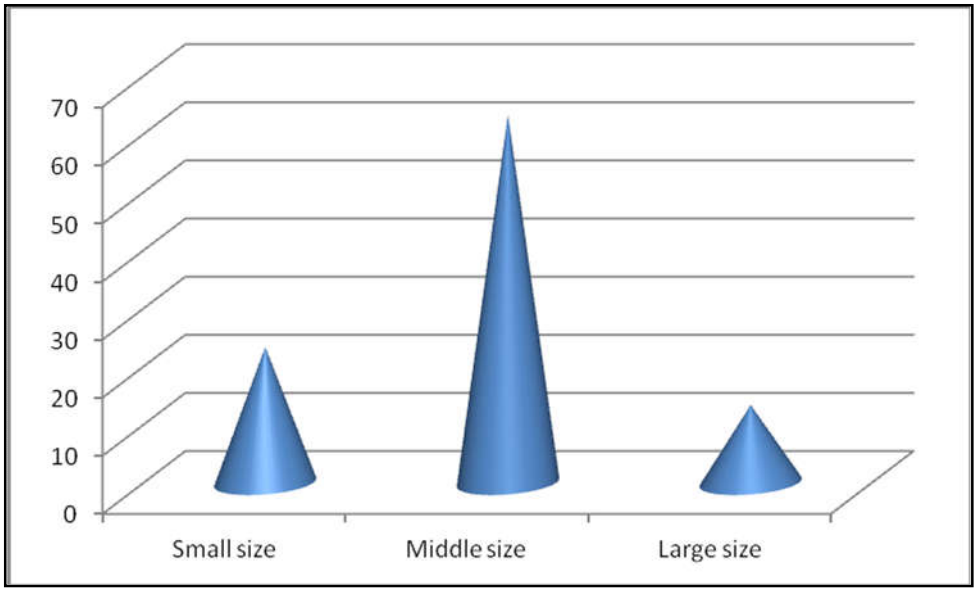

Fig.3. Distribution of respondents according to their family size

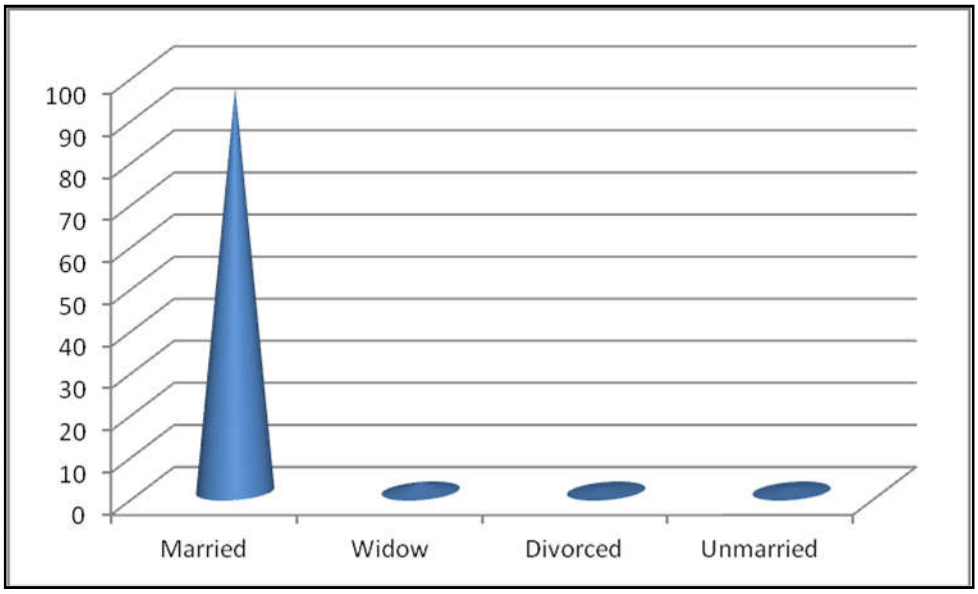

Fig.4. Distribution of respondents according to their martial status

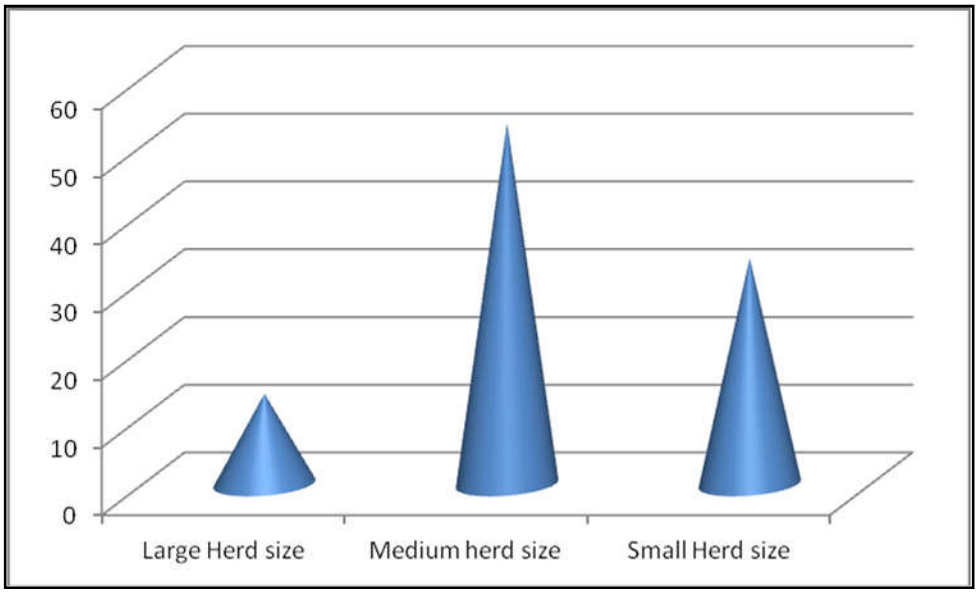

Fig.5. Distribution of respondents according to their herd size

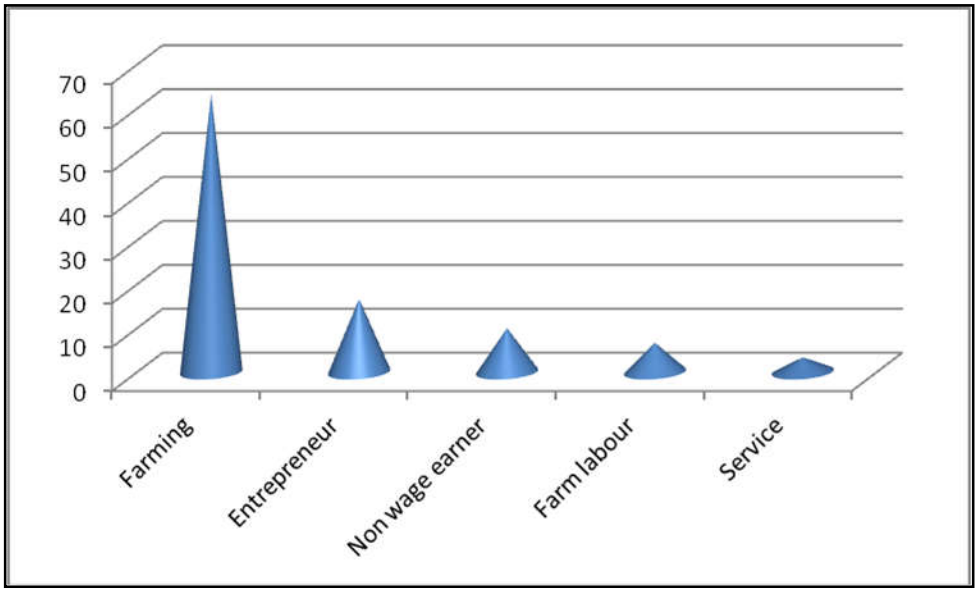

Fig.6. Distribution of respondents according to their occupation

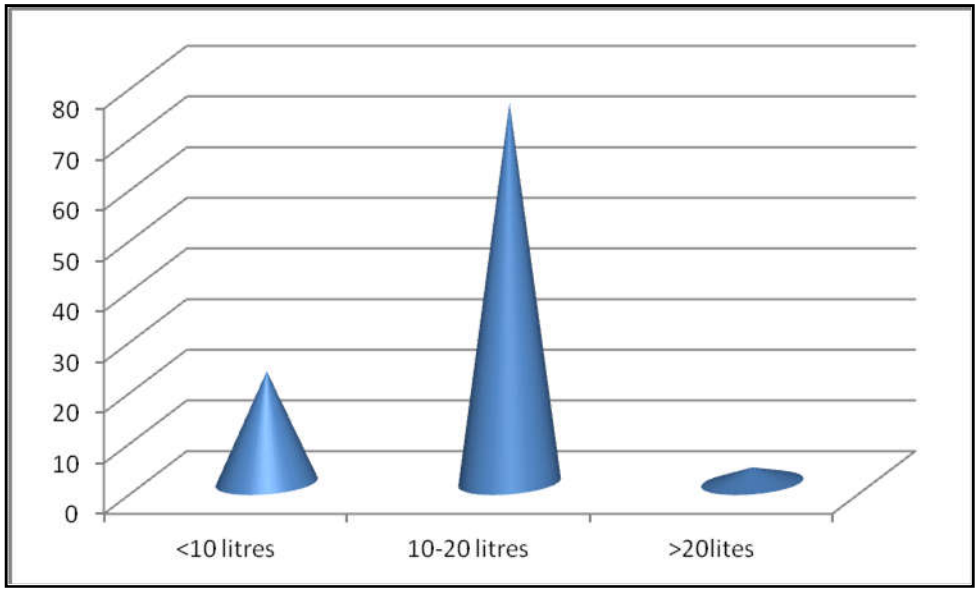

Fig.7. Distribution of respondents according to their milk production

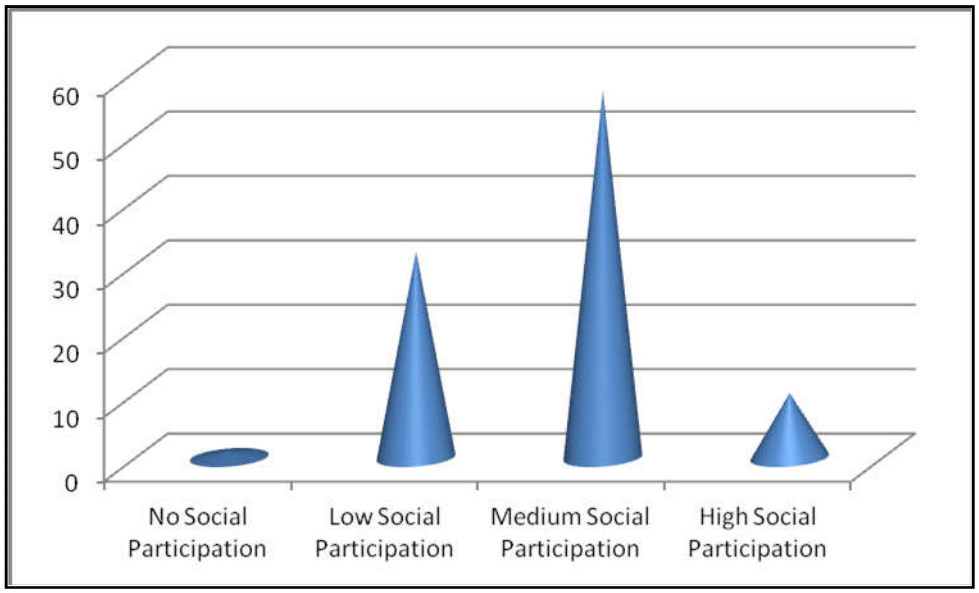

Fig.8. Distribution of respondents according to their social participation

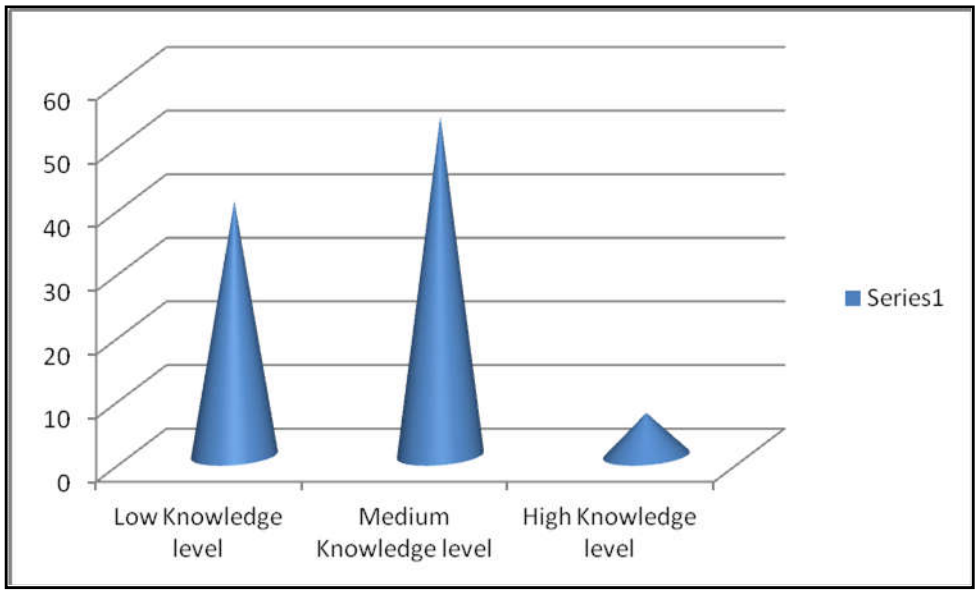

Fig.9. Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge level

management (94.17 per cent), castration of male calf (52.50 per cent) and carrying animal for A.I./Service centre (17.50 per cent). These findings are in line with the findings reported by Nikulsinh (2011). Data presented in Table 1 indicate that respondent women were actively involved in diagnosis of common diseases and care at house level (96.67 Per cent), care of sick animals (97.50 Per cent), disposal of infected litter material (78.33 per cent), grooming, cleaning and bathing buffalos/cows (78.33.00 Per cent), deworming (66.66 Per cent) and vaccination (51.66 Per cent). Data presented in Table indicate that majority respondents performed the processing of milking and preparation of milk products. Involvement of farm women in marketing activities was poor.

Conclusion

It may be concluded that the farm women play an important and substantial role in dairy farming of Shimoga. They are actively involved in various aspects of dairy farming activities like livestock management, feeding and breeding the livestock, health care etc. They offer more involvement in following dairy husbandry practices like care of new born calf, cleaning of animal shed, cleaning of utensils, storage of concentrates, feeding young calf, diagnosis of common disease and care at home level, care of sick animals, watering the live stock, offering the concentrate mixture, soaking the concentrate mixture, care during pregnancy, disposal of infected litter materials, grooming, cleaning and bathing buffaloes and cows, compost making, milking of animals. Due attention should be given by extension agencies and policy makers to arrange training programmes, demonstrations and seminars for women dairy farmers.

The challenges of dairy farming thus can be converted into opportunities provided the supply of necessary inputs is insured and provides better market for the various farm products.

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