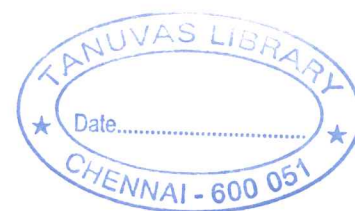


**FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION :
THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS**

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I.D. No. : MVM 98012



*thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of*

Master of Veterinary Science

in

Animal Husbandry Economics

to the

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Chennai - 600 051.

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CHENNAI - 600 007**

2000

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION : THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS**" submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF VETERINARY SCIENCE** in **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ECONOMICS** to the **Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai - 600 051** is a record of bonafide research work carried out by **Thiru. R. JOHN CHRISTY** under my supervision and guidance and that no part of the thesis has been submitted for the award of any other degree, diploma, fellowship or other similar titles or prizes and that the work has not been published in part or full in any scientific or popular journal or magazine.

Dated : 23.11.2000.

Place : Chennai-3.




(M. THIRUNAVUKKARASU)
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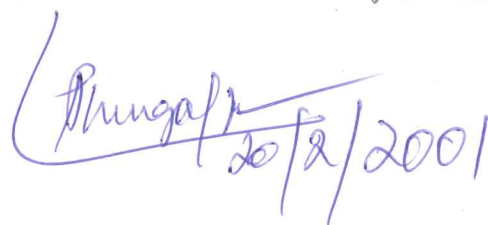

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20/2/2001

ABSTRACT

Title : **Female Participation in Livestock Production : The Socio-Economic Dimensions**

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A study was undertaken to study the functions carried out by farm women in livestock farming, to analyse the association between the socio-economic characteristics of farm women and the extent of their participation in livestock farming and to analyse the role of farm women in decision making process related to livestock production. The data collected were relating to the year 1999-2000 from 120 animal rearing households randomly selected from four villages (drawn from two blocks) in Villupuram district.

The sample households consisted of 30 women respondents each from the categories of landless, marginal, small and large farmers. Results indicated that most of the tasks related to livestock keeping like feeding, watering, housing, breeding, healthcare of animals, milking, hygiene and marketing of milk and milk products were performed by family women. On an average, farm women in the family spent 294.34 and 87.17 minutes daily for large and small

ruminants keeping, respectively with the imputed values of Rs.24.53 and Rs.7.26 respectively.

The coefficients of multiple determination (R^2) obtained for the linear regression models fitted for average time spent on respective animal keeping by farm women were 0.946 and 0.932 for large and small ruminants keeping, respectively.

The independent variables, educational status of female head, total economically dependent members of the family, community, average hired labour hours per day for large ruminants and total large ruminants in animal units were significantly affected the average time spent by women in the farm households on large ruminants keeping. The positive coefficients for the variable, total large ruminants in animal unit indicated that every unit rise from the mean level in this variable resulted in increase of average time spent by females by 24.227 minutes per day per household. The negative coefficients of variables, total economically dependent members of family and average hired labour hours used for large ruminants keeping, indicated that every unit increase from the mean level in these variables resulted in a decrease of 31.366 and 0.924 minutes, respectively. Highly significant positive coefficient for factor, community, indicated that SC women spent more time on large ruminants keeping. The significant negative coefficient for the variable, educational status of the female, indicated that literate females spent lesser time on large ruminant keeping than illiterate females.

The independent variables such as age of women head, community, average hired labour hours per day for small ruminants care, total large ruminants in animal units and total small ruminants in animal units were significantly influenced the average time spent by farm women on small ruminants keeping. The highly significant positive co-efficient for the variable, total small ruminants animal units indicated that every unit rise from the mean

level in this variable resulted in the increase of average time spent on small ruminants care by females by 20.569 minutes. The highly significant negative coefficients for the two variables, viz., average hired labour hours per day and total large ruminants in animal units indicated that every unit increase in these variables resulted in a decrease of 46.483 and 4.811 minutes, respectively in the average time spent in small ruminants care. Highly significant positive coefficients for variables community and age of women indicated that SC and aged women spent more time on small ruminant keeping.

Chi-square test revealed a significant association of female participation in few areas of decision making process related to animal rearing and land holding, community, female literacy, male literacy and annual household income. The females were found to be playing a significant role in decision making process regarding purchase of animals, feed and equipment, construction of animal house, veterinary care, sale of milk and other outputs, capital borrowing for livestock and fodder cultivation. The female participation is maximum in the areas of sale of milk (87.8 per cent) and veterinary care (80.8 per cent) and minimum in capital borrowing decisions for livestock (5.9 per cent) and fodder cultivation (5 per cent).