

**CHARACTERISTICS OF DAIRY OPERATORS IN PUNE DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY OF BARAMATI TAHSIL (MAHARASHTRA)****A.A. Devikar**Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, Social Sciences, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune  
devikarashok@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

*The present study examines the role of characteristics of dairy operators on dairy activity of Baramati tahasil of Pune district (Maharashtra). Among the main activity, farming is the main activity of dairy operators in the study areas. Agricultural labour also perform dairy activity with small herd size. There are small number of farmer (1.54 %) who engage the dairy activity as main activity on commercial basis. Nearly 61.54 percent dairy operators are illiterate in the study areas who perform dairy activity as regular source of income.*

**Introduction**

The dairy activity becomes an integral part of rural economy as it provide regular income. From agriculture green feed and crop residues are provided to the dairy animals. There are some farmer who perform the dairy activity on commercial basis mainly at the outer side of the city. These dairy operators keeps mainly buffaloes for dairy activity because of good demand to the buffaloes milk from the cities.

Before the independence dairy activity was practiced on private basis in important cities of the country like Mumbai, Delhi, Varanasi and Pune etc Thus before independence dairy activity was confined to the urban areas in order to fulfill the requirement of urban customer. Later on dairy activity developed and spread in rural areas on the basis of co-operative basis. Presently in Maharashtra dairy activity is mostly developed co-operative basis i. e. the Maharashtra State Co-operative Milk Ltd at apex District/Taluka Co-operative Milk Federation at district level and Primary Co-operative Milk Processing Societies at village level.

**Objectives**

The main objective of present study is to study the characteristics of dairy operators and its impact on dairy activity in Baramati Tahasil of Pune district (Maharashtra). This core objective

of the present study can be further sub divided into following main components.

1. Study of characteristics of dairy operators on the basis of socio-economic parameters.
2. Impact of socio-economic parameters on the performance of dairy activity.

**Study Area**

Baramati is one of the leading milk producing tahasil not only in Pune district but also in Maharashtra. It is mainly lies in the river Nira basin which is tributary of the river Bhima. The geographical location of the tahasil is between 18<sup>0</sup> 03' and 18<sup>0</sup> 12' north latitude and from 74<sup>0</sup> 13' to 74<sup>0</sup> 40' east longitude where as it is located at the altitude of 538 meter above the mean sea level. The average annual rainfall of the tahasil is 530 mm but the Nira bank canal has changed agricultural and economic landscape of the southern part of the tahasil whereas northern part of the tahasil is considered as drought-prone.

This tahasil is having good industrial development which started in 1988 by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. In this industrial area presently different type of industrials units are established which mainly includes agro based industries, engineering industries, Textile industries and automobile industries.

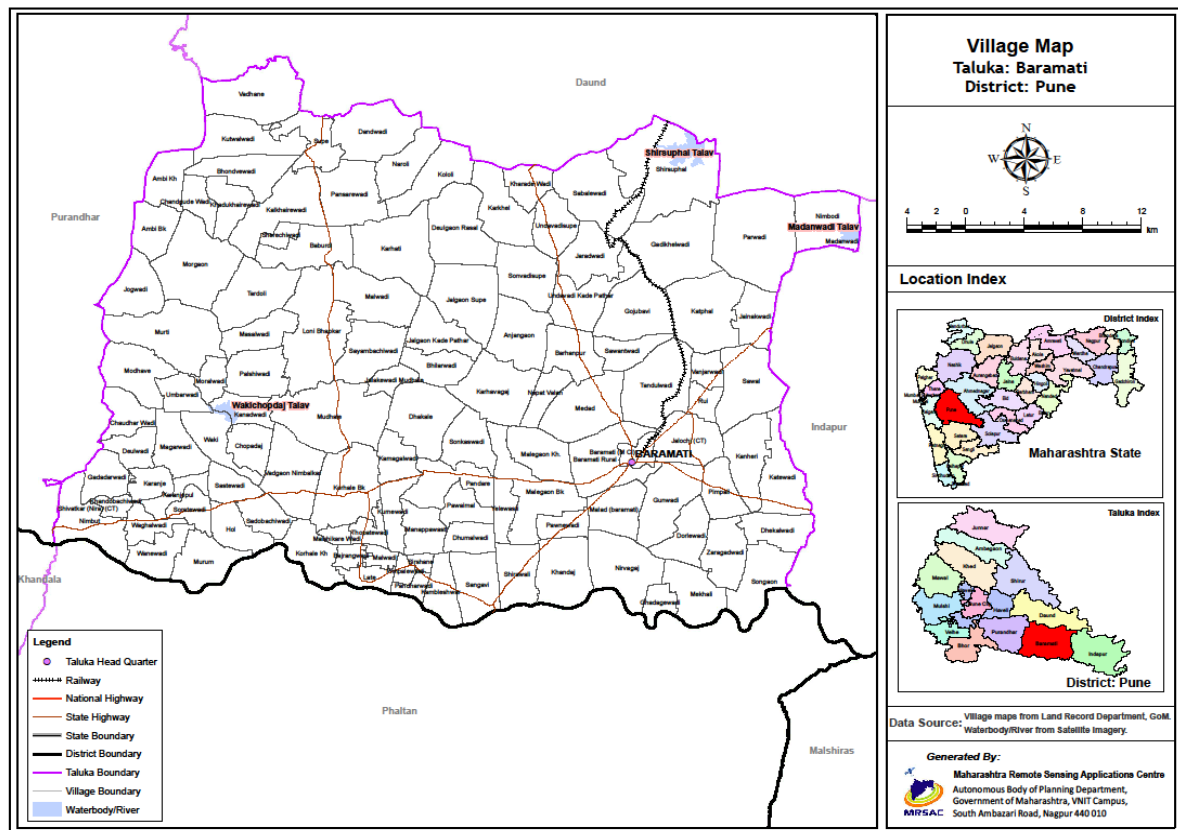


Figure1: Location map of Baramati Tahasil (Source:MRSAC)

**Data and Methodology**

To achieve the above mentioned objectives of the present study, different techniques and methods are used to reach the final conclusions. For collection of data required for analysis, Baramati tahsil is divided into three broad categories i.e. irrigated areas, non-irrigated areas and town as the nature of practicing the dairy is differ from one areas to another. From the ten villages of the tahasil, two hundred and sixty dairy operators were selected for the present case study.

**Results and Discussion**

a) It was observed that out of the total dairy operators more than two-third dairy operators perform the agriculture as main activity. It clearly indicate the positive correlation between farming and dairy activity as it provide regular income to the farmer and feed and fodder also come from agriculture . Nearly 26.54 percent (Table:1 )dairy operators are agricultural labour. Most of the agricultural labour do not have agricultural land for feeder but they arrange it from the farmer where working as

agricultural labor. There are few operator who are engaged in business and service sector.

- b) As many as seventeen castes’ dairy operators are performing the dairy activity where in the proportion of Maratha caste is as high as 72.69 percent (Table: 2) followed by Mali. The proportion of other caste is very low. It was observed that Jain and Brahmin dairy operators do not sold the milk, milk produced by them is mainly for their own family consumption. The dairy operators other than these two caste sold the milk either in the market or to the co-operative societies in the villages.
- c) It is very interesting to note that proportion of illiterate dairy operator in Baramati tahasil is as high as 61.54 percent (Table: 3) which indicate the dominance of illiterate farmer on dairy activity in the rural areas. These dairy operators are not performing the dairy activity scientific manner but recently KVK organized training and consultancy by which illiterate dairy operators also started performing dairy in a scientific manner. The graduate

and post-graduate also stated performing the dairy activity but their proportion is very low compared to the illiterate, primary, secondary band junior college level dairy operators.

- d) Size of family of dairy operators play an important role in term of availability of labor for dairy activity. The data analyses show that more three-fourth dairy operator's size of family is up to ten only. It is observed that dairy activity is performed by landless and large size farmer but the proportion of marginal, small and lower medium is very high.

Table: 1 Occupation of dairy operators

Sr No	Main occupation	No.	Percentage
1	Farming	177	68.08
2	Dairy	4	1.54
3	Business	2	0.77
4	Labour	69	26.54
5	Service	8	3.08
TOTAL		260	100

Table: 2 Caste composition of dairy operators

Sr.No.	Caste	No	Percentage
1	Barber	2	0.77
2	Blacksmith	1	0.38
3	Carpenter	2	0.77
4	Chambhar	4	1.53
5	Dhanger	8	3.07
6	Goldsmith	1	0.38
7	Gosavi	1	0.38
8	Jain	1	0.38
9	Kumbhar	1	0.38
10	Mahar	13	5
11	Mali	28	10.77
12	Mang	5	1.92
13	Maratha	189	72.69
14	Muslim	3	1.15
15	Ramoshi	1	0.38
	TOTAL	260	100

Table: 3 Educational status

Sr No	Education	No.	Percentage
1	Illiterate	160	61.54
2	I-IV	43	16.54
3	V-X	35	13.46
4	XI-XII	16	6.15
5	Graduate	5	1.92
6	Post Graduate	1	0.38
	TOTAL	260	100

Table: 4 Size of family

Sr No	Size	No.	Percentage
1	Upto- 5	125	48.07
2	6-10	93	35.77
3	11-15	38	14.61
4	More than 15	4	1.54
	TOTAL	260	100

Table: 5 Distribution of dairy operators according to size of holding with no. of cows and buffaloes

Category	Land owned (In Ha)	No. of dairy operators	% of total operators
Landless	-	36	13.84
Marginal	0.1-1.0	94	36.15
Small	1.1-2.0	68	26.15
Lower-medium	2.1- 4.0	35	13.46
Upper-medium	4.1- 6.0	18	6.92
large	Above 6.0	9	3.46
<b>TOTAL</b>		260	100

### Conclusions

It may conclude that the characteristics of dairy operator have significant impact on dairy activity in rural areas particularly at irrigated and non-irrigated areas. In the tahasil the main occupation of dairy operators is farming which is as high as 68.08 percent. Dairy activity is practiced by different caste and community people from the rural areas where in proportion of Maratha caste is very high followed by Mali caste dairy operators. The people from other caste also engaged in dairy activity but nature of practicing the dairy activity is differ from one caste to another in the tahasil.

The educational status of dairy operators play an important role while performing the dairy activity. The educational status of dairy operators are not the same in the areas. The dairy activity is mainly dominated by illiterate farmer. Presently graduate and post-graduate young dairy operators have started dairy on commercial and scientific manner.

In the conclusion it should be mention that landless and upper-medium farmer have performing dairy activity but more than sixty percent dairy operators are marginal and small.

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