



WOMEN DAIRY COOPERATIVES AS A SOURCE OF INCOME IN RURAL PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT

The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited is popularly known as MILKFED Punjab. It came into being in 1973 with a twin objective of providing remunerative milk market to the milk producers in the state value addition and marketing of produce on one hand and to provide technical inputs to the milk producers for enhancement of milk production on the other hand. Presently, about 7019 village level societies having 382442 members are functioning. There is eleven District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union which covers entire state of Punjab. It is an attempt to examine the income from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies (WMPCS) in Punjab and to examine the district wise income from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies (WMPCS) in Punjab. The study is based on primary data as well as on secondary data collected from Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited (MILKFED) in Punjab and Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (MILKFED) in Punjab's Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies' (WMPCS) respondents in Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur districts, books, journals and internet etc. The main findings of the study are the gross income and net income of respondents from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies for member respondents are relatively more than non member respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Dairy cooperatives are the only socio-economic organizations giving voice to the rural women in the process of development. Dairy cooperatives have been creating more employment and providing income generation opportunities to rural women (Selvamni and

Rani, 2008). The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited is popularly known as MILKFED Punjab. It came into being in 1973 with a twin objective of providing remunerative milk market to the milk producers in the state value addition and marketing of produce on one hand and to provide technical inputs to the milk producers for enhancement of milk production on the other hand. Presently, about 7019 village level societies having 382442 members are functioning. There is eleven District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union which covers entire state of Punjab. The dairy co-operatives are organized with a three-tier structure i.e. milk producers' cooperatives society at the village level, the union of societies at the district level and the federation of the unions at the state level (Koli, 2000). The process of organizing societies at village level started in Punjab in 1978 (MILKFED, annual report 2008-09).

OBJECTIVES: The main objectives of the study are following.

1. It is an attempt to examine the income from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies (WMPCS) in Punjab.
2. To examine the district wise income from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies (WMPCS) in Punjab.

METHODOLOGY: The study is based on primary data collected from Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (MILKFED) in Punjab' Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies' (WMPCS) respondents in Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur districts, books, journals and internet etc.

Out of total milk union functioning in Punjab, three milk unions namely Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur were randomly selected. The total numbers of WMPCS functioning under three milk unions are 188, 71 and 35 respectively. A sample of 28 WMPCS i.e. 18 societies from Ropar, 7 societies from Patiala and 3 societies from Sangrur were selected through proportionate random sampling, after selection of a separate list of milk producing members and non members, keeping milch animals and producing milk for cooperative societies were selected randomly. Thus total respondents were 425, 283 members and 142 non members. Data were collected through a well constructed interview schedule. All the milk producing households were classified into three categories, viz small (1-2 milch animals), medium (3-4 milch animals) and large (more than 4 milch animals) on the basis of number of milch animals they keep. Members and non members supply milk to the WMPCS and members are there who registered themselves to the WMPCS and non members do not get registered with WMPCS. Women are generally linked with animal husbandry activities

and they spend longer time in dairy activities. The number of hours per day in different type of activities was calculated. The major activities involved in dairy include cutting of green fodder, bringing fodder, feeding, cleaning animals' shed, milking and selling milk etc.

The women milk producers' cooperatives societies selected for study is shown in table:1. The table included that the 28 number of selected WMPCS. The table reveals that district wise selected WMPCS in Ropar district, there are 18 followed by Patiala and Sangrur with 7 and 3 societies respectively.

Table 1: Selected Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

Districts	Selected Societies
Ropar	18
Patiala	7
Sangrur	3
Total	28

Source: Compiled from annual report 2013-14 provided by Milkfed

The Proportion wise women milk producers' cooperatives societies selected for study is shown in table 5.2. The table includes percentage of WMPCS. The table reveals that district wise selected WMPC Sare maximum in Ropar i.e. 64.29 percent followed by Patiala and Sangrur 25 percent and 10.71 percent respectively.

Table 2: Proportion-Wise Selected Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

Districts	Selected Societies
Ropar	64.29
Patiala	25.00
Sangrur	10.71
Total	100

Source: Compiled from annual report 2013-14 provided by Milkfed

The distribution of the women milk producers' cooperatives societies' respondents is given in table 3. The table reveals members and non members in three selected districts. Out of total 425 women respondents 269 fall in small category and in medium and large categories i.e. 84 and 72 respectively. The members are 283 and 142 are non members. In small category 190 are members and 79 are non members, in medium category 51 are members and 33 are non members and large category 42 members and non members are 30.

Table 3: Distribution of Member and Non-Member Respondents in Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

Category	Member	Non-member	Total
Small	190	79	269
Medium	51	33	84
Large	42	30	72
Total	283	142	425

Source: Primary Survey- 2013-14

The proportion wise distribution of the women milk producer dairy cooperatives societies' respondent is given in table 4. Out of total women respondents 63.29 percent fall in small category followed by in medium and large categories i.e. 19.77 percent and 16.94 percent respectively. In small category 67.24 percent are members and 55.63 percent are non members, in medium category 18.02 are members and 23.24 are non members and large category consists of 14.84 members and 21.13 non members.

Table 4: Proportion-Wise Distribution of Member and Non-member respondents in Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

Category	Member	Non-member	Total
Small	67.24	55.63	63.29
Medium	18.02	23.24	19.77
Large	14.84	21.13	16.94
Total	100	100	100

Source: Primary Survey- 2013-14

The distribution of the women milk producer dairy cooperatives societies' respondent is given in table 5. In Ropar district, out of 270, 161 fall in small category and in medium and large categories 59 and 50 women respondents respectively. The members are 180 and 90 are non members. In small category 109 are members and 52 are non members, in medium and large categories, members are 40 and 31 women respondents respectively and non member are 19 each. In Patiala district, out of 105, 74 fall in small category and in medium and large categories 17 and 14 women respondents respectively. In Patiala district, members are 70 and 35 women respondents are non members. In small category 56 are members and 18 are non members, in medium and large categories members are 7 each and non members are 10 and 7 women respondents respectively. Similarly in case of Sangrur district out of 50 respondents, 34 fall in small category and in medium and large categories 8 each, members are 33 and 17

are non members. In small category 25 are members and 9 are non members, in medium and large categories members and non members are 4 each.

Table 5: District-Wise Distribution of Respondents in Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

	Ropar			Patiala			Sangrur		
Category	Member	Non-member	Total	Member	Non-member	Total	Member	Non-member	Total
Small	109	52	161	56	18	74	25	09	34
Medium	40	19	59	07	10	17	04	04	08
Large	31	19	50	07	07	14	04	04	08
Total	180	90	270	70	35	105	33	17	50

Source: Primary Survey- 2013-14

The proportion wise distribution of the women milk producer dairy cooperatives societies' respondent is given in table 6. In Ropar district proportion wise, 59.63 percent fall in small category and 21.85 and 18.52 percent members and non members are from medium and large category respectively. In small category 60.56 percent are members and 57.78 are non members. In medium and large categories 22.22 and 17.22 percent are members and 21.11 percent each non members. In Patiala district proportion wise, 70.48 percent fall in small category and 16.19 and 13.33 percent members and non members are from medium and large categories respectively. In small category 80 percent are members and 51.43 percent non members. In medium and large categories 10 percent each in members and 28.57 and 20 percent non members in medium and large categories respectively. In case of Sangrur district, 68 percent fall in small category and 16 percent each members and non members are from medium and large categories. In small category 75.76 percent are members and 52.94 percent are non members, in medium and large categories i.e. 12.12 percent each in member and 23.53 percent non member each in medium and large categories.

Table 6: District-Wise Proportional Distribution of Member and Non-member Respondents in Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

	Ropar			Patiala			Sangrur		
Category	Member	Non-member	Total	Member	Non-member	Total	Member	Non-member	Total
Small	60.56	57.78	59.63	80.00	51.43	70.48	75.76	52.94	68.00
Medium	22.22	21.11	21.85	10.00	28.57	16.19	12.12	23.53	16.00
Large	17.22	21.11	18.52	10.00	20.00	13.33	12.12	23.53	16.00
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary Survey 2013-14

Income of members from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur Districts in Punjab is shown in table 7. The table reveals that the income and net

income of respondents from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies for member respondents are relatively more than non member respondents. The gross income from Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies for member respondents are found to be Rs. 30854.88, 79897.66 and 135981.09 in small, medium and large categories respectively are more than non member respondents income i.e. Rs 29342.57, 67096.09 and 130250.98 in small, medium and large categories respectively in Ropar district. Similarly, the gross income of small, medium and large member respondents is found to be higher i.e. Rs. 24471.50, 65445.92 and 120423.29 respectively as compared to gross income of non member respondents i.e. Rs. 23159.43, 59074.68 and 98887.17 respectively in Patiala district. This may be mainly due to higher milk production in member respondents as a result of greater care and management of animals by the member respondents than non member respondents. The table reveals that the gross income of small, medium and large categories member respondents is found to be higher i.e. 22221.00, 65118.76 and 115482.85 respectively as compared to non member respondents income i.e. Rs. 21440.72, 57321.13 and 97004.58 respectively in Sangrur district. The table also reveals that net income of small, medium and large member respondents in Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur districts is also observed to be higher as compared to non member respondents. The survey reveals that this may be due to higher maintenance cost and poor management practices adopted by non member respondents.

Table 7: Income from Dairy cooperatives of Member and Non-Member Respondents in Women Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies in Rural Punjab

Districts	Category	Member			Non-Member		
		Gross Income	Gross Cost	Net Income	Gross Income	Gross Cost	Net Income
Ropar	Small	1,11,724.15	80,869.27	30,854.88	1,05,150.26	75,807.69	29,342.57
	Medium	2,41,410.16	1,61,512.50	79897.66	234227.67	167131.58	67096.09
	Large	5,17,464.96	3,81,483.87	135981.09	421290.45	291039.47	130250.98
Patiala	Small	1,07,574.18	83,102.68	24,471.50	1,04,284.44	81,125.00	23,159.43
	Medium	2,45,338.78	1,79,892.86	65,445.92	2,34,274.68	1,75,200.00	59,074.68
	Large	4,01,994.72	2,81,571.43	1,20,423.29	3,88,270.03	59,074.68	98,887.17
Sangrur	Small	92,301.56	70,080.00	22,221.00	94,440.72	73,000.00	21,440.72
	Medium	2,29,368.76	1,64,2150.00	6,51,18.76	2,35,258.63	1,77,937.05	57,321.13
	Large	3,89,232.85	2,73,750.00	1,15,482.85	3,70,754.58	2,73,750.00	97,004.58
Total	Small	1,07,945.40	80,107.89	27,837.51	1,03,732.91	76,699.37	27,033.54
	Medium	2,41,004.96	1,64,250.00	76,754.96	2,34,366.88	1,70,886.36	63480.52
	Large	4,86,007.34	3,545,71.43	1,31,435.91	4,06,847.57	2,88,350.00	1,18,497.57

Source: Primary Survey 2013-14 and Compiled from Yearly Reports of Payment Provided by Women Milk Producer' Cooperative Societies in Ropar, Patiala and Sangrur districts

The income of the respondents is dependent on the number of cattle reared. The quantity of milk does not directly related to the number of cattle reared, reason being all the cattle may not give milk at the same time, at the time of artificial insemination the calving intervals are not timed properly among cattle (cows and buffaloes), difference in length of lactation period and fertility problems in cows and buffaloes leading to low yield of milk. The respondents face price discrimination on the basis of the quality of milk, i.e., the fat content. **SUGGESTION:** Members of the women dairy cooperatives should be educated. There should be provision for getting loans. The credit facilities should be made available to the needy women milk producers at low rate of interest. There should be provision of remunerative pricing for milk. The price for milk and milk products should be fixed by considering the cost of milk production, quality etc. The better and attractive pricing for milk will motivate the milk producers to get more involved in the production, scientific processing, good packing, attractive advertisement etc. Involving the producers will improve the marketing of milk and milk products.

CONCLUSION: Rural women got income generating opportunities. Women dairy cooperatives play an important role in the rural areas. They are income generation and eradication of poverty. Women dairy cooperatives in Punjab have been playing a significant role. Women are becoming self-reliant. Through Women dairy cooperatives income they can fulfill their needs and can make their life style better. They spend their income on many needs like children, education, health, in buying property such as their houses, their live-stock. They are playing a significant role in the development of rural areas in rural Punjab.

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