

## **Constraints faced by buffalo dairy entrepreneurs in peri-urban area of major cities in marathwada region of Maharashtra state**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present study was carried out to analyse the constraints faced by the buffalo dairy entrepreneurs in peri-urban area of major cities in Marathwada region. The study was conducted in peri-urban areas of 4 major cities in Marathwada region by personally interviewing 160 buffalo dairy entrepreneurs. Here, economic constraints were the top ranked, majority of the respondents (97.5%) stated their constraint as high yielding buffaloes are costlier and costly animal treatment. 96.3% as low milk prices, 95.6% as costly concentrate, 95.0% as high cost of veterinary medicine, 88.1% reported no availability of loan, 85.6% as high cost of construction of shed. Referring to capacity constraints of buffaloes, 90% respondents stated their constraint as buffaloes require more ration and 87.5% as long dry period in buffaloes. As regards technical constraints, majority of the respondents 83.1% have stated their constraint as insufficient knowledge about vaccination and diseases, 80.6% as no veterinary service nearby, 75.6% as no timely veterinary service, 75.0% as unable to detect heat and 74.4% as no skilled labour available. With respect to resources, majority of respondents 79.4% have stated their constraint as no education facilities for dairy farming locally, 78.8% as no grasslands, 76.9% as shortage of clean water, 76.3% as shortage of green fodder and 70.0% as no breeding bull available.

**Keywords:** *Buffalo dairy entrepreneurs, Constraints, Marathwada region, Peri-urban area.*

Buffalo population in India during 2007 was 105.3 million and during 2012 it rose to 108.7 million about 3.19 per cent of increase. (Basic Animal Husbandry & Fishery Statistics, 2014, MoA, GOI). India represents 64.7 per cent of the world buffalo population. India is the first country in the world for number of buffaloes and milk production (about 134 million tons) (FAO Statistics). India is also the first country in Asia for scientific and technological development in buffalo nutrition, production, reproduction, biotechnologies and genetic improvement.

Recent statistics concerning buffalo demography have shown that the buffalo population in India is increasing at a rate of 1.5 per cent/per year. Buffaloes are well adapted to a hot and hot humid climate and play a distinct role in the economy of

farmers, which is primarily based on agricultural production systems. They provide high quality milk and meat and are a source of draught power for smallholders in countries of this region. In fact these animals are considered a financial asset since they serve as an insurance against the risk of crop failure due to natural calamities (Dhanda, 2004). Less information is available regarding the production systems of swamp buffaloes.

After the economic liberation of 1991, India's urban areas became the centre of excellence and their growth was exponential. Migration became a phenomenon and rural unemployed youth started rushing to these urban centres to find livelihood. This growing population had to be supplied with milk and the peri-urban areas around the cities took this

responsibility. Large number of buffalo dairy farms cropped up in these peri-urban areas.

As land became too costly in the cities, buffalo dairy entrepreneurs preferred peri-urban areas to set-up their dairy enterprises. Peri-urban areas allowed them to rent land at cheaper rates this meant reduced cost of production. Milk being highly perishable commodity had to be transported within short time to the consumer. Peri-urban areas also assured low cost of transport. This resulted in 'win-win' situation to dairy entrepreneurs and consumers. Consumers would benefit with fresh and healthy milk while dairy enterprises saved their valuable resources due to their critical location close to the cities.

Being situated close to the urban centres and being highly market oriented, these buffalo dairy entrepreneurs experienced unique constraints than their counterparts from the rural areas. Keeping this in view, the present study was taken up with the specific objective to identify the constraints faced by the buffalo dairy entrepreneur in peri-urban areas.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**1. Locale of the study:** The present study was conducted in peri-urban areas of 4 districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Marathwada region is located in the south-eastern part of Maharashtra state.

**2. Methods of sampling:** For the study, peri-urban areas of 4 major cities i.e. Aurangabad, Jalna, Latur and Nanded in Marathwada region were selected randomly.

**3. Selection of the respondents:** For the study, radius of 15 km around the city was considered as peri-urban area. In all 160 buffalo dairy entrepreneurs were interviewed. 40 respondents form the peri-urban area of each selected district.

**4. Tools and techniques of data collection:** The basic instrument used for the study was the interview schedule. The questions were related to different constraints faced by the buffalo dairy entrepreneurs

in the peri-urban area.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by buffalo dairy entrepreneurs while undertaking their dairy enterprise in the peri-urban area. The respondents had given I rank for both costly animal treatment (97.5 per cent) and costlier high yielding buffaloes (97.5 per cent). II, III and IV rank was given to low milk prices (96.3 per cent), costly concentrate (95.6 per cent) and high cost of veterinary medicine (95.0 per cent) respectively.

Respondent reported V, VI, VII, VIII and IX rank to buffaloes require more ration (90.0 per cent), no availability of loan (88.1 per cent), long dry period in buffaloes (87.5 per cent), high cost of construction of shed (85.6 per cent) and insufficient knowledge about vaccination and diseases (83.1 per cent) as a constraint respectively.

Respondents reported X rank to no veterinary service nearby (80.6 per cent), XI rank to no education facilities for dairy farming locally (79.4 per cent), XII rank to no grasslands (78.8 per cent), XIII rank to shortage of clean water (76.9 per cent) and XIV rank to shortage of green fodder (76.3 per cent).

Respondents had given XV, XVI, XVII and XVIII rank to no timely veterinary services (75.6 per cent), unable to detect heat (75.0 per cent), no skilled labour (74.4 per cent) and no breeding bull availability (70.0 per cent) respectively.

The probable reason is that for satisfying the demand of milk in urban area entrepreneurs want to maintain consistent supply of milk to urban area to serve this purpose the best choice is to purchase advance pregnant animal or lactating animal. Due to this reason supply and demand of these animals is not matching and leading to increase in prices.

## CONCLUSIONS

The study concluded that dairy entrepreneurs in the peri-urban areas have unique and specific constraints

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their constraints**

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency		Per cent		Rank
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
1	High yielding buffaloes are costlier	156	4	97.5	2.5	I
2	Costly animal treatment	156	4	97.5	2.5	I
3	Low milk prices	154	6	96.3	3.8	II
4	Costly concentrate	153	7	95.6	4.4	IV
5	High cost of veterinary medicine	152	8	95.0	5.0	III
6	Buffaloes require more ration	144	15	90.0	9.4	V
7	No availability of loan	141	19	88.1	11.9	VI
8	Long dry period in buffaloes	140	17	87.5	10.6	VII
9	High cost of construction of shed	137	23	85.6	14.4	VIII
10	Insufficient knowledge about vaccination and diseases	133	25	83.1	15.6	IX
11	No veterinary service nearby	129	29	80.6	18.1	X
12	No education facilities for dairy farming locally	127	32	79.4	20.0	XI
13	No grasslands	126	32	78.8	20.0	XII
14	Shortage of clean water	123	31	76.9	19.4	XIII
15	Shortage of green fodder	122	35	76.3	21.9	XIV
16	No timely veterinary service	121	39	75.6	24.4	XV
17	Unable to detect heat	120	36	75.0	22.5	XVI
18	No skilled labour	119	38	74.4	23.8	XVII
19	No breeding bull available	112	47	70.0	29.4	XVIII

due to their proximity to the market. Although, dairy enterprise is giving remunerative returns in the peri-urban areas, the cost of production also increases due to increase in the land, water and electricity rates as compared to rural areas. Dairy entrepreneurs in peri-urban areas are venturesome, and ready to adopt innovations as compared to rural areas. The Municipal corporations, also need to address the demands of the dairy entrepreneurs along with the Animal Husbandry department.

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