

Economic change as reflected in growth of
rural assets

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Increased income would naturally be translated into additions to household assets in terms of house building or in its improvement, agricultural land, farming equipment and a host of household items. One of the major objectives of the study was to attempt an assessment of economic change over time in the environment of members of farmer households in the 3 milksheds selected. Emphasis was laid to assess specifically the benefits to farmer households particularly the poorer households in each milkshed. Also how betterment, which is related primarily to the number of milch animals held, their yield and the manner in which increased income from sales of milk is translated into welfare, particularly of the weaker sections i.e. the landless and marginal farmers. These benefits, slow to arrive and slow to grow, can only be measured over a period of time of not less than five years. Questions were asked in the current survey in respect of these improvements in assets since the time the members joined the society. The details pertaining to each district is analysed individually.

6.2 GUNTUR VILLAGES

Tables 6.1 and 6.2 indicate that in the cooperative village about 52% of the members have bought assets for their houses. This is indeed very significant compared to the 31% of households in the control village who have also recorded some improvement. Particularly noticeable are the moveables purchased such as wrist watches, transistors, electric fans and

TABLE 6.1

Moveable & Immoveable assets acquired by members in the Cooperative
village in GUNTUR

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(Percentages)

Items	Categories of farmers		TOTAL
	LANDLESS & MARGINAL	SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE	
<u>Immoveable Assets</u>			
House Building	-	24.44	14.66
Repairs & Improvement of housing facilities	23.33	6.67	13.33
Agricultural land	-	8.89	5.33
Others	-	2.16	1.33
<u>Farming Machinery/ Implements & Tools</u>			
Bullock cart	10	6.67	9.33
Tractor	-	6.67	4.0
Diesel pumpset	-	-	-
Electric Motor	-	-	-
Others	13.3	6.67	9.3
<u>Non farming assets (Machinery)</u>			
Sewing Machines	-	21.6	1.3
Bicycle	6.67	8.9	8.1
Moped/Motor cycle/scooter	-	2.16	1.3
Others			
Nothing/Can't say/No answer			
<u>Non farming Assets (Household)</u>			
Wrist watch/clock	13.33	20.00	17.3
Transistor	23.33	28.88	26.7
Refrigerator	-	2.16	1.3
Electric Fan	-	22.16	13.3
Tape Recorder	-	22.16	1.3
Kitchen appliances	-	2.16	1.3
Gobar Gas plants	-	-	-
Kitchen utensils	43.33	11.11	24.0
Furniture	6.67	13.33	10.7
Others			
Nothing/Can't say/No answer	46.67	48.88	48
Total number of respondents	30	45	75

TABLE 6.2

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Moveable & Immoveable assets acquired by members in the
control villages in GUNTUR

ITEMS	(Percentages)		
	Categories of farmers		
	Landless & Marginal	Small medium & large	Total
<u>IMMOVEABLE ASSETS</u>			
House building	-	6.67	4.0
Repairs & Improvement of housing facilities	2.5	11.67	8.0
Agricultural land	-	8.33	5.0
Others			
<u>FARMING MACHINERY/ IMPLEMENTS & TOOLS</u>			
Bullock cart	-	3.33	2.0
Tractor	-	1.67	1.0
Diesel pumpset	-	-	-
Electric Motor	-	-	-
Others	-	5	3.0
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (MACHINERY)</u>			
Sewing Machines	-	.167	1.0
Bicycle	-	1.67	1.0
Moped/Motorcycle/Scooter	-	1.67	1.0
Others	-	-	-
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (HOUSEHOLD)</u>			
Wrist watches/clocks	2.5	6.7	5.0
Transistor	5.0	11.67	9.0
Refrigerator	-	-	-
Electric Fan	-	3.33	2.0
Tape recorder	-	1.67	1
Kitchen appliances	-	-	-
Gobar gas plant	-	-	-
Kitchen utensil	-	5.0	3.0
Furniture	-	3.33	2.0
Others	-	3.33	2.0
NOTHING/CAN'T SAY/NO ANSWER	82.5	60	69
TOTAL NO. OF RESPONDENTS	40	60	100

kitchen utensils. It will be seen that 17.3% of the members have bought wrist watches/clocks as against only 5% in the control village; 26.7% had bought radios/transistors as against only 9% in the control village ; 13.3% bought electric fans as against only 2%. Most significant is that 24% bought kitchen utensils as against only 3% in the control village. Comparison of the moveable assets of the cooperative and control villages indicate that the members in the dairy village received more economic gains from the sale of milk when compared to their counterparts in the control village. This is more so in the case of the landless & marginal farmers. The results indicate that this group has been able to improve their economic status significantly. As the milk payments are received by the producers in the form of cash they are able to make use of the income readily for their domestic needs. In Guntur the housewives mostly handle the milk money which is a common feature in Andhra Pradesh. The incomes derived from milk are most judiciously utilized for their family welfare.

6.3 SURAT VILLAGES

The growth in rural assets in the co-operative village was distinctly more discernable than in the control village. Tables 6.3 & 6.4 indicate that 54.67% of members bought assorted assets in the co-operative village as against only 25.33% in the control village. It is significant to note that 73.3% of the landless & marginal farmer members purchased kitchen utensils as against only 6.67%. This could be attributed to the practice followed by Anaval village milk society of distributing bonus in the form of utensils/

TABLE 6.3

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Moveable & Immoveable assets acquired by members
in the cooperative village in SURAT.

(Percentages)

Items	Categories of farmers		Total
	Landless & marginal	Small/medium & large	

<u>IMMOVEABLE ASSETS</u>			
House Building	-	26.67	16
Repairs & Improvement of housing facilities	46.67	17.78	29.3
Agricultural land	-	11.0	6.6
Others			
<u>FARMING MACHINERY/ implements & tools</u>			
Bullock cart	10.00	9	9.4
Tractor	-	6.67	4.0
Diesel Pumpset	-	6.67	4.0
Electric Motor	-	20.0	12.00
Others	13.33	11.11	12.00
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (MACHINERY)</u>			
Sewing machines	-	2.16	1.3
Bicycle	6.73	9.0	5.4
Moped/Motorcycle/Scooter	-	2.16	1.3
Others	-	4.3	2.67
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (HOUSEHOLD)</u>			
Wrist watches	20	20	20
Transistor	30	28.8	29.40
Refrigerator	-	-	-
Electric fan	-	20	12
Tape recorder	-	4.5	2.7
Kitchen appliance	-	4.5	2.7
Gobar gas plant	-	11.00	6.7
Kitchen utensils	73.3	40.0	53.4
Furniture	10	13.33	12.0
Others	13.33	13.33	13.33
Nothing/can't say/No answer	43.33	46.67	45.33
Total No. of respondents	30	45	75

TABLE 6.4

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Moveable & Immoveable assets acquired by members in
the control villages in SURAT

(Percentage)

Items	Categories of farmers		
	Landless & marginal	Small medium & large	Total
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<u>Immoveable asset</u>			
House building	-	6.7	4.0
Repairs & Improvement of housing facilities.	6.7	11.11	9.33
Agricultural land	-	6.67	4.0
Others	-	-	-
<u>FARMING MACHINERY/ IMPLEMENTS & TOOLS</u>			
Bullock cart	6.67	4.4	5.33
Tractor	-	4.45	2.67
Diesel pumpset	-	6.67	4.0
Electric Motor	-	11.11	6.67
Others	-	6.67	4.0
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (MACHINERY)</u>			
Sewing Machines	-	2.22	1.33
Bicycle	-	2.22	1.33
Moped/Motor Cycle/Scooter	-	2.22	1.33
Others	-	-	-
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (HOUSEHOLD)</u>			
Wrist watches	-	11.11	6.67
Transistor	-	13.33	8.9
Refrigerator	-	-	-
Electric fan	-	-	-
Tape recorder	-	-	-
Kitchen appliances	-	-	-
Gobar gas plant	-	-	-
Kitchen utensils	6.67	13.33	10.67
Furniture	-	4.45	2.67
Others	-	-	-
Nothing/Can't say/No answer	80	71.1	74.67
Total number of respondents	30	45	75

household items to members in lieu of cash. Consequently assets accrue in the household and the economic change brought about by such accumulation is significant. The poorer households have been able to purchase greater number of moveable assets as compared to their counterparts in the control village. In fact 56.7% of the landless/marginal households have been able to purchase various assets as compared to only 20% in the control village. While this group has been able to purchase an assortment of assets ranging from wrist-watches to furniture the purchases made by their counterparts in the control village are negligible. This group can therefore be said to be a major beneficiary.

6.4 BHOPAL VILLAGES

In Bhopal 49.33% of the members have been able to purchase assets as compared to 25.33% in the control village. Table 6.5 and 6.6 indicate that 46.7% of the landless/marginal households have been able to make purchases as against only 16.7% in the control village. This is a significant finding inasmuch as it reflects the favourable economic change resulting through sale of milk to the co-operative society. Similarly in the case of the small, medium and large households 51.2% have been able to accumulate assets as against only 31.1% in the control village. It is this physical betterment which must be reckoned as a major instrument of beneficial change in the cooperative village.

TABLE 6.5

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MOVEABLE & IMMOVEABLE ASSETS ACQUIRED BY MEMBERS
IN THE COOPERATIVE VILLAGE IN BHOPAL

(Percentage)

Items	Categories of farmers		
	Landless & marginal	Small, medium & large	Total
<u>IMMOVEABLE ASSETS</u>			
House Building	-	13.33	8
Repairs & Improvement of houseing facilities	33.33	33.33	21.33
Agricultural land	-	8.89	5.33
Others	-	6.67	4
<u>FARMING MACHINERY/ IMPLEMENTS & TOOLS</u>			
Bullock cart	-	6.67	4
Tractor	-	4.45	2.67
Electric Motor	-	13.33	8.0
Diesel Pumpset	-	17.78	10.67
Others	10	8.89	9.33
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (MACHINERY)</u>			
Sewing machines	-	2.22	1.5
Bicycle	6.67	6.67	6.67
Motor cycle/scooter-	-	2.22	1.33
Others	6.67	6.67	6.67
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (HOUSEHOLD)</u>			
Wrist watches	16.67	17.78	16
Transistor	-	-	-
Refrigerator	-	-	-
Electric fan	-	17.78	10.67
Tape-recorder	-	-	-
Kitchen appliances	-	-	-
Gobar gas plant	-	-	-
Kitchen utensils	33.33	26.67	29.33
Furniture	6.67	8.88	8.0
Others	13.33	11.11	12.0
Nothing/Cant say/No answer	53.3	48.88	50.67
Total number of respond- ents	30	45	75

TABLE 6.6

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MOVEABLE & IMMOVEABLE ASSETS ACQUIRED BY MEMBERS
IN THE CONTROL VILLAGE IN BHOPAL

(percentage)

Items	Categories of farmers		
	Landless & marginal	Small, medium & large	Total
<u>IMMOVEABLE ASSETS</u>			
House building	-	4.44	2.66
Repairs & Improvement of housing facilities	-	13.33	8.00
Agricultural land	-	6.67	4.00
Others			
<u>FARMING MACHINERY/ IMPLEMENTS & TOOLS</u>			
Bullock cart	-	6.67	4.00
Tractor	-	4.44	2.66
Diesel Pumpset	-	15.55	9.33
Electric Motor	-	15.55	9.33
Others	-	13.33	8.00
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (MACHINERY)</u>			
Sewing machines	-	4.4	2.6
Bicycle	-	4.4	2.6
Moped/Motor cycle/scooter	-	2.2	1.3
Others	-	8.88	5.33
<u>NON FARMING ASSETS (HOUSEHOLDS)</u>			
Wrist watches	-	8.8	5.33
Transistor	-	11.11	6.67
Refrigerator	-	-	-
Electric fan	-	6.67	4.00
Tape recorder	-	-	-
Kitchen appliances	-	-	-
Gobar gas Plant	-	-	-
Kitchen utensils	13.33	8.88	10.67
Furniture	-	8.88	5.33
Others	-	15.56	9.33
Nothing/Can't say/No answer	83.33	68.9	74.67
Total number of respondents	30	45	75

6.5 CHANGING LEVELS OF CONFIDENCE

Apart from the evidence produced with regard to economic gains, evaluation of the progress achieved as seen in the minds of member farmers is a must. It is not entirely on economic conditions that expectations are raised in regard to the future. Confidence is, in large measure, a psychological response to an individual's environment. Individuals have different perceptions of both economic & social status. If all the benefits i.e. increased dairy income, stability of income, higher purchasing power, greater employment opportunities are to be consolidated towards long term gains, it would be necessary that all these categories of members should distinctly realize that dairying has helped them in improving their economic status. The sample of members studied reveals that there is a strong positive perception in this direction. (Table 6.7)

While the perception regarding various factors has varied among the different categories of farmers, it is noticeably high where factors such as increased income, self-sufficiency, employment, artificial insemination services, extension activities and transport are concerned. The very high positive perception in the case of the landless, marginal & small farmers and lower positive perception in the case of large farmers can easily be explained in terms of earlier findings that significant increase in dairy income is found in the case of the landless, marginal and small farmers. Obviously, it is for the landless and marginal categories that organised dairying is of vital significance in view of the economic benefits received by them, whereas it is of peripheral interest to large farmers.

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