Dairying, in India, is recognized as an instrument for social and economic development. Notable programmes taken up by Government of India for its fast development include Key Village Scheme, Intensive Cattle Development Project, Cross Breeding Project, Operation Flood Programme and Technology Mission. With the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, the dairy sector too was delicensed. Today the private sector is very active in milk production and marketing of milk along with the co-operative sector and government sector.

The present study aims to understand the role and impact of private sector dairy units in increasing the welfare of dairy farmers. The research is conducted in Ernakulam District, Kerala. The study is based upon primary data, collected with the aid of a schedule, directly from dairy farmers. For interpreting the data, methods like cross tabulation technique, averages, diagramatic presentation etc. are used.

The study is presented in eight chapters. The first chapter contains general introduction, reasons for choosing Ernakulam District, reasons for concentrating the study upon the beneficiaries of dairy units and the research design.

The second chapter deals with the survey of literature.

The third chapter highlights the dairy development programmes in the national and in the Kerala State levels.

The fourth chapter contains a statistical profile of livestock and dairy sector in the national and Kerala state levels.

The fifth chapter provides a profile of the four private sector dairy units functioning in Ernakulam District.

The sixth chapter deals with an empirical verification of private sector dairy industry in Ernakulam district.

The seventh chapter contains a statistical analysis of the data and describes the socio-economic impact of the private sector dairy units upon the society.

The eighth chapter provides findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

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