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Assessing the Stability of Market Segments Using Indexes
Consequences of Online Learning of Students
Market Segmentation Framework for Generation Alpha Cohorts
Impact of Occupation of International Return Migrant Labourers
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Feature

Measuring the Financial Performance of the Dairy Industry by Applying Discriminant Function Analysis

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Seven dairy units, spread over the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh were studied for a period of 7 years, using Discriminant Analysis. The study is divided into two sections; the first section deals with the identification of a set of variables to construct a model for evaluating the performance of the dairy units; the second section is concerned with developing the discriminant function to predict the nature of the performance.

$$Z = -22.009 - 3.21 \cdot CR + 6.92 \cdot LR + 12.71 \cdot STCR + 0.21 \cdot SWCR + 28.32 \cdot BFWC + 32.56 \cdot PR + 1.99 \cdot DER + 1.19 \cdot GPR - 0.318 \cdot NPR + 2.968 \cdot ICR \quad (6.1)$$

We evaluated the function given in (6.1) for each unit by substituting the values of the 10 FRs mentioned in the function, which gave us the Z-Scores for each unit. If the score was equal to or more than the cutoff value, the unit was classified as good; otherwise it was classified as poor. We concluded that three dairies are good performers, and the remaining four dairies are poor performers.

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Introduction

Since time immemorial, milk has been universally recognized as extremely nutritious. It is wholesome for those who can afford it. Proteins constitute 3.2 and 4.3 percent of cow and buffalo milk respectively (Huria & Achaya, 1997). Besides protein, milk contains other nutrients such as vitamins and minerals. According to the Nutrition Advisory Committee on the Indian Council of Medical Research, a balanced diet for an adult should include 10 ounces of milk per day (Ganesan, 1998). It may seem surprising that while milk has high cultural prestige in India, many countries in the Far East and Southeast Asia till recently had little access to milk or milk products in their diet. In India, though, milk is a preferred food and enjoys a special place in traditional diets.

Indian agriculture is an economic symbiosis of crop and cattle production. Small and marginal farmers own almost 80% of the total land holdings. About 67% of the workforce of 118 million is engaged in agriculture either as cultivators or as farm labourers (Aneja & Puri, 1998). In a normal year, crop production can generate employment for this workforce for only 90 to 120 days. For the remaining period, they are virtually unemployed. In this milieu, dairying sets right this imbalance in employment. The dairy sector today provides some 70 million farm families the triple benefit of nutritious food, supplementary income, and productive employment, mainly for the women. Indian dairying has been successful because it has evolved deliberately in a way that is complementary and not in competition with agriculture (Kurian, 1998).

Dairying is an important contributor to the agriculture output of our nation. Milk production is an important rural activity in India. Today, milk is India's largest 'crop' in terms

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