

Adoption Gap in Livestock Production Practices

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Abstract: *Livestock production is a noble profession from ancient times. Gender role is significant in all the livestock production activities alongwith their domestic chores. Their active participation is remarkable but they operate on traditional lines resulting low production. Therefore, present study “Adoption gap in livestock production practices” was planned to dig out the gender role regarding livestock care and management and the adoption gap they are facing. For this purpose, district Jhung (Tehsil Bhowana) and district Pakpatan (tehsil Arifwala) were selected as study area. From each area, 10 villages were randomly selected. Furthermore, 15 farm families per village were selected at random and one woman from each farm family was randomly selected making the sample size of 300 respondents. The data were collected through a pre-tested and validated interview schedule later it was analyzed through SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). The results revealed that a large majority of the respondents (53.0 percent) were illiterate and about half of them were literate. A Simple majority of respondents (55.3, and 53.3) had awareness about different vaccines like FMD and HS, but adoption trend was meager. Regarding housing conditions, more than seventy percent were aware about recommended housing conditions but few of them had adopted it. It is recommended that there is a dire need to motivate and guide women regarding improved livestock production practices through extension and training programs. Their access to capital inputs and services needs improvement is also recommended.*

Keywords: Adoption, Gap, Livestock, Practice, Production

1. INTRODUCTION

Livestock production is an important segment of rural economy of Pakistan. It accounts for 52 percent of agricultural value added and about 11 percent of GDP (Gov. of Pak., 2012). According to an estimate, the monetary value of milk (325 billion rupees) is more than that of two major crops of Pakistan viz. cotton and wheat (150, 140 billion rupees, respectively). The role of livestock in rural economy is not rationalized which is clear from the fact that 30-35 million rural population is engaged in livestock raising, having an average household holdings of 2-3 cattle/buffaloes and 5-6

sheep/goat per family which helps them to drive 30-40 percent of their income from it (Jamali, 2009).

Livestock production provides job opportunities not only to male members but also for female members of the family. Fifty percent of the labour force employed in agriculture sector, about 35.0 percent earn their living hood directly or indirectly from this profession (Gov. of Pak., 2012). Contribution of women in livestock production is more visible as they works about 15 hours a day, spending about 5.30 hours in caring for livestock. They spend most of their time in fodder cutting, watering, and cleaning of animals and their sheds, milking the animals and milking processing. Manure collection, preparing dung (Amin,

2009). Dung cakes and the maintenance of animal sheds are also almost the exclusive activities of rural women. Their participation in fodder cutting is 21.6% fodder transportation 15.8%, feeding 42.2% making roughages 91.8% watering 85.2%, grazing 53.4%, housing 83.3%, milking 83.3%, milking processing 100%, cleaning sheds 91.8%, bathing 74%, dung collection and cake making 95.5%. Some times, women also provide first-aid to the animal and treatment of some common diseases. They are generally aware of symptoms, preventive and curative measures of common livestock diseases. They contribute in the income generating activities with the other family members. As they are involved in earning but their control in income and expenditure is very less (Arshad, 2010).

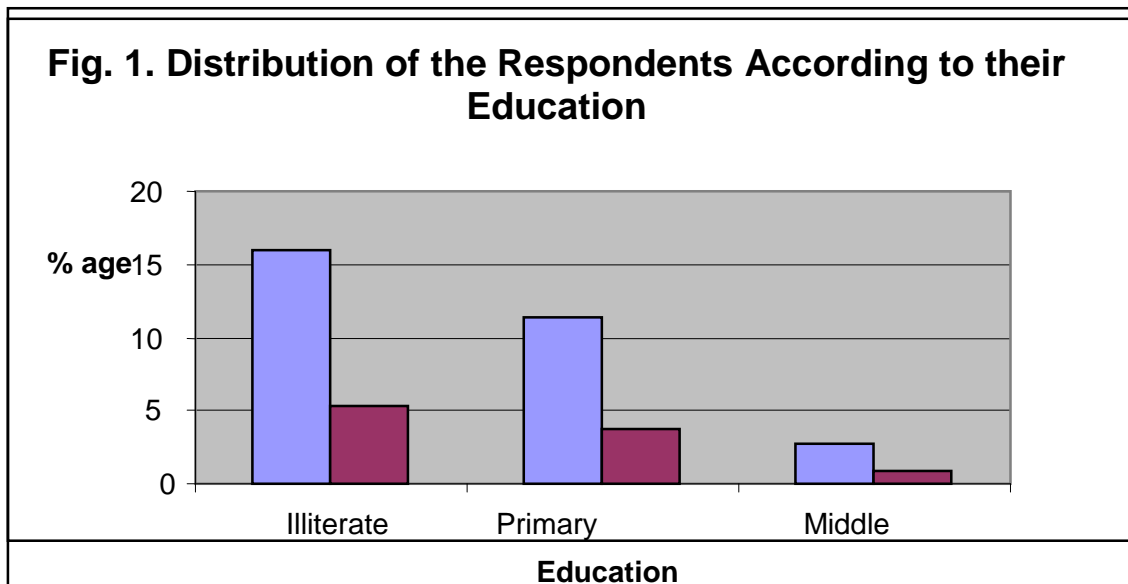
In dairy production, the major problems being faced by the farmers are sub optimal nutrition, poor reproductive efficiency, sub-optimal production potential, high incidence of diseases, and an unacceptable high calf mortality rate. These problems are associated with such factors as outdated and traditional production practices, poor health of animals, low skill level of farmers, poor marketing conditions (storage, transport and sale), and un-hygienic conditions (sanitation). The reproductive diseases in dairy animals cause huge economic losses to farmers particularly anestrus in buffaloes and repeat breeding in cows. The problems regarding the dairying can be resolved by

adoption of recommended dairying production and health practices. Kumervel and Krishnaraj, (2006) also mentioned few constraints faced by livestock farmers like lack of credit facilities, inadequate input supply, inadequate livestock extension services, insufficient demonstration, inadequate knowledge of animals diseases, lack of periodical training, though to observe vaccination schedule, less printed material, no technical guidance, high cost of technology, unavailability of good quality roughages, less extension activities, poor distribution of extension material like leaflet, pamphlets, and brochures.

I. METHODOLOGY

The present study was planned to dig out the gender role regarding buffalo care and management and the information gap they are facing. For this purpose, tehsil Bhowana (district Jhung) and tehsil Arifwala (district Pakpatan) were selected as study area. From each district, 10 villages were randomly selected. Again, 15 farm families from each village were selected at random and one woman per farm family was selected at random making the sample size of 300 respondents. The data were collected through a pre-tested and validated interview schedule. The collected data were fed to SPSS (statistical package for social sciences) for analysis. The results were interpreted and tabulated as under:

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



The data embodied in Fig. 1 show that a simple majority was illiterate and less than half of them were literate. These findings are in agreement with those of Jensen *et al.*, (2007) who found that nearly half (52.2%) of the respondents were below matriculated and 47.8% were matriculated or above. It is clear from the results that illiterate females were more involved in livestock management activities.

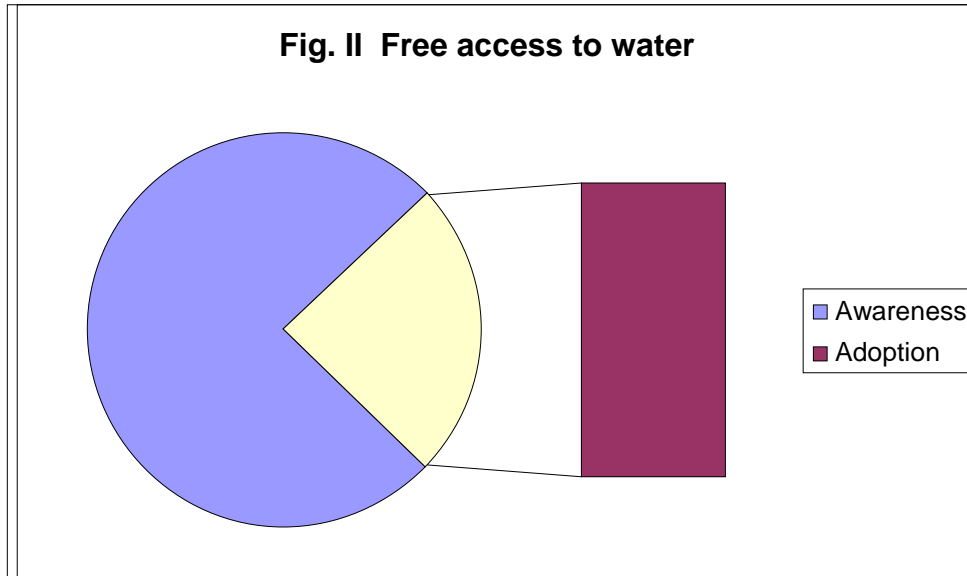


Table 1 Distribution of the Respondents according to watering frequency

Watering Frequency	Awareness		Adoption	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Free access to water	172	57.3	55	18.3
Summer (Thrice a day)	276	92.0	255	85
Winter (once a day)	196	65.3	145	48.3

Fig. II show that majority of the respondents were aware about free access to water whereas, only one fifth of them had adopted it. Regarding watering frequency data were presented in Table 1 show that a great majority of respondents were aware whereas, about two third of them adopted it. The above data is similar with those of Jamal (2005) who reported that a great majority of the respondents had free access to fresh water. Almost all respondents follow the summer and winter watering frequency as per recommendations.

Table II Distribution of the Respondents according to their awareness and Adoption of Health Management

Recommended Practices	Awareness		Adoption	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Drenching against endo-parasite	110	36.6	26	8.6
Dipping against ecto-parasite	119	39.6	26	8.6

Vaccination against	FMD	160	53.3	147	49
	Haemorrhagic Septicimia (HS)	160	53.3	146	48.6
	Black Quarter	32	10.6	6	2
	Anthrax	30	10.0	7	2.3

Data presented in Table II depict that more than one quarter of the respondents were aware about drenching against endo-parasite and dipping against ecto-parasite regarding their adoption trend, meager number of respondents had adopted it. However, a simple majority was aware about vaccination of FMD and HS while one-tenth of them had awareness of HS and anthrax. In case of their adoption trend less than half of them had adopted vaccination. Mirsa *et al.* (2007) mentioned the major livestock diseases are FMD, Black quarter, mastitis, hemorrhagic septicemia of cows and buffaloes are the most common disease of the area.

Table III Distribution of the Respondents according to their awareness and Adoption of Housing Management

Recommended Practices	Awareness		Adoption	
Direction of Shed	238	79.3	80	26.6
Cemented	236	78.6	60	20.0
Non-cemented	230	76.6	66	22.0
Ventilation	228	76.0	78	26.0
Lighted	210	72.6	79	26.3

Table III show that more than seventy percent were aware about direction of shed, cemented, non-cemented, ventilated and lighted while less than one third of the respondents adopted it. Khan (2008) mentioned that 45.3% of the respondents keep their animals in non-cemented houses and mentioned that proper place with air and light is required for animal sleeping, breeding, lying and eating.

III. CONCLUSIONS

Livestock production is the largest sector of food provision especially as a source of animal protein. Farm women have less education/knowledge and traditional approach towards modernization. They do not follow the recommended production practices. Improved feeding, health and housing practices are essential for proper livestock growth. Women farmers do not follow these practices. Government, policy makers and private organizations should play their role in providing them more education and adoption of improved production practices.

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