

GENDER EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LIVESTOCK CARE AND MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT JHANG

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ABSTRACT

Livestock is an important component of Pakistan population since 30-35 million rural population is involved in livestock rising. It provides a higher share of household income to poor and landless families. Livestock is widely distributed in the country. Almost all farmers in Pakistan have cattle or but few have sheep's and goats. Dairy is also a major enterprise. This provides cash profit to the farmers who keep one-third of the total animals. Only buffaloes provide three-fourth of the milk production in the country. Livestock are used for ploughing, land leveling, threshing, fodder chopping, cane crushing transportations and water lifting. The objective of present study was to investigate the participation of respondents in livestock management. Multistage sampling technique was used for this study. At the first stage, out of four Tehsils, two Tehsils were selected randomly. Then from two selected Tehsils, four villages were selected. Finally at the third stage, 150 respondents (rural women) were selected by using convenient sampling. The data thus collected were analyzed and interpreted by using appropriate statistical package to draw the conclusions. The results revealed that majority of the respondents were participated in fodder cutting activities and were keeping animals in their courtyard. Through livestock care and management females uplifting living standard of their families.

Keywords: Livestock, Management, Jhang, Rural Women, Fodder chopping

INTRODUCTION

Livestock plays a significant role in rural economy of Pakistan. Livestock provide 85.0 percent traction power for cultivation purpose and transportation in the country. It provides manure to enrich the soil, improve its physical properties and serve as a source of domestic energy, particular in the rural areas. It provides cash profit to rural families. The most important benefit of livestock like milk, butter, meat, beef, poultry meat, eggs and their by-products like ghee, yoghurt and the provision of domestic food products are of highly nutritional value. Livestock provides raw material like wool, hides hair and skin to the industries. The export value of certain value livestock products and by-products such as leather, footwear, animal casings, raw wool, carpets and rugs during the year exceeded Rs.12 billion.¹ In Bangladesh livestock is used as a tool for poverty alleviation. In several countries, small ruminant's enterprises are considered as the first step in poverty alleviation for the poorest rural women and their families. Entire family gets more benefits from an income belonging to a woman than an income belonging to a man. ² Women are equally participated in sowing, harvesting, fertilizer application and selling of vegetables and fruits. In the context of Pakistan, rural women spend more time on farming and livestock activities than men.³ Rural women play an important role in household as well as in farming activities.⁴ Rural women are playing significant role in the farm development. Most of their contribution is neglected because they work on their fields without any wages. Even contribution of rural women who work on wages is generally not taken into account. But various studies show that they work hard to increase their family income. Rural women participate in farm activities like fodder cutting, handling of milk production, animal care etc. These women help their men on their activities also.⁵

In farming and livestock activities, women have great share. Rural women busy from dawn to dusk in agricultural and livestock care management activities.⁶ Women participation in livestock activities are increasing production of food. They are involved in income generating activities for the better conditions of their families but their efforts are not acknowledged. According to the available data 71.7% females participate in livestock care and management, 70.8% females participate in dung cakes making, 50.0% females spend 4-7 hours in livestock care, and management.⁷ Rural women were active member in care and management of livestock animals than harvesting crop, grain storage and processing. They spend most of their time in cutting bringing green fodder from fields. They also contribute in cleaning and watering the animals. Therefore, they increase their income from the sale of butter, milk and small animals especially in low income household.⁸

The main objectives of the present study are to identify the decision making power of the rural women, to assess the extent of participation of respondents in livestock care and management and to study the problems of women involved in livestock management and care.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Present study was conducted in rural areas of district Jhang. Jhang is the oldest city of Pakistan and most of the population belongs to the agriculture profession. Men and women both participate in agriculture and its allied field such as livestock care and management.

Population

The population of the present study was comprised of those women of the rural areas of district Jhang who participate in the livestock care and management activities.

Sample

Multistage sampling technique was used for this study. At the first stage out of four tehsils of the district, two tehsils (Shorkot and Ahmed Pur Sial) were selected randomly. Then from two selected tehsils four villages (Papil wala, Paka, Moza Sultan Bahu and Qazia wala) were selected conveniently. Finally at the third stage, of 150 respondents (rural women) were selected by using convenient sampling technique. Those women were selected who were involved in livestock care and management activities.

Data Collection Tool

Data were collected through a well-designed questionnaire. Questionnaire was developed in English language, but during the interview, the questions were asked in local (Punjabi) languages. Being the resident of that area, researcher faced no hurdles in the collection of the data.

Statistical Application

The data were analyzed by using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). To explain the results of the study, triangulative approach (Qualitative and Quantitative) was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of data and interpretation of results are the most important steps in scientific research. Without these steps generalization and prediction cannot be achieved, which is the target of scientific research. Generalization and conclusion are drawn on the basis of characteristics and attitudes of the respondents.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making power N=150

Decision	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age
Milk Sailing	131	87.3	15	10.0	4	2.7
Children Education	63	42.0	80	53.3	7	4.7
Children Marriage	87	58.0	39	26.0	24	16.0
Attending Function	64	42.7	78	52.0	8	5.3

Table 1 reveals that a significant majority i.e., 87.3% of the respondents had a great extent decision making power in milk sailing, while 10.0% had to some extent decision making power and only 2.7% of them had no decision making power in milk sailing. About 42.0% of the respondents had a great extent decision making power in children education, while a majority i.e., 53.3% of the respondents had to some extent decision making power in the children education and only 4.7% of them had no decision making power in children education. A majority i.e., 58.0% of the respondents had a great extent decision making power in children marriage, while 26.0% of the respondents had to some extent

decision making power in the children marriage and remaining 16.0% of them had no decision making power in children marriage. About 42.7% of the respondents had a great extent decision making power in attending family functions, while 52.0% of the respondents had to some extent decision making power in attending family function and only 5.3% of them had no decision making power in attending family function. According to '9' rural women's lack of rights over land and independent access to credit as well as their lack of decision making hampers their productive activities. Gender gaps in access to education, training, technology and financing have meant that the majority of women have invariably remained positioned in the non-monetized sector of economy.

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents according to their type of Gender participation in Livestock N=150

Type of activities	Mostly		Occasionally		Never	
	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age
Fodder Cutting	126	84.0	17	11.3	7	4.7
Fodder Chopping	125	83.3	17	11.3	8	5.3
Feeding	71	47.3	63	42.0	16	10.7
Watering	59	39.3	89	59.3	2	1.3
Grazing	65	43.3	79	52.7	6	4.0
Housing the animals milk	116	77.3	18	12.0	16	10.7
Ghee Making	65	43.3	58	38.7	27	18.0
Yogurts Making	100	66.7	27	18.0	23	15.3
Maintenance of Sheds	85	56.7	44	29.3	21	14.0
Bathing	58	38.7	69	46.0	23	15.3
Dung Cakes Making	97	64.7	32	21.3	21	14.0

Table 2 depicts that a major proportion i.e., 84.0% of the respondents were mostly participated in fodder cutting, while 11.3% of them occasionally participated and 10.7% of them never participated in fodder cutting activities. A large majority i.e., 83.3% of the respondents were mostly participated in fodder chopping activities, while 11.3% of them occasionally participated and 5.3% of them never participated in fodder chopping activities. A major proportion i.e., 47.3% of the respondents were mostly participated in feeding activities, while 42.0% of them occasionally participated and 10.7% of them never participated in feeding activities. About 39.3% of the respondents were mostly participated in watering activities, while a majority i.e., 59.3% of them occasionally participated and just 1.3% of them never participated in watering activity. About 43.3% of the respondents were mostly participated

in grazing activity, while a little more than half i.e., 52.7% of them occasionally participated and 4.0% of them never participated in grazing activities. A large majority i.e., 77.3% of the respondents were mostly participated in housing the animal's milk, while 12.0% of them occasionally participated and 10.7% of them never participated in housing the animal's milk activity. A major proportion i.e., 43.3% of the respondents were mostly participated in ghee making activities, while 38.7% of them were occasionally participated and 18.0% of them never participated in ghee making activities. A majority i.e., 66.7% of the respondents were mostly participated in yogurts making activity, while 18.0% of them occasionally participated and 15.3% of them never participated in yogurts making activity. A majority i.e., 56.7% of the respondents were mostly participated in maintenance of sheds activity, while

29.3% of them occasionally participated and 14.03% of them never participated in maintenance of sheds activity. Almost 39.0% of the respondents were mostly participated in bathing activity, while 46.0% of them occasionally participated and 15.3% of them never participated in bathing activity. A majority i.e., 64.7% of the respondents were mostly participated in dung cake making, while

21.3% of them occasionally participated and 14.0% of them never participated in dung cake making. 10 and 11 found similar results. They found that watering, feeding, milking, cleaning and caring of animals, cleaning of sheds, selling of products and manure collection were identified as the main responsibilities of rural women.

Table 3. Distribution of the Respondents according to the Problems facing in livestock care and management N=150

Problems	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age
Shortage of water	82	54.7	38	25.3	30	20.0
High Price of animal feed	52	34.7	77	51.3	21	14.0
Transportation problem	43	28.7	101	67.3	6	4.0
Marketing Problem	80	53.3	52	34.7	18	12.0
Loan Problem	85	56.7	57	38.0	8	5.3

Table 3 presents the problem of the respondents facing in the field of livestock management. A majority i.e., 54.7% of the respondents faced the problem of shortage of water to a great extent, while about one fourth i.e., 25.3% of them faced this problem to some extent and 20.0% of them never faced shortage of water. Little more than one-third i.e., 34.7% of the respondents faced problem high price of animal feed to a great extent while slightly more than half i.e., 51.3% of them faced this problem to some extent and 14.0% of them never faced this problem. Almost 29% of the respondents faced transportation problem to a great extent, while a majority i.e., 67.3% of them faced transportation problem to some extent and only 4.0% of them never faced this problem. Rural women faced transportation problem. A majority i.e., 53.3% of the respondents faced marketing problem to a great extent, while about one-third i.e., 34.7% of them faced marketing problem to some extent and remaining 12.0% of them never faced this problem. Similarly, it is found that the marketing is often seen as a female task, although men are most likely to negotiate the sale of crops. Some jobs are gender neutral. Most of the females faced problems in marketing of their milk products. A majority i.e., 56.7% of the respondents faced loan problems to a great extent, while 38.0% of them faced to some extent and only 5.3% of them never faced this problem.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study reveals that majority of the rural women are involve in livestock care and management activities. Majority of the rural women are participating in livestock activities like fodder cutting, maintenance of animal sheds, making yogurts and ghee, feeding, watering and bathing of the animals. On the other hand, they are also facing problems in livestock. Livestock plays an important role in rural economy of Pakistan. Livestock provide 85.0% traction power for cultivation and transportation in the country. On the basis of the results of this study women have become a major stakeholder in rural economy and a feminization have been occurred in agriculture and other allied sectors of agriculture.

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