

Short Communication

Gender Role in Livestock Rearing and Effect of National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) in Livestock Training Course in Kotli (Azad Kashmir)

SHABBIR HUSSAIN, MUHAMMAD ZAKARIA YOUSUF HASSAN[†], YOUSAF MUKHTAR[‡] AND SADIQ ALI[‡]

Departments of Rural Sociology, [†]Agricultural Extension and [‡]Statistics, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–38040, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to look into the gender role in livestock rearing and effect of National Rural Support Program in livestock training course in Kotli, Azad Kashmir. Out of total 120 respondents, maximum (44.02%) kept sheep followed by buffalo (29.18%), goat (23.01%) and cow (2.87%). It was found that 100% respondents utilized their training in vaccination. It was also noted that most of the respondents used to treat their animals by ethno-veterinary practices. As far as impact of the NRSP is concerned, majority (64.16%) of the respondents believed that productivity of the livestock was increased by utilizing the training courses offered by NRSP

Key Words: Gender; Livestock; NRSP; Training

INTRODUCTION

Gender, especially women play an important role in activities dealing with livestock such as care and management or transformation and marketing of certain livestock products. Furthermore, livestock ownership patterns (especially for small stock and poultry) appear more equitable than that of other assets (land, capital, knowledge).

Gender aspects are to be understood as “practical needs” on the one hand (access to technologies, more access to better welfare) and as “strategic needs” on the other hand (Ramdas, 1999). The involvement of women in livestock production is a longstanding tradition all over the world. Livestock patterns differ widely among ecological zones, and socio-political systems. Livestock production systems can be divided into four major categories: Nomads or transhumants, agro-pastoralist, intensive crops and livestock and peri-urban intensive systems (Niamir, 1994). In various countries of Asia, intensive crop and livestock system are more popular as land shortage force agro-pastoralists to intensify their production. Such systems have fewer animals per household than other categories, and often rely on fodder production or crop residues and by products. In Asia, land shortage is severe, therefore, there are fewer transhumant and agro-pastoral systems. The typical livestock production system is a small holding integrated intensive crop-livestock farm or “back yard” system.

Throughout much of the developing world, livestock

are raised in mixed farming systems, where animals very often have different functions. Livestock activities are normally integrated into the existing farming systems. Animals graze on fallow land and browse on hedges, utilize crop residues as feedstuffs and produce milk and meat, manure for biogas and power for traction.

A special category of small holders are landless labourers, who own one or two dairy cows/buffalo. These labourers and their families must also be considered and included in dairy development programmes. In this connection, Indian experience showed that a large number of farmers, women and even landless could be attracted to dairy production through milk cooperative (Ramaswamy, 1996). Improvement in agriculture, livestock and poultry continued to be central elements under development agencies.

For this purpose, Government of Pakistan organized the national rural support programme (NRSP). NRSP is a prominent project intended to improve the living standard of the peoples through social organizations, skill development and natural resource management. NRSP is the largest private non profit development organization working in various districts of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir through country wide network of community organization at grassroots level and work as vehicle for NGO's through providing credit and technical assistance to poor people.

This study was designed to look into the gender role in livestock rearing and effect of NRSP in livestock training course in Kotli, Azad Kashmir.

METHODOLOGY

The Kotli district was selected as universe and through simple random sampling technique three villages Goi, Baljabran and Nala Athroin were selected, where NRSP was working. On gender basis, 39 respondents were selected from Goi, 41 respondents from Baljabran and 40 from Nala Anthroin, through simple random sampling technique. The data thus collected were tabulated and analyzed to get percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of total 120 respondents, maximum (44.02%) kept sheep followed by buffalo (29.18%), goat (23.01%) and cow (2.87%). The results indicated that rural population of the area mainly depend on livestock rearing for their livelihood as already reported by Ashfaq and Hussain (2002). Hence, agriculture could prove best weapon to attack against poverty.

It was found that 60.97% of the respondents in Baljabran village got training for vaccination of livestock and 100% utilized their training. In Nala Athroin and Goi, the training of vaccination was got by 55 and 48.72% respondents, respectively and utilization of training was 100% at both places. It was also noted that most of the respondents used to treat their animals by ethno-veterinary practices. These results coincide with Ishaq (1989) who concluded that 74, 18 and 8% of the respondent families treated their diseased animals by desi, veterinary and desi plus veterinary treatment, respectively.

As far as impact of the NRSP is concerned, majority (64.16%) of the respondents believed that productivity of the livestock was increased by utilizing the training courses offered by NRSP because of the fact that respondents were able to improve their management skill and they vaccinated their livestock at regular intervals and managed to cure their livestock. The Government of Pakistan (1988) has observed that technical and vocational training of the rural population was necessary to increase their skills and thus broaden the range of jobs for which they could compete. The report further indicated that opportunities for self employment could be enhanced with freely available training and guidance.

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