

ADOPTION OF HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ADOPTED BY TRIBAL FARMERS IN GOAT FARMING

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ABSTRACT

Goat rearing being a traditional practice among the rural poor, is widely considered as a “poor man’s cow”. The study was conducted to collect the first hand information on health care management practices followed by tribal goat farmers in Dahod district. Health care management practices were studied through predesigned and pretested questionnaire from 100 tribal goat animal owners. The study revealed that majority of goat keepers completely adopted the practices like care of sick animal (98.00 per cent) and care of pregnant animals (96.00 per cent). Very few number of goat keepers were adopting the health management practices namely deworming after every three months for prevention of internal parasites and control of external parasite by proper & regular disinfections.

Keywords : adoption, health care practices and goat keepers

INTRODUCTION

Goat is ideally suited for the poorest of the poor because of short gestation period, low risk capital investment and low cost of maintenance. Goat rearing being a traditional practice among the rural poor, is widely considered as a “poor man’s cow”. Goat is the backbone of economy of small and landless farmers in India. It is an insurance against crop failure and provides alternate source of livelihood to farmers all the year round. Goat plays an important role in income generation, capital storage, employment generation and improving household nutrition. Being smaller in size they are easier to manage, require less space and can be easily handled by women and children.

Disease free and good health condition of animal is prerequisite to the better animal productivity. Knowledge of commonly occurring animal diseases and preventive measures is of more significance for better productivity and profitability of animals. The incidence of various diseases ranged from 20 per cent to 60 per cent in different villages, leading to 10-35 per cent goat mortality over flocks and villages. The wide variations in incidences of disease could be attributed to variable nutrition levels, health care measures (deworming, vaccination) and housing facilities. The common goat diseases observed in the selected villages were PPR, enterotoxaemia, foot and mouth disease, pneumonia,

colibacillosis, anemia, diarrhea, foot-rot and parasitic diseases. Outbreaks of PPR and FMD were common in the region. Parasitic infestations were very high largely due to drinking of stagnated and contaminated pond-water, shared grazing and housing with other livestock species, and non adoption of deworming schedule. Incidences of mortality were high in kids (20-50%), particularly in large flocks and could be attributed to overcrowding and unhygienic management of kids reported by Singh et. al. (2013).

Hence, the present study was under taken to document information regarding health care management practices followed by the tribal farmers in Dahod district for providing help in adoption of scientific management practices in the area.

OBJECTIVE

To know the adoption level of health care management practices

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in operational area of Pashu Vigyan Kendra, Limkheda. Out of eight talukas of Dahod district, two talukas namely Garbada and Dhanpur, (on the basis of highest goat population were selected for the study) 10 villages and from each selected village, 10 livestock keepers having goats were randomly selected making the

total sample of 100. Personal interview was employed as the method of data collection questionnaire were developed and tested. Interview started at the end of September 2016 and lasted until the end of December, 2016. The data were tabulated, classified, presented and interpreted in systematic manner as per objectives of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption level of health care management practices

The data presented in Table-1 revealed that majority of livestock keepers completely adopted the practices like care of sick animal (98.00 per cent), care of pregnant animals (96.00 per cent), sanitary condition of shelter/standing place (90.00 per cent), hygienically disposal of placenta & dead body (87.00 per cent), Call veterinary expert for animal treatment (86.00 per cent) and treatment of sick animals (83.00 per cent).

Table 1: Adoption level of goat keepers according to their health care management practices of goat farming

n=100

Sr. No.	Health Care Management Practices	Adoption			Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
		Complete	Partial	No			
1	Adoption of vaccination schedule for different diseases	00 (0.00)	05 (5.00)	95 (95.00)	105	1.05	12
2	Deworming after every three months for prevention of endoparasites	02 (2.00)	06 (6.00)	92 (92.00)	110	1.1	11
3	Control of external parasite by proper & regular disinfestations	02 (2.00)	07 (7.00)	91 (91.00)	111	1.11	10
4	Hygienically disposal of placenta & dead body	87 (87.00)	13 (13.00)	00 (0.00)	287	2.87	4
5	Cleaning of kids nostrils & mouth immediately after birth.	85 (85.00)	10 (10.00)	05 (5.00)	280	2.8	7
6	Cutting & disinfections of naval cord with tincture iodine after birth followed	80 (80.00)	15 (15.00)	05 (5.00)	275	2.75	9
7	Sanitary condition of shelter/standing place	90 (90.00)	10 (0.00)	00 (0.00)	290	2.9	3
8	Care of sick animal	98 (98.00)	02 (20.00)	00 (0.00)	298	2.98	1
9	Care of pregnant animals	96 (96.00)	04 (4.00)	00 (0.00)	296	2.96	2
10	Treatment of sick animals	83 (83.00)	17 (17.00)	00 (0.00)	283	2.83	6
11	Call veterinary expert for animal treatment	86 (86.00)	13 (13.00)	01 (1.00)	285	2.85	5
12	Giving calcium injection in case of milk fever in goats	00 (0.00)	00 (0.00)	100 (100.00)	100	1	13
13	Identifying the toxic plant and destroying it in grazing field to control toxemia	82 (82.00)	12 (12.00)	06 (6.00)	276	2.76	8
14	Dusting of goats with 10 per cents butox against ectoparasites	00 (0.00)	00 (0.00)	100 (100.00)	100	1	13

Note : Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

It is worth noting that very few number of goat keepers were adopting the health management practices namely deworming after every three months for prevention of endoparasites and control of external parasite by proper & regular disinfestations.

None of the of livestock keepers were giving the treatment against milk fever, adopted vaccination schedule

for different diseases and dusting of goats with 10 per cents butox against ectoparasites. Lavania *et. al.* (2014) in his study on feeding and health care management practices adopted by tribal goat farmers in Sirohi district of southern Rajasthan reported that regular vaccination was practiced by 79% respondents for their animals against entro toxemia, while 21% of respondents did not follow vaccination practices.

In respect to overall health care management practices aspect, it could be seen from the Table that care of sick animal were ranked first with mean score 2.98 followed care of pregnant animals (2.96), sanitary condition of shelter/standing place (2.90), hygienically disposal of placenta & dead body (2.87), call veterinary expert for animal treatment (2.83) and cleaning of kids nostrils & mouth immediately after birth (2.80) with rank II, III, IV, V, VI and VII, respectively. These findings were in agreement with those reported by Mandavkar *et. al.* (2015), Lavania *et. al.* (2014), Ninama *et al.*, (2016). and Soni *et al* (2011).

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that majority of goat keepers completely adopted the practices like care of sick animal and care of pregnant animals while very few number of goat keepers were adopting the health management practices namely deworming after every three months for prevention of endo parasites and control of external parasite by proper & regular disinfestations. Despite the least attention from the planners, goat population in India has increased at the fastest rate among all major livestock species during last two decades. However, instead of increasing the goat population, emphasis should be laid on productivity per animal, organized marketing and prevention of emergence of new diseases like Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR) which has led to higher mortality and abortion in goats. The goat improvement

programme is to be given a push through extending credit to the poor landless farmers.

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