

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFILE OF THE HORSE OWNERS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SCIENTIFIC HORSE REARING PRACTICES

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### ABSTRACT

*The investigation has been carried out in all district of middle Gujarat which falls under jurisdiction of Anand Agricultural University. The study is focus on the socio-economic characters of the horse owners. Number of samples from each district was selected to the proportion to population of horse from each district. Horse owners were randomly selected from each district. Total respondent size was one hundred fifty (150). The “Ex-post Facto” research design was applied for this study. The variables under study were selected on the basis of extensive review of literature on the subject in consultation with experts. The variables are included are age, education, experience of horse rearing, family size, social participation in horse related organization, size of land holding, annual income, occupation, pack size, purpose of horse rearing, extension contact, source of information. From the it was concluded that age and education of the horse owners had positive and non-significant correlation with their knowledge level of scientific horse rearing practices. Size of family, occupation, pack size, purpose of horse rearing and extension contact of the horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation. The findings of the study will be very useful to horse owners who wish to follow scientific horse rearing practices for better economic returns.*

**Keywords:** horse owners, pack size, proportion, respondents, socio-economic

### INTRODUCTION

Livestock sector in India is one of the largest sectors in the world (Anonymous, 2012; Mahammad et al., 2022). There are 0.6 million horses and ponies in India. The population of camel, donkey, horses, ponies and mules has been declining continuously (NDDDB, 2017). Horses, donkeys and mules are still used for agriculture and transportation in less developed areas. Mounted police horses are still effective for certain types of patrol duties and crowd control. Horses and humans interact in a wide variety of sport competitions and non-competitive recreational pursuits, as well as in working activities such as police work, agriculture, entertainment and therapy. Horse and ponies make a sizable population of 14667 of livestock of Gujarat according to the livestock censuses 2012. In Gujarat most of three horse breed are found viz. Marwari, Kathiawari and Kachchhi-Sindhi (Prajapati and Belsare, 2017). It is observed that all the of the horses are rapidly deteriorating in quality as a result of lack of organized systematic breeding and availability of specimen animals. Unless huge financial commitment is made, there is a possibility of the breeds losing their identity even in their home tract (Pandor and Shekhawat, 2018).

There is no information regarding relationship

between profile of the horse owners and their knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. The present study will be more useful to different categories of person concerned with development of horse rearing. It may prove beneficial to know socioeconomic characteristics of the horse owners as well as their knowledge and adoption about scientific practices of horse rearing.

### OBJECTIVE

To study the relationship between profile of the horse owners and their knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices

### METHODOLOGY

The investigation was carried out in all district of middle Gujarat which falls under jurisdiction of Anand Agricultural University, viz. Ahmedabad, Botad, Chota Udaipur, Dahod, Kheda, Mahisagar, Panchmahal and Vadodara. Number of samples from each district was selected to the proportion to population of each district. Horse owners were randomly selected from each district. For the investigation simple random sampling technique was employed. A pre-tested Gujarati version interview schedule was developed for data collection. The horse owners were

interviewed personally at their home or work place. Before conducting an interview, the aim and objectives of the study were explained to the horse owners in order to get whole hearted responses and correct information from them. Total respondent size was 150. The relationship between the profile of the horse owners and their knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices was determined with the help of Karl Pearson’s coefficient correlation (r). The data collected was coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful in light of objectives for drawing meaningful interpretation from the study.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Relationship between profile of the horse owners and their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices

**(1) Age and knowledge**

It is apparent from the data presented in the Table 1 that age of the horse owners had positive and non-significant correlation (r=0.066) with their knowledge level of scientific horse rearing practices. The result indicated that knowledge of scientific horse rearing practices was observed almost similar with irrespective level of age of the horse owners. It showed that any age group of horse owners had not yet understood significance of scientific horse rearing practices. This finding is similar with the findings of Thakkar (2013).

**(2) Education and knowledge**

The data presented in Table 1 reflected that level of knowledge of the horse owners regarding scientific horse rearing practices had positive and non-significant (r = 0.008) correlation with their level of education.

The result signifies that level of education did not play any role in increasing knowledge of the horse owners. It was depending on experience of the horse owners about scientific horse rearing practices. It means that level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices was found identical amongst the horse owners with their irrespective level of education. These findings are in concurrence with the findings reported by Thakkar (2013).

**(3) Experience of horse rearing and knowledge**

The data illustrated in Table 1 clearly indicated that experience of horse owners had positive and highly significant correlation (r = 0.528\*\*) with their knowledge level about scientific horse rearing practices. The probable reason for such situation might be a person is having more experience, he also get a chance to improve their knowledge through experience and expertise in problem solving. In

**Table 1: Relationship between profile of the horse owners and their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices (n=150)**

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
X1	Age	0.066
X2	Education	0.008
X3	Experience of horse rearing	0.528**
X4	Family size	-0.128
X5	Social participation in horse related organization	0.232**
X6	Land holding	0.202*
X7	Annual income	0.241**
X8	Occupation	-0.005
X9	Pack size	-0.018
X10	Purpose of horse rearing	-0.002
X11	Extension contact	-0.007
X12	Source of information	0.401**

\*= significant at 5 % level of probability

\*\*= significant at 1 % level of probability

increasing experience also increase the knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. So there is a saying that experience is the best teacher. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Patel *et al.* (2015).

**(4) Size of family and knowledge**

It is apparent from the data presented in the Table 1 that size of family of the horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation (r = -0.128) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. It can be concluded that size of family did not play any role in increasing knowledge of the horse owners. Researcher found that when family size increase, knowledge level of horse owners decrease due to more numbers of family member involve in horse rearing so no particular member involved in horse rearing. It means that level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices was found identical amongst the horse owners with their irrespective size of family. This finding is similar with the findings of Sai (2000).

**(5) Social participation in horse related organization and knowledge**

The data presented in Table 1 clearly indicated that social participation of the horse owners had positive and highly significant correlation (r = 0.232\*\*) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. The probable reason might be that the active participation in

social organization provided platform to the horse owners to interact with the other members as well as some of the expert horse owners of society and helped them to share their idea and information regarding the benefit obtained through adoption of scientific horse rearing practices which influence to increase the knowledge level of horse owners. In other way, more participation in various organizations might have led to improve contact of various sources of information which might have helped them to get exposure and share knowledge regarding the scientific horse rearing practices with other members. This findings are in line with the finding of Kumar *et al.* (2013) and Patel (2015) and Shaktigopal (2016).

#### **(6) Size of land holding and knowledge**

Data shown in above Table 1 revealed that size of land holding of the horse owners had positive and significant correlation ( $r = 0.202^*$ ) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. The reason might be due to large size of land holding, horse owners might have taken a more risk as compare to marginal size of land holder farmers. This may be due to the fact that the individual belonging to large sized of land holding and comparatively large pack size of horse had higher annual income and thus they actively involved in horse rearing practices. This finding is in contrast with the finding of Shaktigopal (2016) and Gohel (2005).

#### **(7) Annual income and knowledge**

Data shown in Table 1 revealed that annual income of the horse owners had positive and highly significant correlation ( $r = 0.241^{**}$ ) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. The result indicated that horse owners with high annual income had high level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices compared to horse owners with low annual income. In other way it can be said that considerable annual income played vital role in establishing encouraging in making them more vigorous, competent and practical to utilize scientific horse rearing practices. Generally the people with high annual income have more social participation and more sources of information which helps them to convert it into useful knowledge for the improvement of their profession. This is evident in present study. This finding is in similar with the finding of Patel (2015) and Shaktigopal (2016).

#### **(8) Occupation and knowledge**

The data reflected in Table 1 indicated that involvement in various occupations by the horse owners was observed negative and non-significantly correlated ( $r = -0.005$ ) with their level of knowledge. It means that positivism towards horse rearing was seen little favorable among those horse owners, who were involved only horse rearing but

the statistical value indicated that such positivism was not noteworthy.

It can be thus, concluded that there was negative and non-significant relationship between occupation of horse owners and their level of knowledge toward scientific horse rearing practices due to more number of different occupation involved by them so they were unable to focus in horse rearing.

#### **(9) Pack size and knowledge**

The data presented in Table 1 clearly indicated that pack size of horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation ( $r = -0.018$ ) relationship with their knowledge of scientific horse rearing practices. It means that pack size of horse owner had no effect on level of knowledge of horse owners. In other words it can be said that knowledge of horse rearing practices of the horse owners was observed same with the irrespective level of pack size.

When number of the horse increased then horse owners decreased the direct contact of horses because most of the work done by the labours so knowledge of the horse owners decreased. This finding is in contrast with the findings of Thakkar (2013).

#### **(10) Purpose of horse rearing and knowledge**

The data in Table 1 highlighted that purpose of horse rearing of the horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation ( $r = -0.002$ ) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. It means that purpose of horse rearing of horse owner had no effect on level of knowledge of horse owners. In other words it can be said that knowledge level about scientific horse rearing practices of the horse owners was observed same with the any purpose of horse keeping.

#### **(11) Extension contact and knowledge**

The data in Table 1 highlighted that extension contact of the horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation ( $r = -0.007$ ) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. The knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices was observed almost similar with irrespective level of their extension contact. Generally extension personnel available in rural area are from agricultural background with capacity to perform agricultural related extension work and with limited knowledge to perform veterinary related extension, in this situation degree of extension contact might not have played significant role in increasing knowledge of the horse owners regarding scientific horse rearing practices. These findings are well corroborated with the finding of Gohil (2005).

## (12) Sources of information and knowledge

It can be observed from the data presented in Table 1 that social participation of the horse owners had positive and highly significant correlation ( $r = 0.401^{**}$ ) with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. This indicated that more use of information sources improve knowledge level of horse owners. The probable reason might be that those horse owners spent more time in getting information that had more knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. This finding is agreement with the findings of Shekhawat *et al.* (2013).

## CONCLUSION

From the study it was concluded that age and education of the horse owners had positive and non-significant correlation with their knowledge level of scientific horse rearing practices. Size of family, occupation, pack size, purpose of horse rearing and extension contact of the horse owners had negative and non-significant correlation. Land holding of the horse owners had positive and significant correlation with their level of knowledge about scientific horse rearing practices. Experience of horse, social participation in horse related organization, annual income and source of information owners had positive and highly significant correlation with their knowledge level about scientific horse rearing practices. The findings of the study will be very useful to horse owners who wish to follow scientific horse rearing practices for better economic returns.

## IMPLICATIONS

Study implies that various parameters which have positive and non-significant correlation with their knowledge level of scientific horse rearing practices. Therefore, outcome of this study will helpful horse owners to ponder upon various factors and work on them which positively influence their profession of horse rearing.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors of the paper declare no conflict of interest.

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