



Constraints Perceived in Following Dairy Animal Welfare Practices in Jamtara District of Jharkhand

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The development of welfare assessment schemes involves a difficult balancing of practical constraints against the need for scientific validity and reliability. There are lots of constraints in following proper welfare practices at farmer's level. In view of above the present study was conducted on Jamtara district of Jharkhand, it has 6 blocks and to have a complete study of whole district, all the 6 blocks were selected. From the selected blocks, two villages (one Peri urban and one rural village) were selected randomly. Data were collected through structured interview schedule. It was observed trends in constraints were as follow, lack of money was the most

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significant constraints as it was perceived by 95 per cent of dairy owners, second was lack of information (91.66%), lack of availability of Veterinary Doctors (88.33%), lack of feed (82.50%), lack of Government facility (80.83%), and no financial gain in following animal welfare practices perceived by 74.16% respondents. In conclusion, the major constraints experienced by the dairy farmers to follow dairy animal welfare practices were lack of money, lack of information and lack of availability of veterinary doctor in vicinity.

Keywords: Dairy animal welfare; livestock owners; constraints.

1. INTRODUCTION

Constraints can be defined as a thing that restricts something or limits to do something. The simplest dictionary meaning of constraints (grammatically a noun) are: to compel, to force, etc. Animal welfare is the application of sensible and sensitive animal husbandry practices to the livestock on the farm. It is strongly linked to animal health, which similarly depends on good animal husbandry [1]. The last three decades has witnessed a dramatic increase in society's interest in the welfare of farm and other domesticated animals [2,3] with the welfare of farm animals high on the political and societal agendas. Next to widespread public concerns about animal welfare [4,5] its importance is acknowledged by all stakeholders along the animal production chain [6]. Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) sees the desired outcome of research on welfare assessment as a set of standardized, validated measures that can be used by farmers to improve the welfare of their stock, and by inspectors to assess welfare for regulatory, marketing or other purposes. There are lot of constraints in following proper welfare practices at farmers level, these are shortage of finance and lack of information [7], lack of financial resources to invest on animal life quality [8], lack of money, lack of information, lack of interest in young age group [9], lack of availability of veterinary doctor in market, lack of people support and high cost of animal transportation [10], lack of money, lack of information, lack of feed, lack of availability of veterinary officer [11]. This study was carried to determine the constraints perceived by the dairy farmers in dairy animal welfare practices. If these constraints are identified, they are helpful to bridge the gap between dairy technology and its adoption by dairy farmers [12].

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Present study was carried out in purposively selected Jamtara district of Jharkhand. Jamtara district of Jharkhand was selected due to high

population density of dairy animals with respect to land also it had peculiarity that it having highest male cattle density (NSSO, 59th Round, land and livestock survey) which are more neglected in following welfare practice. Selected Jamtara district has total 6 blocks namely Jamtara, Kundhit, Nala, Narayanpur, Karmatanr, Fatehpur. To have a complete study of whole district, all the 6 blocks were selected. From the selected blocks two villages (one Peri urban and one rural village) were selected randomly. From each village ten livestock owners who had two or more than two dairy animals like cattle and buffalo was selected randomly. Therefore total sample size of the study was 120 respondents. In order to measure various dimension of the study, structured interview schedule was developed by incorporating available scales/measures and was used for data collection. Constraints in the present study are referred as barriers coming in the way of following different animal welfare practices like financial, lack of knowledge, lack of resources, lack of government support, etc. the response obtained by the respondents were arranged in order from most faced to least faced constraints. In order to get logical interpretation, the data was compiled, tabulated and stastical tools used were frequency, mean, median and chi-square test [13].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of welfare assessment schemes involves a difficult balancing of practical constraints against the need for scientific validity and reliability. Constraints perceived by the respondents in following dairy animal welfare are listed in Table 1.

The data presented in Table 1 reflects the constraints in following dairy animal welfare practices and it was observed that in rural areas lack of money was the most significant constraints as it was perceived by 96.66 percent of dairy owners, followed by lack of information (95%), lack of availability of Veterinary Doctor (90%), lack of Government facility (86.66%), lack

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to Constraints in following dairy animal welfare

| Constraints in following dairy animal welfare | Rural (n=60) | | Peri urban (n=60) | | Pooled (N=120) | | Rank |
|---|--------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| Lack of money | 58 | 96.66 | 56 | 93.33 | 114 | 95 | I |
| Lack of information | 57 | 95 | 53 | 88.33 | 110 | 91.66 | II |
| Lack of availability of vet. Doctor | 54 | 90 | 52 | 86.66 | 106 | 88.33 | III |
| Lack of feed | 51 | 85 | 48 | 80 | 99 | 82.50 | IV |
| Lack of Govt. facility | 52 | 86.66 | 45 | 75 | 97 | 80.83 | V |
| No financial gain in following animal welfare practices | 47 | 78.33 | 42 | 70 | 89 | 74.16 | VI |

of feed (85%), and as no financial gain in following animal welfare practices (78.33%). Where as in periurban also lack of money was most perceived constraint by 93.33 per cent of respondents followed by lack of availability of Veterinary Doctor (86.66%), lack of information (88.33%), lack of feed (80%), lack of Government facility (75%), and no financial gain in following animal welfare practices perceived by 70 per cent of respondents. In pooled data trends in constraints were as follow, lack of money was the most significant constraints as it was perceived by 95 per cent of dairy owners, second was lack of information (91.66%), lack of availability of Veterinary Doctor (88.33%), lack of feed (82.50%), lack of Government facility (80.83%), and no financial gain in following animal welfare practices perceived by 74.16 percent respondents of peri urban areas. On the basis of pooled data overall ranking of constraints as perceived by the dairy owners are drawn according to it on first rank it was lack of money as most of the respondents belonged to low family income and low socio economic status. Lack of information / knowledge in following different welfare practices was second most constraints. Lack of Veterinary Doctors was also perceived by majority of respondents as commonly found in the animal welfare practices. As it is evident that only 9 Veterinary Doctors were working in whole Jamtara district which was very low according to livestock population of the district. Lack of feed is one of the major constraints as in feeding practices they were not good and according to them they did not get proper feed in the locality and if they bring from market then they had to pay high cost. Lack of government facility for following proper welfare practices was also considered as constraints, therefore Government should provide proper information and facilities for better animal welfare practices. Lastly they also said that by following good welfare practices they did not get extra

financial gain against the practices which they follow normally.

So overall lack of money, lack of information / knowledge, lack of Veterinary Doctor and lack of feed were the major constraints in following proper dairy animal welfare in the research area, each of the findings are supported as reported by Burke [7] and Dwivedi [10].

4. CONCLUSION

The major constraints experienced by the dairy farmers to follow dairy animal welfare practices were lack of money, lack of information or knowledge of different livestock management practices and lack of availability of veterinary doctor in vicinity.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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