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Livestock farmer producer groups (Women SHGs) knowledge level regarding livestock rearing

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Abstract
Livestock farming is the most practised occupation in India and women play a notable role in livestock farming. The knowledge level of Livestock farmer producer groups (women SHGs) about livestock rearing were studied under breeding, feeding and health care practices. The study was carried out in Nagarkurnool and Siddipet districts of Telangana state. A pretested structured interviewed schedule was prepared and same was used to collect data during personnel interview with women SHGs. The overall analysis revealed that majority of respondents have medium level of knowledge (74.17%) followed by high (20.83%) and low (5.00%) level of knowledge levels. The study revealed that there is an urgent need for providing training and conducting camps to improve knowledge levels of livestock farmer producer groups.

Keywords: Farmer producer groups, knowledge level, women shgs, training

Introduction
India is an agriculturally based nation, and a significant portion of its livestock sector is controlled by women. Livestock provides meat, milk, eggs, and other supplies products, which are often considered key resources for rural livelihood, that are dietary staples for population. For the women's livelihood and to help ensure the supplies security of the household, livestock is a crucial non-land productive asset. The tiny, marginal, and landless farmers in rural areas are the owners of increasingly than 70% of the livestock. Compared to male workers, self-employed women are increasingly likely to work in livestock production. Women add value and market the majority of unprepossessing farming activities, including fodder collection, feeding, watering, health care, unprepossessing management, milking and household-level processing.

Farmer producer organization is an entity formed by primary producers. These include farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisians and craftsman. FPOs ensure higher returns in almost all fields of agriculture and its allied activities i.e., horticulture, plantations, dairy, poultry, fisheries, etc. Typically, around 50-70 FIGs/Farmer Producer Groups can come together to form each FPO. Each FPG consists of 15-20 members. NABARD initiated SHGs as a variety of micro-finance credit system, Livestock Farmer Producer Group is the primary organization of women members from existing SHGs involved in livestock rearing of sheep/goat, dairy animals or poultry. These groups shall be formed either in the same habitation or village and Livestock Farmer Producer Organisations at mandal/district/state level.

About 8.80% of the population in India is employed by the livestock sector, which supports two-thirds of the rural community. The livestock sector contributes 4.11% of the GDP and 25.60% of the total agricultural GDP (19 Livestock Census 2012) [1]. Livestock has immense potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas and thus it is considered a sector for women's empowerment and equity. Women can manage livestock and livestock products more easily than other assets such as land and other agricultural activities or small industries. Women spend nearly 294.34 minutes daily on a variety of dairy activities such as feeding, watering, milking, housing, breeding, animal health and marketing (Thirunavukkarasu & Christy, 2002) [7].

Mishra *et al*. (2008) [4] found that women's participation in animal sales and breeding was zero, while found that small-scale processing such as converting milk to household dairy products and selling to women contribute significantly. Keeping in the view about the women contribution the present study was designed to study the knowledge pattern of women SHGs.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Nagarkurnool and Siddipet districts of Telangana state during 2019 and from each district 10 livestock farmer producer groups were selected and from each farmer producer group 6 members were selected randomly. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the present study by using simple random sampling. Pre tested structured interview schedule was used for data collection and the collected data was processed, analysed and interpreted. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage were used to elucidate findings and draw conclusions.

Results and Discussions

On the basis of the opinion of the respondents i.e., either yes or no it was revealed that number of individuals having knowledge on breeding, feeding and health care are obtained.

Knowledge level regarding livestock rearing

1. Breeding: A few number of respondents have knowledge about when the cattle or buffalo comes to heat (17.5%) and right time for artificial insemination (28.33%) and only 26.67% of respondents know Pregnancy testing should be done after how many days of A.I. and (33.33%) of the women farmers are aware of selection of a good milch breed. Major findings of the study show that 96.67% number of respondents have knowledge about different methods of mating systems follow in sheep, 90.83% can identify estrus phase of the sheep/goat, majority of the respondents 95% knows the desirable features for selection of breeding Ram and 96.67% of LFPGs have knowledge regarding breeding ram replacement for every 2 years to avoid in breeding problem.

2. Feeding

The study revealed only a few respondents were aware about how much additional concentrate feed required for cow/buffalo giving 5 litres milk (22.5%), 33.33% respondents were aware about colostrum feeding in newly born calf and 20.83%, 27.5% were aware about green and dry fodder feeding. only 0.83% of women farmers aware about amount of concentrate feed should be given during flushing. 93.3% LFPGs have knowledge about importance of colostrum feeding in new born kid/lamb. 96.67% have correct knowledge about different grazing systems in Sheep/Goat. None were aware of feeding Azolla.

3. Health care

Regarding health care majority (20.83%), (95.83%) respondents were aware about Vaccination schedule in cattle/buffalo and sheep/goat. Among the respondents (0.83%), (96.67%) were aware of importance of deworming schedule should be followed regularly to reduce worm infestation and disease prevention. 99.17% have NILL knowledge about naval cord treatment to decrease the infection in cattle/buffalo. 0.83%, 4.1% and 0.83% respondents were only aware about symptoms of Haemorrhagic Septiciemia, Foot and Mouth and Black Quarter diseases. None of the respondents have knowledge about naval cord treatment to decrease the infection in sheep/goat. 80% respondents have knowledge regarding separate housing of young animals. 96.6% have knowledge about the advantages to vaccinate sheep against endemic diseases and about only 15.8%, 4.86% and 0.83% of livestock farmer producer group members had correct knowledge about symptoms of PPR, Enterotoxiemia and Blue Tongue.

Table 1: Knowledge level of livestock farmer producer groups (women SHGs) n =120

S. No	Category	No. of respondents having knowledge	Percentage of respondents having knowledge
1	**Breeding**		
a.	How often Buffalo/cattle comes to heat	21	17.5
b.	Accurate time of Artificial Insemination (AI) when a cow is in normal heat	34	28.33
c.	Pregnancy testing should be done after how many days of A.I.	32	26.67
d.	Good milch breed characters	40	33.33
e.	Different methods of mating systems follow in sheep?	116	96.67
f.	Identification of estrus animal	109	90.83
g.	What are the desirable features for selection of breeding Ram	114	95
h.	Breeding ram should be replaced for every 2 years to avoid in breeding problem	116	96.67
2.	**Feeding**		
a.	How much additional concentrate feed required for animal giving 5 litres milk	27	22.5
b.	Colostrum should be fed with in how many hours after birth of calf	40	33.33
c.	Green fodder	25	20.83
d.	Dry fodder	33	27.5
e.	Amount of concentrate feed during flushing in sheep/goat	1	0.83
f.	Colostrum should be fed with in how many hours after birth of lamb/kid	112	93.33
g.	What are the different grazing systems in Sheep/Goat?	116	96.67
h.	Do you aware of feeding Azolla?	0	0
3.	**Health care**		
a.	Vaccination schedule should be followed regularly for prevention of diseases in cattle and buffalo	25	20.83
b.	Deworming schedule should be followed regularly to reduce worm infestation in cattle and buffalo.	1	0.83
c.	Is naval cord treatment is done to decrease the infection in calf	1	0.83

d.	What are the important symptoms of Haemorrhagic septiciemia disease	1	0.83
e.	Major symptoms of foot and mouth disease	5	4.16
f.	What are the important symptoms of black quarter disease	1	0.83
g.	Is naval cord treatment is done in sheep/goat to decrease the infection?	0	0
h.	Separate housing for Young animals (kid/lamb) to prevent disease spread	96	80
i.	Vaccination schedule in sheep/goat should be followed regularly for prevention of diseases	115	95.83
j.	Deworming schedule in sheep/goat should be followed regularly to reduce worm infestation?	116	96.67
k.	Is it advantageous to vaccinate sheep against endemic diseases?	116	96.67
l.	Do you know the symptoms of PPR affected sheep?	19	15.83
m.	Do you know the symptoms exhibited by ET affected sheep?	5	4.17
n.	Do you know the symptoms of blue tongue?	1	0.83

Table 2: Overall knowledge level of livestock farmer producer group members n = 120

Knowledge on livestock rearing	**Low**	**6**	**5.00**
	Medium	89	74.17
	High	25	20.83

Table 2 represents that greater portion (74.17%) of the LFPG members had possessed medium level of knowledge followed by high (20.83%) and low (5.00%) level of knowledge. It was distinct that livestock rearing is typically women centered activity in India. State animal husbandry department should give frequent trainings and technology transfer programmes in order to impart knowledge to LFPG members. The findings of Aulakh (2011) [2], Hagone *et al*. (2015) [3] Rulima (2016) [5] were in consonance with the above findings.

Conclusion

It can be stated that dairy farmers had medium level of knowledge regarding livestock rearing. So, there is large amount of scope for increasing the existing level of knowledge of women SHGs about the upgraded routine animal husbandry activities. More campaigns, field trips, exhibitions, method and result demonstration, radio/TV talks should be organized to increase the knowledge level and advisory services to these areas are required to be ameliorated and frequent regional trainings should be conducted.

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