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## Contribution of rural women to animal husbandry activities in livestock management

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### Abstract

India is predominantly an agrarian society where animal husbandry forms the backbone of national economy. Many of the important tasks in animal husbandry are performed by women besides their responsibilities as home makers and caring of animals is considered as an extension of domestic activities. This study emphasized the relative contribution of rural women in various animal husbandry activities. Thus the study focuses on performance of caring of animal activities by rural women in livestock management. The multipurpose random sampling technique was used and 180 respondents were taken from Sarsoul, Shivrajpur, and Choubeypur block Kanpur Nagar and Amaraudha, Malasha, Sarvankheda from Kanpur Dehat were randomly selected for the study. Caring of Animal More than forty five percent respondents from both the district 'always' perform care of newly born babies of animal activity. Maximum 87.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat and seventy percent from Kanpur Nagar reported 'always' perform bathing of animal activity. Besides this 67.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat and 57.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar reported 'always' perform care of sick animal activity,

**Keywords:** Livestock management, rural women, role performance

### Introduction

Women mainly participate in all operations related to livestock management. Livestock management has always been considered to be the sole responsibility of women. Women take responsibility for cutting fodder, cleaning sheds, milking dairy animals, processing animal and milk products and looking after the health of the herd. Livestock rearing is an important means of income generations in village for all categories of farmers including small, marginal and even landless farmer in rural India. According to Ahmed and Hussain (2004) <sup>[1]</sup> rural women play key roles in agriculture sector production by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post-harvest activities. Aggregate data show that women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labor force globally and in developing countries (FAO, 2011). Moreover, according to the data of World Bank (2013), global female labour force participation is around 50 percent But, in fact, less value is given to their contributions, and rural women are less likely to realize their capacity to make a life better for themselves, families and communities (Akinsanmi, 2005) <sup>[2]</sup>. Younas *et al.* (2007) <sup>[3]</sup> Concluded that rural women get up early the morning and work from morning to evening the field or at home. In their varied roles as agricultural labourers, fetching and managing water and fuel, cooking, cleaning and maintaining the house, and taking care of the young and old, they mainly participate in all operations related to livestock management. They also assist their husbands in various farm operations in the fields. List of the jobs performed by them in a day is very long. A rural woman in the Punjab works almost 15 hours a day, spending about 5-6 hours in caring for livestock. They are responsible for 60 to 80% of the feeding and milking of cattle. Livestock management has always been considered to be the sole responsibility of women. Women take responsibility for cutting fodder, cleaning sheds, milking dairy animals, processing animal products and looking after the health of the herd.

### Research methodology-

In the first stage Kanpur Nagar was selected purposively due to investigator convenience. Kanpur is the biggest city of Uttar Pradesh state. District Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat are divided in 10 blocks. Three blocks from each district namely Sarsoul, Shivrajpur, Choubeypur from Kanpur Nagar and Amaraudha, Malasha, Sarvankheda from Kanpur Dehat were randomly selected for the study. Two villages from each block in which Ramnagar, Lawakhedha from Sarsoul, Mudaiharpur, Dilipnagar from Shivrajpur and prytappur, tatiyaganj, from Choubeypur were selected randomly from District Kanpur Nagar and

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Harahara, Rampur from Amaraudha, Andnva, Dhobha from Malasha and Mohanepur and Sayitha from Sarvankheda were selected randomly for the present study. Fifteen respondents were selected randomly from each village. Thus, Total 180 respondents were chosen for the purpose of obtaining necessary information.

### Results and discussion

Table. 1: indicated that Maximum 33.33 and 41.11 percent respondents were from 31-40 years of age group from Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat respectively. Majority 68.89 percent

from Kanpur Nagar and 74.44 percent from Kanpur Dehat were from OBC category, illiterate or educated below /up to middle level in both the district. About thirty one percent from Kanpur Nagar and thirty six percent from Kanpur Dehat were illiterate while 23.33 percent from Kanpur Nagar and 20.00 percent from Kanpur Dehat were Primary educated. A good number i.e. 20.00 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 22.22 percent from Kanpur Dehat were educated up to the middle level. Majority 91.11 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 97.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were married.

**Table1:** Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Personal Profile

S. No.	Particulars	Kanpur Nagar n=90		Kanpur Dehat n=90	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b>	<b>Age (years)</b>				
I	Up to 30	11	12.22	10	11.11
II	31 to 40	30	33.33	37	41.11
III	41 to 50	29	32.22	26	28.89
IV	51 to 60	17	18.89	4	4.44
V	Above 60 years	3	3.33	13	14.44
<b>2</b>	<b>Caste</b>				
I	General	17	18.89	13	14.44
II	OBC	62	68.89	67	74.44
II	SC/ST	11	12.22	10	11.11
<b>3</b>	<b>Education</b>				
I	Can read/ write	28	31.11	32	35.56
II	Primary	21	23.33	18	20.00
III	Middle	18	20.00	20	22.22
IV	High School	14	15.56	13	14.44
V	Intermediate & above	9	10.00	7	7.78
<b>4</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>				
I	Married	82	91.11	88	97.78
II	Widow	8	8.89	2	2.22

table 1.1 indicated that majority of respondents from both districts always perform care of newly born babies of animals, bathing of animals, and care of sick animals activities, whereas more than forty six per cent respondents from Kanpur Nagar sometimes perform 'vaccination or treatment of animal' activity. Maximum respondents from Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat 'sometimes' perform "protecting animal during weather change".

There is no significant difference observed between rural women of Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat for specific task performed in care of animal activity. Z values are significant at 5% level of significance for bathing of animal and vaccination or treatment of animal activities. Thus null hypothesis was partially rejected.

**Table 1.1:** Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Performance of Caring of Animal Activities of Livestock Management

S No.	Caring of animals Activities	Kanpur Nagar n=90					Kanpur Dehat n=90					Z
		Always	Sometimes	Never	Mean Score	SD	Always	Sometimes	Never	Mean Score	SD	
(a)	Care of newly born babies of animals	43 (47.78)	39 (43.33)	8 (8.89)	2.39	0.64	41 (45.56)	37 (41.11)	12 (13.33)	2.32	0.70	0.666
(b)	Bathing of animals	63 (70.00)	17 (18.89)	10 (11.11)	2.59	0.68	79 (87.78)	11 (12.22)	0 (0.00)	2.88	0.33	3.625*
(c)	Care of sick animals	52 (57.78)	34 (37.78)	4 (4.44)	2.53	0.58	61 (67.78)	26 (28.89)	3 (3.33)	2.64	0.54	1.324
(d)	Vaccination or treatment of animals	15 (16.67)	42 (46.67)	33 (36.67)	1.80	0.70	21 (23.33)	49 (54.44)	20 (22.22)	2.01	0.67	2.056*
(e)	Protecting animals during weather change	30 (33.33)	46 (51.11)	14 (15.56)	2.18	0.68	14 (15.56)	62 (68.89)	14 (15.56)	2.00	0.56	1.924

### Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that no difference has been seen in socio- economic conditions of respondents from Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat. Majority of respondents always perform animal care of newly born babies of animals, bathing of animals, and care of sick animals, take care of sick animal'. Vaccinating animal against contagious diseases and treating them is also major activity in women's part 54.44 per cent respondents from Kanpur Dehat 'sometimes' and 23.33

per cent 'always' perform this while in case of Kanpur Nagar a good per centage i.e. about thirty seven per cent 'never' performed 'vaccination or treatment of animal' activity only 16.67 per cent respondents from Kanpur Nagar reported that they always perform this activity. About forty seven per cent respondents from Kanpur Nagar 'sometimes' performed 'vaccination and treat animal' against disease but in Kanpur Dehat, 22.22 per cent respondents 'never' perform this activity.

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