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## Socio-economic profile and knowledge on management practices of goat rearing farmers in the Mahaboobnagar district of Telangana

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### Abstract

The present study was taken up to focus on socio economic characteristic, management practices followed by the goat rearing farmers in Mahabubnagar District, Telangana. The data was collected from 250 goat keepers of five mandals, Majority of the (42.00 %) goat keepers were old and middle age group followed by young age (14.80%). 83.20% illiterate with average family size of 5 members. The land holding possessed by the farmers was up to 1.00 ha. The average flock size of the goat was 24 goats with low level of scientific orientation and social participation. Among the goat keepers 75.20 per cent had medium level of knowledge, while, 19.60 and 5.20 per cent of them had high and low level of knowledge about recommended goat management practices respectively. It can be concluded that, most of the goat keepers had medium level of knowledge on goat management practices.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic profile, management practices, Telangana

### Introduction

Among all the species of farm animals, goats have the widest ecological range and have been considered as poor people's most reliable livelihood resource since their domestication during Neolithic Revolution about 10 millennium ago. Goat plays a significant role in providing supplementary income and livelihood to resource poor farmers and landless labourers of rural India. Small ruminant rearing ensures self employment and acts as a cushion in distress situation like drought and famine.

India ranks top in goat population, the demand for meat, milk and fiber is increasing progressively and expected to further rise in future in view of sizable increase in per capita income and consciousness of people towards nutrition. Most of the goat farmers are not yet aware of scientific production and management practices. It is necessary to introduce superior technologies for adoption of improved production and management practices in goat rearing. Understanding the management practices adopted by the farmers it is necessary to identify the strengths and weakness of the goat production system in the study area and to formulate suitable intervention policies.

### Methods and Materials

The study was conducted in erstwhile Mahabubnagar District of Telangana State. Mahabubnagar is the second largest district in Telangana in terms of area (18432.00 Sq.km) covered and it is also known as *Palamoor*. The head quarter of the Mahabubnagar district town was named after Mr. Mahaboob Ali Khan, the Nizam of Hyderabad. It is located between North latitudes 15 55' 00" and 17 20' 00" and East longitudes 77 15' 00" and 79 15' 00". For this study, five Mandals from Mahaboobnagar district, named Devarakadra, Thimmajipet, Narayanpet, Damaragidda and Maddur were purposively selected, as the area is highly populated. The five villages from each mandal were selected based on highest goat population with the help of available data from the Officers of Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary of concerned mandal. Thus a total of twenty five villages and from each village ten goat rearing farmers were selected randomly to make the sample size of 250. The data was collected through personal interview with the help of structured interview schedule prepared for this purpose. Interview schedule consisting of relevant questionnaire related to the objectives of the study was prepared. The interview schedule so developed was pre-tested for its accuracy, simplicity and practicability.

The data collected from the respondents were processed and tabulated by using standard statistical procedures Snedecor & Cochran 1994 [22]. Mean, standard deviation and percentages were worked out wherever needed.

**Table 1:** Distribution of goat keepers according to their Socio economic and Physiological characteristic

Sr. No.	Characteristic	Respondent (N = 250)	
		Number	Percentage
<b>Age</b>			
1	Young (up to 34 year)	37	14.80
2	Middle (35 to 54 years)	106	42.40
3	Old (55 and above years)	107	42.80
<b>Education</b>			
1	No education	208	83.20
2	Primary education (I <sup>st</sup> to VII <sup>th</sup> standard)	22	8.80
3	Secondary education (VIII <sup>th</sup> to X <sup>th</sup> standard)	6	2.40
4	Higher Secondary education (XI <sup>th</sup> to XII <sup>th</sup> standard)	12	4.80
5	Graduation and above	2	0.80
<b>Social Status</b>			
1	Scheduled Tribe (ST)	33	13.20
2	Scheduled Caste (SC)	22	8.80
3	Backward Class (BC)	193	77.20
4	Other Caste (OC)	02	0.80
<b>Family Size</b>			
1	Small (Up to 3)	52	20.80
2	Medium (4 to 6)	180	72.00
3	Large (7 and above)	18	7.20
<b>Land Holding</b>			
1	No land	11	4.40
2	Marginal (Up to 1 ha.)	121	48.40
3	Small (1.01 to 2 ha.)	100	40.00
4	Medium (2.01 to 4 ha.)	18	7.20
5	Large (above 4,ha)	0	0.00
<b>Annual Income</b>			
1	Low (up to Rs.52,332)	128	51.20
2	Medium (Rs.52,333 Rs. to 98,666)	103	41.20
3	High (Rs.98,667 and above)	19	7.60

**Table 2:** Distribution of goat keepers according to the seeking of information on goat rearing practices

Sr. No.	Characteristic	Respondent (N = 250)	
		Number	Percentage
<b>Source of Information</b>			
1	Low (Up to 7)	79	31.60
2	Medium (8 to 11)	149	59.60
3	High (12 and above)	22	8.80
<b>Social Participation</b>			
1	Low (Up to 3)	196	78.40
2	Medium (4 to 7)	52	20.80
3	High (8 and above)	2	0.80
<b>Scientific Orientation</b>			
1	Low (up to 19)	181	72.40
2	Medium (20 to 21)	63	25.20
3	High (22 & above)	6	2.40
<b>Goat keeping experience</b>			
1	Low (Up to 10)	209	83.60
2	Medium (11 to 19)	36	14.40
3	High (20 and above)	5	2.00
<b>Flock Size</b>			
1	Small (Up to 38)	227	90.80
2	Medium (39 to 68)	19	7.60
3	Large (69 & above)	4	1.60

**Table 3:** Distribution of goat keepers according to the overall knowledge level

Sr. No.	Knowledge Level (Scores)	Respondent (N = 250)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 78)	13	5.20
2	Medium (79 to 96)	188	75.20
3	High (97 and above)	49	19.60
	Total	250	100.00

**Table 4:** Distribution of goat keepers according to their specific Knowledge level on goat rearing management practices

Sr. No.	Goat rearing management practices	Knowledge (N=250)		
		Complete	Partial	No
1	<b>Knowledge about the improved breeds</b>			
	Dual purpose breed (for milk and meat)	195 (78.00)	52 (20.80)	3 (1.20)
	Meat purpose	175 (70.00)	70 (28.00)	5 (2.00)
2	<b>Different rearing systems</b>			
	Grazing	249 (99.60)	1 (0.40)	0
	Semi-stall feeding	32 (12.80)	52 (20.80)	166 (66.40)
	Stall feeding	1 (0.40)	51 (20.40)	198 (79.20)
3	<b>Forage crop management</b>			
	Annual Monocot green fodder	1 (0.40)	44 (17.60)	205 (82.00)
	Perennial Monocot fodder	0	56 (22.40)	194 (77.60)
	Annual dicot fodder	0	5 (2.00)	245 (98.00)
	Perennial dicot fodder	52 (20.80)	4 (1.60)	194 (77.60)
4	<b>Breeding Management</b>			
	Selection of breeding male and female.	245 (98.00)	1 (0.40)	4 (1.60)
	Selection of doe and buck to improve twinning and triplet percentage.	199 (79.60)	47 (18.80)	4 (1.60)
	One buck is used to maintain 20 to 25 female does.	161 (64.40)	80 (32.00)	9 (3.60)
	Age of male buck used for breeding should be 2-5 years.	244 (97.60)	3 (1.20)	3 (1.20)
	Age of female kid used for breeding should be above 18 months.	245 (98.00)	3 (1.20)	2 (0.80)
	Signs of oestrus in goat	170 (68.00)	76 (30.40)	4 (1.60)
	Natural method is the best method of breeding	159 (63.60)	80 (32.00)	11 (4.40)
5)	<b>Management of pregnant does</b>			
	It is necessary to dry the pregnant does at least 6 to 8 weeks before due date of kidding.	245 (98.00)	4 (1.60)	1 (0.40)
	Do not break the water bag coming through vaginal track at the time of kidding.	243 (97.20)	3 (1.20)	4 (1.60)
	Take the help of veterinarians in case of dystokia.	245 (98.00)	4 (1.60)	1 (0.40)
	After expulsion of placenta, act of kidding is completed.	250 (100)	0	0
	Do not pull out the placenta forcibly, taking help of veterinary doctor.	242 (96.80)	3 (1.20)	5 (2.00)
6	<b>Kid management</b>			
	Removal of mucus membrane from nostrils and natural orifices of new born kids.	228 (91.20)	3 (1.20)	19 (7.60)
	Does should be allowed for licking new born kids within first hour of kidding.	243 (97.20)	5 (2.00)	2 (0.80)
	Cutting of naval cord 1" to 1.5" from body of kids with the help of sterilized blade and apply tincture iodine.	46 (18.40)	28 (11.20)	176 (70.40)
	Offering colostrum of one doe to kids of other does	85 (34.00)	35 (14.00)	130 (52.00)
	Offering cow milk to kids if necessary.	100 (40.00)	4 (1.60)	146 (58.40)
	Castration of male kids before one month of age grown for meat production.	2 (0.80)	2 (0.80)	246 (98.00)

**Table 5:** Distribution of goat keepers according to the feeding management

7	<b>Feeding management (Nutrition)</b>			
A)	<b>Feeding of does and pregnant goats (adult goat)</b>			
	Generally, 3 to 5 kg green fodder and 0.750 to 1 kg dry fodder is offered per doe/day.	2 (0.80)	0	248 (99.20)
	200 to 250 grams of concentrates should be offered per day per doe.	1 (0.40)	0	249 (99.60)
	Tying of mineral lick blocks in the sheds to supply of minerals.	2 (0.80)	0	248 (99.20)
	350 to 400 grams of concentrates along with fodder should offered to pregnant doe/day.	2 (0.80)	0	248 (99.20)
	Offer cooked bajara or jowar mixed with jaggary and edible oil to does immediately after kidding.	1 (0.40)	1 (0.40)	248 (99.20)
B)	<b>Kids feeding</b>			
	Offering milk, 10 per cent of the body weight of kid up to the age of 15 days.	206 (82.40)	25 (10.00)	19 (7.60)
	Starting the feeding of fodder when kids attained one months of age.	55 (22.00)	0	195 (78.00)
	Offering 50 to 80 grams of concentrates along with fodder to kids/day when kid attain 1.5 to 2 months of age.	3 (1.20)	1 (0.40)	246 (98.40)
C)	<b>Feeding of bucks</b>			
	Generally 5 to 6 kg of green fodder and 1 to 1.5 kg dry fodder should be offered per day per buck.	2 (0.80)	31 (12.40)	217 (86.80)
	Feeding 200 grams sprouted grains per buck for 8 days during breeding season.	1 (0.40)	1 (0.40)	248 (99.20)
	Feeding 400 to 500 grams of concentrates per day per buck during breeding season.	1 (0.40)	6 (2.40)	243 (97.20)

**Table 6:** Distribution of goat keepers according to the health management

1	<b>Health management in goat</b>			
	Vaccination against Enterotoxaemia	56 (22.40)	1 (0.40)	193 (77.20)
	Vaccination against PPR after every three years	185 (74.00)	3 (1.20)	62 (24.80)
	Vaccination against Hemorrhagic Septicemia after every six months	53 (21.20)	0	197 (78.80)
	Vaccination against Blue tongue disease.	72 (28.80)	18 (7.20)	160 (64.00)
	Deworming of goats after every three months	245 (98.00)	1 (0.40)	4 (1.60)
	Care against Tick infestation	241 (96.40)	6 (2.40)	3 (1.20)
2	<b>Care to be taken at the time of vaccination</b>			
	Vaccination should be done early in the morning or in cool climate.	250 (100.00)	0	0
	Vaccination to all the goats above three months age	250 (100.00)	0	0
	Use of vaccination bottle at once	250 (100.00)	0	0
	Vaccination place should be slightly rubbed.	250 (100.00)	0	0
	All vaccination should be carried out through the local veterinary hospital.	99 (39.60)	0	151 (60.40)
	Gap between two vaccine should be of 21 to 30 day	93 (37.20)	1 (0.40)	156 (62.40)
	Registration of vaccination, the date and the name of vaccine etc.,	0	0	250 (100)

## Results and Discussion

### Socio economic Profile of the goat farmers

From the present studies it was observed that majority of the (42.00%) goat keepers belongs to old and middle age group, followed by young age (14.80%). The old and middle age goat keepers are traditional farmers staying in villages and maintaining goats as occupational for the livelihood, whereas, younger generation choosing alternative activities for their employment along with agriculture. As the age advanced, gaining of experience in goat rearing was observed. Similar observations were also made by Dhaka *et al.* (2011), Khadda *et al.* (2012), Swathi and Singh *et al.* (2014), Dhara *et al.* (2016), Koli and Koli (2016), Sabapara (2016), Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017), Yusouff *et al.* (2018) and Dhaliwal *et al.* (2020) [5, 12, 23, 6, 14, 18, 2, 26, 1], whereas, Deshpande *et al.* (2010) [4] reported the involvement of middle and young age group was more in the goat rearing activity.

Majority of the goat keepers were illiterate (83.20%), followed by primary education (8.80%), secondary education (2.40%), higher secondary (4.80%) and few of them are graduate and above (0.80%). This might be due to involvement of old age people in goat rearing was more, whose educational qualification is nil. Since there is less opportunity of the employment in other sector and more demand for quality meat, the educated people also restoring to the goat rearing practice as entrepreneurship. These result are in agreement with Singh and Rai (2016), Koli and Koli (2016) [14] and Sabapara (2016) [18], Dhara *et al.* (2016) [6] and Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [2], stated that, majority of the goat keeper were possessed minimum or middle school education.

The study on social status of the respondents showed that majority of the goat keepers belongs to Backward Class (77.20%), followed by Scheduled Tribe (13.20%), Scheduled Caste (8.80%), and 0.80 per cent were in the category of Other Caste. This might be due to that, the weaker section of the study area may be chosen goat rearing activity for their income source. These findings are in agreement with Sharma *et al.* (2007) [20], Kumar *et al.* (2010) [15] and Sandeep *et al.* (2018) [19].

The average family size of the goat keepers was 5 members. 72.00 per cent of the goat keepers possess medium size family followed by small (20.80%) and large (7.20%) families. This might be due to socio - economic changes and awareness among the society to provide better care and facilities to the individual for the growth. Similarly, Koli and Koli (2016) [14], Sabapara (2016) [18] and Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [2] also reported that, highest portion of the goat keepers belongs to the category of middle size family, whereas, the studies of Dhara *et al.* (2016) [6] found that majority of the goat farmers had nuclear family.

Majority of the goat keepers were marginal farmers, possess up to 1.00 hectare land followed by small farmers (1-2ha.), medium farmers (2-4 ha.) and no farmers were found in large farmers category. This shows that, the people having minimum land or small farmers attracted towards allied activities for the additional income to maintain family and family requirement. The goat rearing is a money bank which provides readily available cash as and when they required for their livelihood and in emergencies. These findings are in comparison with the studies of Jayashree *et al.* (2014) [11] and Dhara *et al.* (2016) [6], whereas, the reports of Koli and Koli (2016) and Sabapara (2016) [14, 18] were contradictory and they found that majority of the goat rearers are land less.

Majority of the goat keepers had low (51.20%) and medium (41.20%) level of annual income, whereas, very few of them

had high (7.00%) level annual income. The source of income of the respondent was from agriculture and goat rearing. Since the agriculture was rain fed, the income from agriculture was scanty, similarly due to small flock size, local goat market and involvement of middle man may be leading to low and medium level of income. The results are in commemorating with the results of Khadd *et al.* (2012). Sabapar (2016) and Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [12, 18, 2], while, Koli and Koli (2016) [14] stated that 80.00 per cent of the respondents possess medium level of annual income, 16.66 per cent high and 3.33 per cent low level of income.

The source of information regarding goat management practices utilized by the goat rearer was noticed that, 50.60 per cent of the goat keepers were using medium sources of information, whereas, 31.60 and 8.80 per cent of the goat keepers using low and high sources of information respectively. This might be due to low level of education, moderate availability of source of information among the goat keepers and most of the goat keepers are old age group. Similar findings was also made by Koli and Koli (2016) and Wadkar *et al.* (2009) [14, 25].

There was 78.40 per cent of the goat keepers had low level of social participation, while, 20.80 per cent medium level and negligible percentage (0.80%) had high level of social participation, the reasons may be that, majority of the goat keeper are illiterate, aged, and they are staying in remote places. Similar findings were observed by Lahoti and Chole (2010), Koli and Koli (2016) and Sabapara (2016) [16, 14, 18].

Majority of the (72.40%) goat keepers were under low level of scientific orientation, whereas, 25.50 per cent of the respondent appeared in medium level of scientific orientation and 2.40 per cent of them are at high level of scientific orientation. This shows that, availability of information regarding scientific management was at low-level because most of the farmers are illiterate and traditional farmers. This can be addressed by increase of extension activity and training programmes among the goat farmers. The study was contradictory with the findings of Khalache *et al.* (2007) and Koli and Koli (2016) [13, 14] who reported that, majority of the goat keepers possess medium level of scientific orientation.

More number of goat keepers in the study area (83.60 per cent) had low, up to 10 years of goat keeping experience, followed by 14.40 per cent between 11 to 19 years (medium) and only 2.00 per cent of the goat keepers had (high) more than 20 years of experience in goat keeping. The average experience of the goat keepers was more than 7 years. The reason for this may be, most of the goat keepers were traditional goat rearers and this may be the source of income. Similar findings were made by Sandeep *et al.* (2018) [19]. Singh *et al.* (2020) reported that the average experience of the beneficiaries regarding goat rearing was 5.09 years and it had highly significant relationship with income ( $P < 0.01$ ).

Most of the goat keepers possess small (90.80%) flock size. The average flock size of the goat was 24 animals. The reason for this might be due to lack of grazing land and unavailability of infrastructure facility. The results are in agreement with Zaibet *et al.* (2004), Wadkar *et al.* (2009), Sabapara (2016) and Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [27, 25, 18, 2]. However Koli and Koli (2016) [14] reported 73.33 per cent of the respondents had medium herd size.

### Knowledge on goat management practices

Majority of the goat keepers had medium level of knowledge with adoption on recommended goat rearing management practices. This was reflected by their educational level, age, flock size, scientific orientation and social participation. The level of knowledge on recommended goat rearing

management practices can be improved by increase of extension activities, participatory approaches and training programmes. Similar reports were made by Khalache *et al.* (2007) [13], Wadkar (2007) [25], Lahoti and Chole (2010) [16] and Singh (2013) [21]. Further 78.00 and 20.80 per cent of the goat keepers possess complete and partial knowledge about dual purpose breeds, 70.00 and 28.0 per cent had the complete and partial knowledge regarding meat purpose breeds respectively. Whereas, 55.00 per cent of the goat keepers adopted management of dual purpose and meat purpose breeds completely, 31.60 and 42.80 per cent adopted to maintain dual and meat purpose breeds partially. It shows that the goat rearers of the study area had knowledge about improved breeds but the adoption level was low, hence it required to educate the farmers on scientific management and production. The study was in agreement with the studies of Jayashree *et al.* (2014) [11] and Islam and Islam (2018) [10].

All most all the goat rearers (99.60%) had complete knowledge of extensive system of rearing and only 20.80, 20.40 per cent had the partial knowledge about semi-stall feeding and stall feeding system respectively. In respect of adoption 97.60 per cent of the goat keepers following grazing, while, 11.60 per cent adopted semi stall feeding and almost none of the goat keepers following stall feeding practices. The knowledge level and adoption of goat management practice was similar. This might be due to goat rearing was the subsidiary practice among the goat rearers without any investment on feed and fodder and there was lack of knowledge on nutritional plain. The studies of Debraj *et al.* (2011), Ekambaram *et al.* (2011), Dixit *et al.* (2013), Rai *et al.* (2013) [3, 8, 17, 17], Jayashree *et al.* (2014) [11], Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [2], Gracinda *et al.* (2019) [9] and Dhaliwal *et al.* (2020) [1] revealed that most of the goat farmers follow grazing as a common feeding practices. Majority of the goat keepers were not having the knowledge about cultivation of forage crops, whereas, about 20.00 per cent goat keepers possessed partial knowledge about cultivation of monocot and dicot forage crops. Regarding adoption of cultivation of forage crops, 98.00 per cent were not adopted, while, 14.80 per cent of them partially adopted cultivation of annual dicot fodder. The observation were in comparison with the Jayashree *et al.* (2014) [11] and Bimal and Venkatachalapathy (2017) [2] but contradictory with Rai *et al.* (2013) [17]. This might be due to that, the goat rearers had the knowledge on cultivation of fodder crops but land possessed by them was scanty, which made them to adopt at lower level. Among the goat keepers, 98.00 per cent of them knew about selection of male and female for breeding, 76.00 per cent had the knowledge on selection of doe and buck for twinning and triplets. 64.40 and 32.00 per cent of the farmer maintaining sex ratio completely and partially, 98.00 per cent of the goat keepers using bucks at the age of 2-5 years for breeding purpose and more than 60.00 per cent of the goat keepers having knowledge of signs of oestrus, whereas, the adoption level on breeding management was 60.00 and 14.00 per cent as completely and partially. Majority (98.0%) of the goat keepers had the knowledge about pregnancy management such as drying of pregnant does, not to break the water bag, taking help of veterinarian in case of dystokia, expulsion of placenta as a completion of act of kidding and don't pull out the placenta by force. The similar activity was adopted by 58.00 percent of the goat keepers. It was observed that in spite of better knowledge on pregnancy management the adoption level was low, this may be due to low level of education and low scientific orientation among the goat keepers. The results

are in line of studies of Sharma *et al.* (2007) [20], Rai *et al.* (2009) [17], Singh *et al.* (2009) [7], Sabapara *et al.* (2010) [10], Ekambaram *et al.* (2011) [8], Tyagi *et al.* (2013) and Gracinda *et al.* (2019) [9] on selection of breeding buck, maintenance of sex ratio, regarding overall breeding management.

In respect to knowledge of kid management, 58.40 per cent against 90.00 percent of the goat keepers adopted clearing of mucus membrane from natural orifices and allow the mother to lick new born (54.60). Similarly, only 18.40 per cent of goat keepers having knowledge about cutting of navel cord with sterilized blade and application of tincture iodine with the adoption level of 2.80 per cent. The knowledge to offer colostrum of one doe, to kids of other doe was 34 per cent and the adoption rate was 17.20 per cent partially and 9.60 per cent completely. 40.00 per cent of the goat keepers had knowledge about feeding of cow milk if necessary, while 0.80 per cent goat keepers had complete and partial knowledge about castration of male kids before one month of age for fattening purpose. Whereas, 74.40 per cent of goat keepers did not adopted feeding of cow milk to kids if necessary and 21.6 per cent adopted partially. The practice of castration of male kids before one month of age reared for meat production was not adopted by any one of the goat keepers. It was observed that the goat farmers were lacking knowledge on scientific management.

Majority, i.e. 82.40 per cent of goat keepers knowing about quantity of milk to be fed up to 15 days to kids as per the standard, while, 68.80 per cent not adopted. 78.00 per cent of the farmers don't have knowledge and adoption about starting of feeding green fodder from 1 month age, similarly, 98.40 per cent lacking knowledge about feeding of concentrates along with fodder. Most of the goat keepers do not have knowledge and adoption about scientific feeding to bucks, whereas, 12.40 and 2.40 per cent of goat keepers possess partial knowledge about feeding of green, dry fodder and concentrates to the bucks respectively with partial adoption (4.40%) of feeding 400-500 grams of concentrates per day per buck during the breeding season.

The adoption and knowledge level on vaccination practices of goat farmers were very poor in the study area, whereas, more than 96.00 per cent of goat keepers had knowledge of deworming and tick control with adoption level of above 36.00 and 50.80 per cent respectively. 22.40, 21.20, 28.80 and 74.00 per cent of goat keepers had knowledge about vaccination against enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicaemia, blue tongue and PPR diseases respectively. Most of the goat keepers had complete knowledge and adoption about vaccination timing, age group and use of vaccination, whereas, 39.60 per cent had knowledge to utilize the services of veterinary hospital for the vaccination (4.00% adoption). 13.60 per cent farmers possess adoption against 37.20 per cent of knowledge about gap in between two vaccinations, while, no farmers had the knowledge about registration, date and type of vaccination. This might be due to lack of awareness among the goat keepers about infectious and contagious diseases and their education level. The goat keepers might be utilizing the services of private practitioner and locally available persons. The findings of Thomber *et al.* (2010) and Ekambaram *et al.* (2011) [8] shows similar results in respect of deworming, de-ticking, vaccination and disposal of animals. The results are in contradictory to the observations of Jayashree *et al.* (2014) [11], because most of the goat keepers were aware about vaccination, deworming and health care and they were utilising the services of government veterinary dispensaries.

## Summary

The Goat keeper in the study area are mostly aged, uneducated and possess small land holding and they are following mostly traditional practices in goat rearing. Hence there is a need to educate and motivate the farmers to practice better scientific management practices to increase the productivity. Most of the farmers maintaining local goat breed with low prolificacy and not practicing proper health management practices. Hence there is a need to educate the farmers about scientific rearing and creating awareness on prolific breed and the breeds having dual purpose characteristic such as for milk and meat purpose, so that milk can be utilized for house hold consumption to meet the nutritional requirement. Goat farmers required orientation, regular trainings, exhibitions and awareness campaigning on goat rearing activity to build up confidence among rural youth to take up goat rearing activity to generate more employment.

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