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R Selvam
Livestock Farm Complex,
Veterinary College and Research
Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu, India

R Venkataramanan
Livestock Farm Complex,
Veterinary College and Research
Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu, India

T Ravimurugan
Livestock Farm Complex,
Veterinary College and Research
Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu, India

SC Edwin
Livestock Farm Complex,
Veterinary College and Research
Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu, India

Effect of non-genetic factors on productive traits in goat breeds

R Selvam, R Venkataramanan, T Ravimurugan and SC Edwin

Abstract

The objective of this study is to analyze the impact of non-genetic parameters such as Breed and Sex on body weight at different ages of goat breeds. The data on the body weight of Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu, Jamunapari and Tellichery goat breeds were collected and the body weights at different ages and average daily gains were estimated. Statistical analysis of the data was done using R software. The overall birth weight, weaning weight, one year body weight of all goat breeds were 2-2.9 kg with the mean of 2.35 ± 0.05 , 6.7-11.1 kg with the mean of 8.06 ± 0.25 , 15.4-25.3 kg with the mean of 18.48 ± 0.5 , respectively. The pre-weaning and post weaning average daily weight gain of goat breeds ranges from 0.04-0.09 kg and 0.01-0.05 kg with the mean of 0.06 and 0.04 kg, respectively. There is no significant difference between sex in birth weight, weaning weight and pre/post weaning average daily weight gain. But significant difference between male and female goats observed in 6 months, 9 months and 1 year body weight. The least square means of birth weight of Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu, Tellichery and Jamunapari were 2.29 ± 0.04 , 2.34 ± 0.04 , 2.50 ± 0.04 and 2.64 ± 0.04 ; weaning weight were 7.84 ± 0.23 , 7.73 ± 0.22 , 10.12 ± 0.25 and 7.52 ± 0.22 b; one year body weight were 18.5 ± 0.334 , 18.3 ± 0.32 , 22.5 ± 0.37 and 17 ± 0.36 , respectively. Different estimates could be due to differences in genetic merit of breeds. From the above study it was concluded that there was significant effect of non-genetic factors namely sex and breed on production parameters of the studied goat breeds.

Keywords: Non-genetic factors, goat, body weight, breed and sex

Introduction

Goat plays an important part in affording additional revenue and occupation to many farmers and landless agricultural laborers of India. According to 20th livestock census of India the total Goat Population in the country is 148.88 Million during 2019. Total Goat has increased by 10.14% over previous livestock census (2012) and about 27.8% of the total livestock is contributed by goats. In recent years research works are focussed on increasing the goat productivity. To increase the goat productivity it is mandatory to identify and estimate the genetic and non-genetic factors affecting the economically important traits (Hamed *et al.*, 2009) ^[1]. Genetic improvement can be achieved by selection where effect of non genetic factors on productive traits is most important. Knowledge about environmental factors namely climate, breed, sex, type of birth and age of the dam, etc., is essential for the production of goats (Zinat Mahal *et al.*, 2013) ^[2]. In this background, this study aims to analyse the impact of non-genetic parameters such as Breed and Sex on body weight at different ages of goat breeds

Materials and Methods

The data on the body weight of Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu, Jamunapari and Tellichery goat breeds belongs to both sex maintained at Livestock farm complex, VCRI, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India were collected over a period of 10 years (2009 - 2018). The body weights at different ages i.e. at birth and at three, six, nine and 12 months were recorded. The average daily gains in live weights from birth until weaning and from weaning until the age of 12 months were estimated. Statistical analysis of the data was done using R software (R version 4.0.2, <https://www.r-project.org/>) to examine the effect of sex and breed on birth, weaning weight and pre/post weaning gain.

Corresponding Author:
R Selvam
Livestock Farm Complex,
Veterinary College and Research
Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu, India

Results and Discussion

The overall total number of animals including all the goat breeds analyzed at every stage, the minimum, maximum, range, mean with standard deviation and standard error,

median, skewness and kurtosis of body weight of goat at birth, weaning (3 months), 6, 9 and 12 months, body weight and pre weaning average daily weight gain and post weaning average daily weight gain are given in the table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Goat Breeds

Trait	No.	Min	Max	Range	Mean	sd	se	Median	Skew	Kurtosis
B wt	20	2	2.9	0.9	2.35	0.24	0.05	2.33	0.88	0.14
W wt	20	6.7	11.1	4.4	8.06	1.11	0.25	7.58	1.31	0.74
6M wt	20	8.25	16.55	8.3	12.51	2.17	0.48	13.25	-0.7	-0.42
9M wt	20	11	21.75	10.75	15.95	2.43	0.54	16.3	-0.13	0.3
12M wt	19	15.4	25.3	9.9	18.48	2.19	0.5	17.65	1.58	2.46
Pre W ADG	20	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.01	0	0.06	0.91	0.35
Post W ADG	20	0.01	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.01	0	0.04	-1.35	4.08

B wt: Birth weight; W wt: Weaning weight; M: months; Pre W ADG: pre weaning average daily weight gain; Post W ADG: Post weaning average daily weight gain; min: Minimum body weight; Max: Maximum body weight; Sd: Standard deviation; se: Standard Error

The overall birth weight of all goat breeds ranges from 2-2.9 kg with the mean of 2.35 ± 0.05 . The weaning weight ranges from 6.7-11.1 kg with the mean of 8.06 ± 0.25 . The one year body weight of goat breeds ranges from 15.4-25.3 kg with the mean of 18.48 ± 0.5 . The pre-weaning and post weaning average daily weight gain of goat breeds ranges from 0.04-0.09 kg and 0.01-0.05 kg with the mean of 0.06 and 0.04 kg,

respectively. The body weights of goats at the different ages were within the range of values observed in earlier reports (Acharya, 1982)^[3].

The variations in least-squares means (\pm S.E.) for body weight at different ages between male and female goat is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Least-squares means (\pm S.E.) of body weight (kg) Male and Female of Goat breeds at different age groups

Factor	B wt	W wt	6M wt	9M wt	12M wt	Pre W ADG	Post W ADG
Sex	**	NS	NS	**	**	NS	NS
Male	2.62 \pm 0.04a	8.55 \pm 0.22a	13.4 \pm 0.31a	17.4 \pm 0.32a	20.2 \pm 0.32a	0.07 \pm 0.00a	0.04 \pm 0.00a
Female	2.26 \pm 0.02a	8.06 \pm 0.13a	12.3 \pm 0.18b	15.6 \pm 0.18b	18 \pm 0.2 b	0.06 \pm 0.00a	0.04 \pm 0.00a

There is no significant difference between sex in birth weight, weaning weight and pre/post weaning average daily weight gain. But significant difference between male and female goats observed in 6 months, 9 months and 1 year body weight. Higher birth weight in male may be attributed to the anabolic effect of male sex hormones. High birth weight of male kids and significant effect of sex was also reported in Barbari (Bharathidhasan *et al.*, 2009)^[4], Tellichery goat

(Thiruvankadan *et al.*, 2009)^[5], Jamunapari (Roy *et al.*, 1997)^[6] and Boer graded goats (Selvam, 2018)^[7]. The results are also agreed with the finding in Anglo-Nubian, Alpine, Toggenburg and Saanen goats (Castillo *et al.*, 1976)^[8] and Markhoz Goat (Rashidi *et al.*, 2008)^[9].

The least-squares means (\pm S.E.) for body weight at different ages between goat breeds are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Least-squares means (\pm S.E.) of body weight (kg) and Average Daily gain (kg) of Goat breeds at different age groups

Factor	B wt	W wt	6M wt	9M wt	12M wt	Pre W ADG	Post W ADG
Kanni Adu	2.29 \pm 0.04c	7.84 \pm 0.23b	13.7 \pm 0.32b	17 \pm 0.33b	18.5 \pm 0.334b	0.06 \pm 0.00b	0.04 \pm 0.00ab
Kodi Adu	2.34 \pm 0.04c	7.73 \pm 0.22b	13.5 \pm 0.3b	17 \pm 0.31b	18.3 \pm 0.32b	0.06 \pm 0.00b	0.04 \pm 0.00b
Tellichery	2.50 \pm 0.04b	10.12 \pm 0.25a	14.8 \pm 0.35a	19.3 \pm 0.36a	22.5 \pm 0.37a	0.08 \pm 0.00a	0.05 \pm 0.00a
Jamuna pari	2.64 \pm 0.04a	7.52 \pm 0.22b	9.3 \pm 0.3c	12.8 \pm 0.32c	17 \pm 0.36b	0.05 \pm 0.00b	0.03 \pm 0.00b

The least square means of birth weight of Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu, Tellichery and Jamunapari were 2.29 \pm 0.04, 2.34 \pm 0.04, 2.50 \pm 0.04 and 2.64 \pm 0.04; weaning weight were 7.84 \pm 0.23, 7.73 \pm 0.22, 10.12 \pm 0.25 and 7.52 \pm 0.22b; one year body weight were 18.5 \pm 0.334, 18.3 \pm 0.32, 22.5 \pm 0.37 and 17 \pm 0.36, respectively. Different estimates could be due to differences in genetic merit of breeds. The effects of breed have been shown to be important sources of variation for all traits. These results obtained from this research are in agreement with results reported in previous studies (Selvam, 2018)^[7] & (Singh Satbir *et al.*, 2002)^[10].

From the above study it was concluded that there was significant effect of non-genetic factors namely sex and breed on production parameters of the studied goat breeds. It exposed a growth trend through the mean values. However, the variation found may not be signified due to less volume of data. This study may be further continued with increased

number of breeds and data with additional parameters to analyze the impact of non-genetic factors on economic traits which would be immense helpful to formulate management policies.

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