



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; SP-11(2): 131-133
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www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 13-12-2021
Accepted: 15-01-2022

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Feeding and health care management practices followed by tribal goat farmers of southern Rajasthan

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Abstract

A field study was attempted to comprehend the first hand information on goat management practices adopted by tribal goat farmers. Existing feeding and health care management practices were studied through predesigned and pretested questionnaire from 100 tribal goat animal owners. The study revealed that Animals were mostly grazed in mixed grazing on community land/public range land for about 4-8 h in a day. The concentrate was offered to lactating does only @200-250g/head/day. They were not supplemented with concentrate mixture during critical stages of growth and advance pregnancy. Adoption of over all scientific feeding and vaccination program me was satisfactory but practices like to control ecto and endo parasite, naval cord disinfection was poor and needs to improve a lot. The farmers should be educated towards the awareness programme being implemented by Government. Hence, the study recommends that innovations in technological interventions on scientific goat farming shall be supported with vocational training, demonstration of efficient technologies with extension support and services might help them for enhancing the farmer's livelihood.

Keywords: feeding practices, grazing health care practices, tribal

Introduction

India is one among the few nations in the world for its tribal population. In Rajasthan tribal population is 12 percent of the state population, more than 45% resides in southern Rajasthan covering the Aravali ranges which run through the south west boarder of the state (Kumar *et al.* 2019) ^[1]. Understanding the livestock management practices followed by farmers in necessary to identify the strengths and weakness of the rearing systems and to formulate suitable intervention polices (Gupta *et al.* 2008) ^[2]. Hence, the present study was under taken to document information regarding feeding and health care management practices followed by the tribal farmers in sirohi district for providing help in adoption of scientific management practices in the area.

Material and Methods

The study uses primary data collected from 100 goat breeders belonging to 10 villages of Pindwara and Shivganj blocks of Sirohi district of southern Rajasthan. The respondents, village were selected purposively as they were selected on the basis of maximum number of tribal and goat population. The information was received from respondents through questionnaires. The primary was collected in the year of 2020-21 to provide the better understanding of current rearing feeding and health practices. After compilation of this process, used basic statistically tools to obtain the outcomes.

Result and Discussion

Information pertaining to feeding and health care management practices being followed by goat-owner in Sirohi District of Rajasthan has been discussed in following sub heads.

Feeding Management Practices

Table 1 shows that 55% goat keepers adopted the extensive grazing system and allowed their goats to graze on community land. These findings were in agreement with report of Raghvan and Hari Kumar (2002) ^[7] and Rai and Singh (2004) ^[6]. More than three – fourth goat farmers allowed grazing to their goats during light for more than 4hr. Similar findings were also observed by kumar and Deoghare (2003) ^[5]. The goats of the area were mostly maintained under field grazing and majority of goat farmers (72%) did not feed green fodder to goats (Table 1). It was found that majority of goat rearers (70%) provided concentrate mixture only

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to the lactating does. Similar results regarding feeding practices were reported by Rai and Singh (2004)^[6]. Over 71% of goat farmers prepared home grown concentrate for feeding to goats which comprised of Barley, Maize and wheat as such or in the form of gruel plus some salt. Singh and Singh (1998)^[8] also reported that majority of goat keepers used home

prepared concentrate as compared to purchased feed. Mineral mixture was not provided to goats by 85% goat keepers. Singh *et al.* (2002)^[9] observed that very few respondents were feeding mineral mixture to their animals. The reason for low adoption of mineral mixture feeding was lack of knowledge about its use.

Table 1: Feeding management practices adopted by tribal goat farmers of Sirohi district (N=100).

S. No.	Particulars	Frequently	Per-cent
1	Grazing System		
	Extensive	55	55.00
	Semi intensive	45	45.00
2	Grazing Site		
	own land	25	25.00
	community land	75	75.00
3	Grazing Duration		
	0-4 hours	30	30.00
	4-8 hours	70	70.00
4	Green fodder feeding		
	Yes	28	28.00
	No	72	72.00
5	Concentrate feeding		
	A. For Kid		
	Yes	40	40.00
	No	60	60.00
	B. Special feeding for		
	C. lactating does		
	Yes	70	70.00
	No	30	30.00
	D. Special feeding during pregnancy		
Yes	20	20.00	
No	80	80.00	
6	Type of concentrate		
	Home made	71	71.00
	purchased	29	29.00
7	Feeding of mineral mixture		
	Yes	85	85.00
	No	15	15.00

Table 2: Health care managerial practices adopted by tribal farmers of Sirohi district (N=100).

S. No.	Particulars	Frequently	Per-cent
1	Vaccination of animals		
	Yes	79	79.00
	No	21	21.00
2	Deworming of animals		
	Regular	25	25.00
	Occasional	70	70.00
	Not practiced	5	5.00
3	Navel disinfection of kid after birth followed		
	Yes	00	00.00
	No	100	100.00
4	Dehorning of kids followed		
	Yes	10	10.00
	No	90	90.00
5	Practice to control ecto – parasites		
	followed	20	20.00
	Not followed	80	80.00
6	Sanitary condition of shelter/standing place		
	clean (Dry)	20.00	20.00
	Dirty (wet)	80.00	80.00
7	Treatment of sick animals		
	use of local empirical knowledge	60	60.00
	calling a quack	00	00.00
	livestock inspector	20	20.00
	veterinary doctor	20	20.00

Health Care Practices

Regular vaccination was practiced by 79% respondents for their animals against entro toxemia, while 21% of respondents did not follow vaccination practices (Table-2). The present findings were on higher side to that reported by Singh *et al.* (2007)^[10] and Kalyankar *et al.* (2008)^[3]. This is suggestive of fairly high level of awareness in Farmers regarding protecting their animals by vaccination. It is observed that very few respondents (25%) practiced deworming to their animals at regular intervals. This finding is comparable with finding of Pawar *et al.* (2006)^[12]. All the goat farmer did not practice navel cutting and it was left to fall off itself naturally. The similar findings were reported by Kokate and Tyagi (1991)^[4]. More and more concentrate efforts are required to motivate farmers to follow this practice. Only 10% respondents followed dehorning practice (hot iron method) and 90% respondents did not follow it. This finding is in accordance with the finding of Kokate and Tyagi (1991)^[4]. Majority of goat farmers (80%) did not follow any practice to control ecto- parasite however, some farmers adopted traditional practices- like smoke of neem leaves to prevent mosquitoes. This practice needs attention to create awareness in goat farmers covered under present study. Only 20% of the respondents acquired the services of a qualified veterinarian for treatment. Similar findings were also reported by Malik *et al.* (2005)^[11]. This may be due to the non-availability of a qualified veterinarian. Most of the goat-keepers of the study area used local therapy for the treatment to their goats. Present study indicated that adoption of over all scientific practices was quite satisfactory. Adoption of regular vaccination against ET was good but very poor in other health care practices like regular deworming. Hence, these practices need to be improved to a great extent in this tribal area.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the extent of adoption of feeding and health care management practices followed by goat farmers quite satisfactory. Adoption of over all scientific feeding practices and vaccination programme was good but practices like measures to control Ecto and Endo parasite, navel cord disinfection, mineral mixture feeding and concentrate mixture feeding to kids and pregnant does was poor and needs to improve a lot. Hence, these practices need to be improved to a greater extent in this tribal area. Further, the results indicate need of extension activities for spreading improved management practices, institutional intervention for conservation of the common grazing land and improving the veterinary services to enhance the productivity of goats.

Acknowledgement

Author thankful to the ICAR, New Delhi for providing financial support under Tribal Sub Plan Scheme and Dean, CoA, Jodhpur for providing necessary facilities and logistic support for conducting this study. Author also thankful of goat farmers for participation in this study.

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