

RESEARCH PAPER

# Effect of age and sex on litter moisture level in deep litter rearing of Vanaraja chickens

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The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of age and sex on moisture level of litter material in Vanaraja chicken for nine weeks. One hundred fifty Vanaraja chicks (75 male+75 female) were used for experiment. Litter moisture levels were measure at an interval of 3 weeks. Litter from male group had a significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) higher moisture per cent than that of other two groups. Similar trend was also observed at 42 days of age. Moisture level between all three groups varied significantly ( $p<0.05$ ). But at 63 days of age continued trend changes and litter materials from female group had a significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) higher moisture per cent than that of other two groups. Litter moisture per cent is a good indicator of antibacterial property of litter materials so it should be monitored regularly and should be changed at a regular interval.

**Key words** : Litter, Moisture, Age, Sex, Coccidia, Vanaraja

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