

Accepted : October, 2010

Impact of goat rearing among livestock interest groups on empowerment of poor rural people

G.T. GOPALA, K.C. VEERANNA, SHIVAKUMAR K. RADDER AND SHIVAN S. KUMBAR

ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out with an objective of assessing impact of goat rearing among livestock interest groups on empowerment of poor rural in Bidar district through focused group discussion and personal interview method with the help of a semi structured and pre-tested schedule, it revealed that, goat rearing as an income generating activity (IGA); to start with a small unit of four goats has provided 180 man days of annual employment and an average income of Rs. 26560 per member in a span of about two years. Apart from this, Livestock Interest Group (LIG) has also helped the members to become empowered in terms of improved saving habit, acquisition of better technical knowledge on goat rearing, decision making ability in the community, access to larger quantum of resources, gained better leadership and communication skills, improved standard of living, contact with bank and other government officers. This socio economic transformation and empowerment clearly indicated that there is an improvement in livelihood security of the LIG members, which is an impact of LIG.

Key words : Livestock interest groups, Goat rearing and Livelihood security

INTRODUCTION

Socio-Economics is the relationship between social and economic activity and Socio-economic development or empowerment is the process of social and economic development in the society, which can be caused by new technologies, changes in the policies and laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes. Resource poor households who could not afford to maintain a milch buffalo/cow could earn an annual income of Rs.50,000-59,000/- through goat rearing even water scarce regions with small flock of 5 goats. (Kumar *et al.*, 2006). The self-help group (SHG) is a viable organized set up to disburse micro credit to the rural poor for the purpose of making them enterprising and encouraging to enter into entrepreneurial activities. The formation of SHG is not ultimately a microcredit project but an empowerment process. Live stock plays an important role in the socio economic lives of the people of the country. They provide a means of livelihood to millions of poor farmers across the country. In India more than 70 per cent of livestock are reared by small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. Self-help Groups (SHGs) is an important concept making rounds in the rural women circles. In India,

more than 70 per cent of women SHGs have taken up livestock rearing as an income generating activity, which includes Dairy farming, Goat farming, Sheep farming, Rabbit farming and Poultry farming.(Anupama 2005). Keeping these points in view the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension, Veterinary College Bidar has implemented DBT (Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi) funded project entitled “An action research for self-employment of SC/ST youth through goat rearing under stall feeding as a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Hyderabad-Karnataka region” In the process about eighteen Livestock Interest Groups (LIGs) were promoted in similar guidelines to that of SHGs and integrated with goat rearing for the livelihood security of the members. In and around the Bidar district goat rearing / husbandry is one of the predominant secondary occupations for the majority of the agricultural labourers, small and marginal farmers. Hence, this investigation was carried out with objective of studying the impact of the LIGs on empowerment of the members of selected LIGs involved in goat rearing by exploring the occupation, income

G.T. Gopala, K.C. Veeranna, Shivakumar K. Radder, Shivan and S. Kumbar (2010). Impact of goat rearing among livestock interest groups on employment of rural poor, *Vet. Sci. Res. J.*, 1 (2) : 89-92