

Constraints in goat farming in Bidar district of Karnataka state

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● ABSTRACT ●

The present study was undertaken to explore the constraints in goat rearing in Bidar district of Karnataka in India. For this study, 70 respondents from six Livestock Interest Groups (LIGs), which have undertaken Bidri goat rearing as an income generating activity under DBT (Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi) funded project and who had more than two years of experience in goat rearing were selected from six villages in four Talukas of Bidar district. The study revealed that majority of the respondents were facing the problems with respect to availability of fodder during summer season, disease problems, wild animal's attacks on goats, problem of ticks, housing problem in rainy and winter season.

KEY WORDS : Goat farming, Constraints, Goat rearing

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● INTRODUCTION ●

Constraints are the problems or the difficulties faced by the goat keepers in the day to day management of goat husbandry practices. In India, rural people in general and farming community in specific are facing a variety of advents like either floods or droughts based on different geographic and agro-climatic regions, which lead to non-availability of fodder and water thus, finally resulting in diseases and poor production performance in their livestock, causing great concern in the development of the rural livelihood.

Diversification in income generating activities (*i.e.* rearing dairy animals, sheep and goat, poultry, piggery) is one of the major steps that could help the farming community to come out of such advents and can provide sustainable livelihoods to rural poor. In such advent conditions, goat husbandry can act as an important source of livelihood for the rural poor, particularly for women, landless and marginal farmers living in the interior areas, who do not have other means of survival. Goat is ideally

suitable for the poorest of the poor because of short gestation period, low risk capital investment and low cost of maintenance. Goat rearing being a traditional practice among the rural poor, is wisely considered as a "poor man's cow". With an objective of finding out such constraints in goat husbandry as perceived by goat keepers of Bidar district of Karnataka region the following study was undertaken.

● MATERIALS AND METHODS ●

Bidar district was purposively selected for the present study because it is one of the most backward districts in the Karnataka state and is having high level of rural poverty (about 50 per cent), and goat rearing is one of the major livestock rearing activities practiced by the majority of the rural households especially landless agricultural labourers, and small and marginal farmers. Apart from this, there were 18 LIGs promoted (in similar line with SHGs concept) by Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension, Veterinary College, Bidar, Karnataka. Out of these 18 LIGs three men and three women LIGs who had more than two years of goat rearing experience were selected for the study. Three men LIGs had ten members each and two women LIGs had ten members each and one women LIG had 20 members, thus constituted a total of 70 respondents. The data were collected through semi-structured interview schedule and focussed group discussion. The data collected were

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presented in the form of frequencies and percentages in order of severity of the constraints as perceived by the members of the LIG.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints as perceived by the goat keepers were recorded and grouped in to three main categories viz., feeding , health care and management practices which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 : Distribution of the goat keepers on the basis of constraints faced as perceived by them (n=70)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Feeding		
	i) Lack of fodder during summer	63	90.00
	ii) Water problem in summer season	32	45.71
2.	Healthcare / veterinary services		
	i) Disease problems	62	88.57
	ii) Kid mortality	26	37.14
	iii) Non-availability of veterinary services	21	30.00
3.	Management practices		
	i) Wild animal's attacks	57	81.42
	ii) Problem of ticks	54	77.14
	iii) Housing problems in rainy and winter season	37	52.85

n = Number of respondents

Feeding practices:

Majority (90%) of the respondents had said that they had constraint of fodder during summer season. This finding is in similar in line with the results of Ranganekar (2006), who stated feed-fodder as a major constraint. Landge *et al.* (2008) reported that 95 per cent of the respondents had the constraint of grazing land during summer and Gujar and Pathodiya (2008), stated that lack of grazing land, was a serious constraint for goat keepers. Further, it was also revealed that 45.71 per cent of the respondents had the problem of drinking water for their goats in summer season.

Healthcare / veterinary services:

Majority (89%) of the respondents said that they had constraint of disease problem in goats. This finding is in similar line with that of Verma *et al.* (2002) who stated that livestock infant mortality was high in the absence of proper management and healthcare facilities and

Ranganekar (2006) also stated that the constraints for farmers were low productivity in most of goats, health problem, high mortality in new borne, poor accessibility of health services, and that of Brajmohan *et al.* (2007), who observed that goats were affected with diseases like PPR, followed by diarrhoea, pneumonia, FMD. Further it was revealed that only 30 per cent of the respondents had the constraint in availing veterinary services and 37.14 per cent of the respondents had problem of kid mortality in their flock. This finding is in contrary to the observations of Kumar and Pant (2003), Ranganekar (2006) and Vries (2008), who have reported the poor availability / lack of veterinary services to the goat keepers. This particular finding may be because of the factor that the project beneficiaries were given veterinary services by the project team apart from the services rendered by the state veterinary services department.

Management practices:

Majority (81.42%) of the respondents had said that they had problem of wild animal's attacks on goats as the constraint. This may be due to the fact that the villages selected for the study are near by the forest area. It was also found that 77.14 per cent of the respondents had the problem of ticks in their flock, which may be due to poor hygienic and sanitary conditions in the dwellings of the respondents. This finding is in similar line with that of Brajmohan *et al.* (2007) who stated that ticks and lice were one of the major constraints in goat husbandry. Further, it was also revealed that 52.85 per cent of the respondents had the housing problem for their flock in winter and rainy seasons.

Conclusion:

It was noted from the present study that goat keepers in Bidar district of Karnataka state had constraints pertaining to availability of fodder during summer season, disease problems, wild animal's attacks on goats, problem of ticks, and housing problem in rainy and winter seasons. Based on the findings of the study it is concluded that there is a great necessity in conserving the common grazing lands in the rural areas and there is a need to educate the goat keepers with regard to improved scientific goat rearing practices. It is also concluded that there is need to develop some low cost housing techniques for housing of goats and some effective measures to control the wild animal's attacks.

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