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GENDER PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR CONSUMPTION TREND OF PROTEINEOUS DIET IN TEHSIL FATEH JUNG

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The aim of present study was to determine the role of rural women in livestock sector and their demographic status along with diet consumption trend. Two Union Councils (UCs) out of fourteen UCs of tehsil Fateh Jung were randomly selected. Then five villages from each UC were randomly selected and a sampling frame was constructed by enlisting the names of females. A sample of 120 respondents was selected by using Fitzggibbon, *et al.* (1987) table through simple random sampling technique. Then 12 women from each village were selected at random. They were interviewed through a reliable and validated interview schedule. The data collected, were processed through a computer software i.e. statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and a caloric counter was designed to find categories of nutritional status of rural women. Women played a major role as livestock care taker. They participate in various activities of livestock production and management like fodder cutting, watering and feeding of animals, animal shed cleaning, milking and dung cake making etc. However their own food intake is protein deficient. The results further show that the food intake of respondents in terms of proteineous diet was much less than the recommended dose. This research study highlighted the need reframe the diet pattern of rural women through training and non- formal education.
Key words: Gender, livestock production, proteineous diet

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture sector is the largest one in the economy of Pakistan. It contributes 23.3 % share in GDP the livestock sector accounts 49.1% share in agriculture and 11.4% in total GDP (Govt. of Pak., 2005). The sex-segregated data for Pakistan is insufficient while Pakistani women play a major role in agricultural production, livestock raising, and cottage industries (Rasheed, 2004). Women often devote more time from 16- 18 hours against 8-10 hours by men to these tasks (McCorckle, 1987). They participate in various activities of livestock management like fodder cutting, watering and feeding of animals, animal shed cleaning, milking and dung cake making etc. Among 90% families having livestock in Pakistan, primary medication, animal look after and marketing is exclusively done by rural women (Ishaq, 1998). The rural female participation rate in agriculture and livestock production is higher (79.4%) as compared to rural men (60.8%) (UNDP, 1997). It is astonishing to see that women work is not considered as paid work (FAO, 1998). Total women of the world own not even 2% of land, only 10% women have access to credit and loan facility. Two third of the one billion of illiterate persons in the world are women and girls, and only 5% extension services address to women. The imparted trainings are mainly on household tasks for women and not on professional livestock production technology (Maskhoor, 1995). The problems faced by women in livestock care are neither considered by men nor by the government. They have limited bank credit facility, both the bank staff and our society discourage them if some of them try, but the complicated banking process and high rate of interest are other constraints. Many loaning institutions require rural credit applicants including women to visit their branches head offices to sign documents and complete other formalities. All this create a troublesome situation for the women to get loan. Many women are unaware of most of the advanced livestock technologies due to lack of training facilities and lack of resources. If some trainings are organized by different agencies the rural women are not permitted to participate by the male members due to sex discriminatory society (World Bank, 1991). Their needs, interests and constraints are not reflected in policy-making. They have limited access to benefits of research and innovations (Common Wealth Secretariat, 2001). Despite food deficiency, nationally, females (mothers, daughters, wives, sisters) within a family have least access to recommended diet as compared to males (BLCC 2004). They are not considered the earning hands and due to invisible nature of work, women have less importance than men and eat food left over by male member of the family. They take their food at minimum protein level causing different diseases rather higher participation in labour work and in all other spheres of life (UNDP, 2004). There is very limited information available about the role of rural women regarding the participation in various livestock management activities. The present project was therefore planned to determine the demographic status of women, their participation in livestock activities and their diet obtained from animal

sources upon which they spend time (16-18 hrs per day) and energies (McCorckle, 1987).

METHODOLOGY

Fateh Jung Tehsil comprises 14 rural Union Councils (UCs). Two UCs–Jung and Kisana–were selected through simple random sampling technique. From each selected Union Council, 5 villages were selected randomly. A sampling frame was constructed by enlisting the name of females. A sample of 120 respondents was selected by using Fitzggibbon, *et al.* (1987) table through simple random sampling technique. The data were collected with the help of pre-tested and validated interview schedule. The data thus collected were analyzed with the help of a computed software i.e. Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Whereas the data regarding nutritional status were interpreted through establishing a caloric counter with the help of Food Composition Tables as generated by Hussain (1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data regarding demographic characteristics of the respondents such as age, education, occupation of the family head and land holding of the family head are presented in Table I.

Above data show that 55.0% of the respondents belonged to age group of 30-44 years, followed by 26.7% and 18.3% to age groups of 45-59 and 15-29 years respectively. The mean age of the respondents was 37.43 years with standard deviation 9.088. In case of education level, majority (77.5%) of the respondents was illiterate, followed by 19.2% and 2.5% of the respondents who were primary and matriculate. respectively. Only 0.8% were educated up to 8th grade (middle school).All of the respondents reported agriculture (crop and livestock sector) as their family heads' occupation. Whereas due to small land holdings they had some other livelihood strategies like laboure work, govt. and private service. In case of land holdings of the family it was depicted that an overwhelming majority (98.3 and 100.0%) of the respondents had owned and rented land holding up to 25 acres of land i.e. small landholders. Only 1.7% of the respondents reported that their families owned 25 or above acres of land i.e. large landholders. The present study indicates that the majority of the respondents were middle aged, illiterate and agriculture was family heads' occupation with had small land holdings. The above-mentioned demographic characters were for their investigation regarding their activities performed by rural women in livestock management and their diet intake. The responses of rural women regarding their participation in various livestock management related activities are presented in Table 2.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their demographic characteristics

Factor	Category	f	%
Age(years)	15-29	22	18.3
	30-44	66	55.0
	45-59	32	26.7
Total		120	100
Education	Illiterate	93	77.5
	Primary	23	19.2
	Middle	1	0.8
	Matric	3	2.5
Total		120	100
Occupation of the family head	Agriculture	120	100
	Private servant	6	5.0
	Labourer	39	32.5
	Govt. servant	11	9.2
Total		120	100
Land holding (Acres)	Small (up to 25)	118	98.3
	Large(above 25)	2	1.7
Total		120	100

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in livestock activities

Activity	Response					
	Always		Rarely		Never	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Fodder cutting	108	90.0	7	5.8	5	4.2
Serving of fodder	105	87.5	13	10.8	2	1.7
Poultry raising	108	90.0	7	5.8	5	4.2
Mixing of fodder	106	88.3	8	6.7	6	5.0
Watering of animals	99	82.5	17	14.2	4	3.3
Transportation of fodder	95	79.2	16	13.3	9	7.5
Raising of goats and sheep	95	79.2	16	13.3	9	7.5
Milking	76	63.3	33	27.5	11	9.2
Dung cleaning	68	56.7	34	28.3	18	15.0
Making of dung cake	35	29.2	27	22.5	58	48.5
Curd making	5	4.2	61	50.8	54	45.0
Lassi making	4	3.3	63	52.5	53	44.2
Milk processing	108	90	10	8.7	2	1.7

Table 2 reveals that livestock raising activity of fodder cutting, poultry raising, mixing of fodder and serving of fodder were performed by 90.5, 90.0, 88.3 and 87.5 percent of the respondents with the mean of 1.86 for each category on 0=Never, 1=Rarely, and 2=Always scale. While watering of animals, transportation of fodder, raising of goats and sheep, milking, dung removing and making of dung cake were performed by 82.5, 79.2, 79.2, 63.3, 56.7 and 29.2 percent with the mean of 1.79, 1.72, 1.72, 1.54, 1.42 and 0.81 respectively. Whereas curd making, lassi making and milk processing were performed by 4.2, 3.3 and 90 percent of the respondents with the mean of 0.59, 0.59 and 1.8 and standard deviation 0.558, 0.558 and 0.371 respectively. Regarding above data it is clearly indicated that women were playing crucial roles in livestock management activities more than the role of their counter part male members. Whereas the food intake of rural women obtained from livestock products was much less relative to the work performed by them in this sector. The data regarding the diet intake of animal products is presented in Table 3 given below.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to the daily consumption trend of animal products

Food item	f	%
Milk (one normal glass)	41	34.2
Yogurt/ lasi(one normal glass)	39	32.4
Desi ghee/Butter 1≥spoon	17	14.2
Tea(one normal cup)	119	99.2
Meat(100 gms beef)	24	20
Egg(one)	45	37.5

(Source: Hussain, T. 1980. Food composition tables)

Table 3 depicts that 99.2, 37.5, 34.2, 32.4, 20 and 14.2 percent of the respondent had taken tea, egg, milk, yogurt, meat and desi ghee/butter. It is clearly shown from above data that 90% women do fodder cutting, poultry raising and milk processing but less than 40% women had an access to animal protein sources which indicates that they were deficient of proteineous diet or diet obtained from animal sources inspite they spent much of their time for animal care and management (FAO, 2002). As depicted from above results the high caloric diets like meat, egg, milk, and yogurt were least added in their diet whereas they were used to take tea in large amount which is low in caloric value, which shows that the respondents were malnourished. Ben Oke (2004) had found the same result in this regard and clearly indicated that women are malnourished which affect quality of their life, that of their newborn infant ,well beyond delivery. For example, in many parts of the world, poor nutrition in early childhood not only increases the risk of prenatal, infant and child mortality but also affects long-term physical growth, cognitive development, future learning capacity, school performance, educational outcomes, and work performance. The above study results are also in line with the findings of Social Watch (2004). The organization declared that every day 840 million people go hungry, more than 1.3 billion people were half fed and more than 2 billion people suffer from dietary deficiency. Nutritional deficiency was thought to affect 40% or more of the population of the world and they were more vulnerable than men. They had a share of only 33% in total earned income in the country (UNDP, 1997).

CONCLUSIONS

Pakistani women are playing a leading role in livestock sector. They spend plenty of time in different activities of livestock management like fodder cutting and offering, milking, animal shed cleaning etc but they obtained least protein from animal sources. So they remain malnourished. Role of rural women in livestock management may be further enhanced by creating awareness among them about their health issues, and training them on scientific lines about various livestock production activities.

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