I. EXTENT OF AND PREFERENCE FOR ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED ON *EID-UL-AZHA*

Bakht B. Khan, M. Qamar Bilal, S.H. Hanjra, A.R. Barque, Arshad Iqbal & M. Yaqoob

Faculty of Animal Husbandry,
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

A survey was carried out to determine the extent of and preference for animals slaughtered on *Eid-ul-Azha* involving 630 respondents from three districts of Punjab (Sargodha, Faisalabad and Jhang). Of these, 33.33% were from villages, 39.36% from towns and the rest belonged to cities. Among these, the percentage of sacrifying respondents was found to be 81.27. Specieswise distribution of slaughtered animals was found in the order of 53.80, 32.24 and 13.96% goats, sheep and cattle respectively. Nearly 51% of the total respondents purchased sacrificial animals from city market and 16.60% raised their own animals. Moreover, 50% respondents purchased animals just within one week prior to the commencing of *Eid-ul-Azha*. The percentage of animals that suffered from different diseases in villages, towns and cities was 7.93, 7.21 and 2.06, respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Being an ideal source of animal protein, meat is considered as one of the most important livestock products. However, its soaring price has made it a prohibited product for a common man especially in the developing countries like Pakistan. Several people may get meat only on special occasions like *Eid-ul-Azha* when number of animals of various species are slaughtered to fulfil a religious obligation. However, the information about various species of animals slaughtered, slaughtering age, purchasing time, feeding pattern, etc. is very scanty. The present study was planned to determine the extent of and preference for animals slaughtered on the occasion of *Eid-ul-Azha*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A survey was conducted in certain urban and rural areas of the districts of Sargodha, Faisalabad and Jhang on the occasion of *Eid-ul-Azha* with the help of a well designed and pretested questionnaire. From each of these districts, the area around district headquarter, two towns (25-40 km from headquarter) and four villages (10-15 km from the respective towns), selected at random constituted the universe of this study. The respondents in this study were stratified as belonging to villages, towns and cities respectively.

In all 630 respondents were interviewed from 12 villages, 6 towns and 3 cities in such a way that 4 villages, 2 towns and 1 city were included from each of the three districts. From each village, town and city, 15-20, 40-42 and 57-60 respondents from five different places were randomly interviewed. The data for this study were collected in two phases - one eight days before *Eid* and then three days before the occasion.

The data regarding the following aspects were collected, analysed and expressed in percentages:

1. Number of animals slaughtered by an

individual or family slaughtered
2. Species, sex, age and breed of animals
3. Source of purchasing sacrificial animals
4. Feeding pattern adopted by the respondents
5. Body condition of the animals
6. Animals slaughtered last year
7. Incidence of various diseases/mortality

To find out the possible relationship between localities (villages, towns, cities) and different parameters under study, the data were statistically tested by chi-square test and Microstat computer programme (M STAT, 1987).

dents were found to sacrifice only one animal, while 15.23 and 2.54% were found to sacrifice two and more than two animals, respectively.

The statistical analysis of data indicated a significant relationship between localities and number of animals sacrificed. The trend of sacrifying more than one animal was the highest in cities and lowest in villages. This may be due to variation in socioeconomic and educational status of the people residing in different types of localities.

2 a. Species of animals: Animals of various species are slaughtered on this occasion by believers. However, only goat, sheep and

Table 1.   Number of animals sacrificed by respondents

Areas	One animal	Two animals	More than two animals	Total respondents
Villages	146 (88.48)	19 (11.52)		165
Towns	167 (81.86)	31 (15.20)	6 (2.94)	204
Cities	108 (75.52)	28 (19.58)	7 (4.90)	143
Total	421 (82.23)	78 (15.23)	13 (2.54)	512

Values given in parentheses indicate percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Number of animals slaughtered: The data indicated that on overall basis, out of the total 630 respondents, 81.27% sacrificed the animals. This might be due to great awareness of masses to the religious obligation and sound financial position of the people. The number of animals slaughtered is given in Table 1. On overall basis, 82.33% respon-

cattle were observed being used as subjects of slaughter in this study. Specieswise trend of animals slaughtered in case of villages, towns and cities is shown in Table 2.

These data indicated non-significant difference between the respondents of different localities for their preference for a particular species, while a significant difference in preference for species was found among the respondents of the same

type of area. The goat was found as the highly preferable species for slaughter which could be due to social trend, taste, flavour and juiciness of goat meat. The results of the present study are in agreement with those of earlier workers (Wahid, 1965; Morand-Fehr *et al.*, 1977 and Khan *et al.*, 1982).

Table 2. Number of animals of various species sacrificed in different types of areas

Areas	Goat	Sheep	Cattle
Village	84 (51.22)	48 (29.27)	32 (19.51)
Towns	122 (54.96)	75 (33.78)	25 (11.26)
Cities	106 (54.64)	64 (33.00)	24 (12.36)
Total	312 (53.80)	187 (32.24)	81 (13.96)

Values given in parentheses indicate percentages.

b. Sex: The summary of data concerning sex of different species preferred by the respondents for sacrifice is given in Table 3.

Localitywise comparison indicated that male goats were highly preferred over the females. The relationship between categories and sex preference as calculated by chi-square test was found to be significant. In category A (villages) and B (towns), the percentage of the female animals slaughtered was higher than that of category C (cities) which might be due to the availability of animals, personal preference, marketing value and economic status of the respondents. In cattle, heifers were found to be the choice of the people. The relationship

between localities and the sex of cattle was found to be significant. These results indicated that in all the three localities, males and females were not equally preferred. Majority of the respondents preferred sheep/goats for *Eid*-slaughter while in case of cattle, heifers were offered for sacrifice in majority.

c. Age: With respect to age, sheep/goats were classified into three age groups i.e. 1-1.5 years, 1.5-2 years and above 2 years. On overall basis the percentage of sheep slaughtered in these three age groups was 75.94, 17.65 and 6.41 while in case of goats it was in the order of 84.30, 12.82 and 2.88, respectively. In villages, the percentage of sheep slaughtered in above age groups was 68.75, 27.08 and 4.17. The corresponding percentages in towns were 73.33, 17.33 and 9.34 while in cities a higher percentage of sheep sacrificed on *Eid* fell in the youngest age group (84.37%). On the other hand, cattle were classified into three age groups i.e. 2-2.5 years, 2.5-3.0 years and above 3 years. The middle age group (2.5-3.0 years) was found to be the best choice of more than 50% respondents in all the localities. The results of the present study showed that with respect to preference for age, with minor exception, the trend exhibited by the respondents was almost the same in various localities. Similar findings were reported by Smith *et al.* (1978) and Gall (1981).

d. Breed: Among the goats of various breeds slaughtered on this occasion, Beetal was found to be the most preferred (52.56%) whereas Teddy and non-descript goats were in the order of 29.48 and 17.95%, respectively. However, preference trend in different localities was almost the same. The maximum preference for Beetal goat may be due to its common availability and large size. In case of sheep, Kajli and Lohi breeds received the maximum attention (67.53%) followed by Sipli and Thalli. Among the fat

tail sheep breeds, Balkhi was the most preferred followed by Salt Range. However, in villages, Salt Range was preferred while in towns and cities Balkhi was preferred for sacrifice. This might be due to lower price of Salt Range as compared to Balkhi due to its smaller size. Statistical analysis indicated significant association between localities and breeds of sheep. These results partially conform to the results reported by Khan *et al.* (1982). Of the total cattle scarificed, percentage of non-descript animals was 91.36 which could be due to random crossbred ing taking place in villages. The preference of the respondents in this regard remained the same in villages, towns and cities i.e. they mostly preferred non-descript cattle.

raised animals. On comparing different localities, it was also found that in villages 50.30% respondents purchased animals from rural areas while 29.09% had self-raised. In towns and cities, 51.47 and 75.52% respondents purchased their animals from city areas respectively, while those who purchased their animals from villages constituted 29.96%. The respondents having self-raised animals in cities were 4.90%. The statistical analysis revealed highly significant relationship between localities and source of purchase of animals. This variation might be due to their financial position, nearness of the market and personal preference of the owner. It was also showed by the data that on overall basis, about 50% respondents purchased sacrificial animals just within one

Table 3.   Preference of respondents for male or female animals for slaughter on *Eid-ul-Azha*

Areas	Goat		Sheep		Cattle	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Village	68 (80.95)	16 (19.05)	41 (85.41)	7 (14.59)	3 (9.37)	29 (90.62)
Towns	91 (74.59)	31 (25.41)	61 (81.33)	14 (18.67)	6 (24.00)	19 (76.00)
Cities	96 (90.56)	10 (9.44)	58 (90.62)	6 (9.38)	9 (37.50)	15 (62.50)
Total	255 (81.73)	57 (18.27)	160 (85.56)	27 (14.44)	18 (22.22)	63 (77.78)

Values given in parentheses indicate percentages.

3. Source of purchasing sacrificial animals:
The data revealed that 50.98% respondents preferred to purchase their animals from city market. On the other hand, 34.43% purchased from villages and 16.60% had self-

week of *Eid-ul-Azha* and 15.46, 15.46 and 19.67% respondents purchased 1-2 weeks, 2-4 weeks and more than 4 weeks before *Eid*. The comparison of respondents from villages, towns and cities showed that most of

the respondents purchased sacrificial animals just within one week before *Eid* occasion. Highly significant relationship was found between localities and pre-*Eid* purchase of these animals. Similar views were also expressed by Khan *et al.* (1982).

4. Feeding pattern: The major categories of feed used were green fodder and concentrates. On overall basis, 121, 206 and 69 respondents fed *jantar, lucern* and maize to their animals while 65 offered combination of these fodders and 51 grazed their animals. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents in villages, towns and cities who fed concentrates to their animals was 48.48, 57.35 and 88.81%, respectively. The data also showed that higher quantity of concentrate was offered to animals in cities as compared to those in villages and towns. Regarding feed cost, Rs. 1-5, 5-10, 10-15 and above 15 were spent daily by 29.16, 41.45, 17.29 and 12.08% respondents, respectively. A small percentage of the respondents also fondly fed animals luxurious items such as almonds, apples, etc.

5. Body condition of sacrificial animals: Body condition of the animals was categorised as very healthy, normal and emaciated. Of the total animals observed, 134, 395 and 53 were very healthy, normal and emaciated respectively. Statistically, the relationship regarding health status among various categories was found to be non-significant. These results are in partial agreement with those reported by Hasnain (1985).

6. Animals slaughtered last year on the occasion of *Eid-ul-Azha:* It was found that the percentage of village respondents who slaughtered none, one, two and more than two animals was 24.00, 69.33, 6.67 and 0.00% respectively. In towns, the corresponding percentages were 9.82, 70.54, 15.18 and 4.46, respectively. Significant association of data was observed between localities and the number of animals slaughtered. Moreover, preference for sacrificial animals during 1989 showed first place for goat, second for sheep and third for cattle. Among these species, the number of goats slaughtered on the occasion of *Eid* was found to be the highest (65.74%) in cities, while in villages and towns this percentage was 54.70 and 51.20, respectively.

7. Incidence of various diseases/mortality: Of all sacrificial animals observed, only 33 (5.69%) showed signs of different diseases and only 1 (0.17%) died. Among these animals, 9 (27.27%), 3 (9.09%), 15 (45.45%) and 6 (18.18%) showed signs of tympany, indigestion, diarrhoea and fever, respectively. The percentage of the animals that suffered from different diseases in villages, towns and cities was 7.93, 7.21 and 2.06, respectively.

REFERENCES

Gall, C. 1981. Goat Production. Vet. School, Hannover, Federal Republic of Germany. Academic Press, New York, USA.

Hasnain, H.U. 1985. Sheep and Goats in Pakistan. FAO Anim. Prod. Hlth. Paper 56, Rome, Italy.

Khan, Bakht B., M. Tufail, M. Younas, M. Arif and A. Shakoor. 1982. Preference for sheep or goat for sacrifice on *Eid-ul-Azha*. Pak. Vet. J. 2 (1): 49 (Abst.).

Morand-Fehr, P., D. Sauvant and B.L. Dumont. 1977. Symp. Goat Breeding in Mediterranean Countries. Maloga Grenade Murica, Spain.

Wahid, A. 1965. Goat raising in Pakistan. Agri. Pakistan, 16: 509-534.

Smith, G.C., Z.L. Carpenter and M. Shelton. 1978. J. Anim. Sci. 46: 1229-1235.