

LIVESTOCK AND RURAL LIVELIHOOD IN PINDSULTANI, ATTOCK

Pir Wahab

Anthropologist, Department of Anthropology, PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

Corresponding Author:

Pir Wahab

PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

wahabanthro@gmail.com

Abstract: The current study is a qualitative analysis of the role of livestock in rural livelihood and its contribution to the local economy. The study was conducted in village Pindsultani in district Attock. The data was collected from one hundred thirty seven households (137) whose livelihood depends on livestock. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw the required sample. Different data collection methods included interviews, case study method, participant observation, key informant method and socio-economic census. This study helped to know how livestock contributes to the local economy in the form of financial as well as social capital.

Key Words: Livestock, Rural Livelihood, Rural Development, Agriculture, Local Economy

INTRODUCTION

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets, (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living (ILO 2006). According to Wenger (2007) most of the population in the world had their fundamental and vital source of income from their livestock. Animals have many different functions: they produce food products and fertilizers; they are a source of income; they provide draught power; and they also fulfill banking and insurance functions. A report by Schlatzer (2010), gave an estimate that 27 billion animals were being kept as livestock globally, with 66 billion slaughtered each year around the globe. Global meat production has doubled between 1980 and 2007 from 136.7 to 285.7 million tons, egg production rose by 150 percent from 27.4 to 67.8 million tons, and milk production has risen from 465 to 671.3 million tons (FAO 2009).

Recently, it is observed that livestock has become a micro business particularly in the rural areas. Poor farmers domesticated livestock like goats, sheep, cow, buffaloes, and also donkeys and horses for carriage and transportation purpose. Livestock is also a major contributor of fertilizers in the rural areas (Usmani 2006).

Livestock is a financial, as well as social capital. It is financial capital in the shape of insurance, cash, saving, credit, and gifts. It is social capital as it symbolize wealth and prestige, and also linked to tradition, identity, friendship, respect, and festivity. Livestock provide a high quality of proteins to the poor households, particularly for the pregnant females and for improving the cognitive skills and mental growth of the children (Sidahmed 2010).

Livestock sector contributes about 12 percent to the gross domestic product of Pakistan. There are 7

million poor families having different species of animals like 67 million buffaloes and cattle in Pakistan, out of about 4 million poor families live in the Punjab province (USAID-DRDF 2014). However, animal species play a significant role in social, economic and cultural roles or functions for poor families and livestock contribute to improve income of the agricultural families. Livestock contribute to the income, food supply, family income, saving asset, family nutrition, transport, soil productivity, agricultural traction, agricultural variation and sustainable farming production, community and family employment, ritual purposes and social stratification (Bettencourt, et al. 2013).

Livestock play a critical role in the farming system increasing process through facility of draught animal power, waste material for fertilizer, fuel and livestock are the living bank of several poor household in rural areas (Sansoucy 1995). In the rural areas of Pakistan, approximately 70% of small land holding or land less rural families own livestock and their economy depends on it (Younas 1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The current study was conducted in village *Pindsultani* in district Attock. The total population of Pindsultani is approximately 12000 that comprise 1232 households units (Khunjar 1998). They had livestock as their primary source of income. Purposive sampling technique was used to draw a sample of 137 households. The data was collected through using quantitative and qualitative methods. Interview guide, participant observation, FGDs, and case study method was used to gather data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to get an insight of the phenomena interviews were held with the male participants of

the village. Women were also engaged with livestock keeping and their management but could not be interviewed directly owing to the local traditional norms. Generally, women participate inside the house and contribute to management of animals in different capacities like caring of animals, milking, medication of animals and cleaning of animals sheds etc.

Table. 1: Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farming and livestock	123	90%
Govt. Servant	11	8%
Businessman	3	2%
Total	137	100%

Table 1 stated the occupation of the respondents. Majority of the respondents i.e. 90% do farming or and also keep livestock, 8% of the respondents work in public sector, and 2% do business.

Contribution of Livestock to the Income

Livestock is one of the key sources of income in the rural areas. Livestock contribute to the income through different ways. However, livestock sector contributes 55.9% to agricultural and 11.8% to national gross domestic product of Pakistan (Jawad 2014).

Livestock as a Source of Income

Livestock plays a fundamental role in the domestic economy of rural areas. The majority of rural inhabitants have livestock as their primary or secondary source of income. The rural area population domesticate animals that help them to fulfill their fundamental needs of milk, butter, yogurt, oil, eggs, meat, hair, skin and hides. The current research showed that 83% respondents earn through the sale of animals and their products. Animals are also being used as draught power in cultivation and harvesting. Waste material of animals is used as a natural fertilizer in agricultural land.

Table. 2: Livestock contribute to the income

Products	Frequency	Percentage
Animal sales	21	15%
Dairy product	27	20%
Draught animals	7	5%
Waste material	14	10%
Hides, Skin, wool	62	45%
Fats of animal	5	4%
Blood, bone, intestine	1	1%
Total	137	100%

Table 2 shows different sources of income from livestock. A major segment of income comes from selling animals i.e. 15%, dairy products yield 20% of the income, and another main source of income is by selling hides, skin and wool of the animal that

makes 45% share of income. While, 4% households replied that the fats of animal are used in the different type of medicine, cosmetics and also used in oil industry. The results show that livestock play an essential role to the rural economy in rural areas.

CONCLUSION

Livestock has been the main source of income in rural areas for the human survival since the evolution of human history. In prehistoric era livestock were used only for food purposes although in modern time it has become a most important source of earnings in rural areas as well as at national level. The present study explored that the animal husbandry and livestock is a key part of income in rural areas. The rural inhabitants sell animals and the animal product like dairy products, waste materials, meat, skin and also utilized as draught animal power for agricultural. The results showed that animal husbandry play an important role in the rural economy of Pakistan and is a major source of livelihood for many farmers.

REFERENCES

Bettencourt, Elisa Maria Varela., Tilman, Mario., Henriques, Pedro Damiao DeSousa., Narciso, Vanda., and Carvalho, and Maria Leonor Da Silva.

2013 The economic and sociocultural role of livestock in the wellbeing of rural communities of timor-leste. Center for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics, P. 1.

Food Agency Organization.

2009 The state of food and agriculture - livestock in the balance. Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization Pp. 23-24.

International Labour Organization

2006 The Reader: Implementing sustainable private sector development: Striving for tangible results for the poor. Int. Training Centre of ILO.

Jawad, Ahmad.

2014 Economic survey of Pakistan, Livestock and agriculture sector Pp. 1-2.

Khunjar, Zulfiqar Ali.

1998 The History of Pindsultani: This report is confirmed by the famous poet of Attock .Zulfiqar Ali Khunjar in his famous book 3 Darwish Pp. 47-53.

Sansoucy, Rene.

1995 Keynote paper: The contribution of livestock to food security and sustainable development. Food and Agri. Organization Pp. 2-3.

Schlatzer, Martin.

2010 Tierproduktion und Klimawandel: ein wissenschaftlicher Diskurs zum Einfluss der Ernährung auf Umwelt und Klima LIT Verlag Münster 1:Pp. 5-6.

Sid-Ahmed.

2010 Livestock planning challenges and strategies for livestock development International Fund for Agri. Development Pp.1-2.

Usmani, Hasnain.

2006 Livestock of Pakistan: Livestock is considered as a more secure source of income for the small poor people Population 15(16):Pp. 17-18.

USAID-DRDF.

2014 Dairy Project Training and Support for Dairy Farmers. Dairy and Rural Development Foundation.

Wenger, Rosmarie and Ruth Sommer.

2007 Livestock- A source of livelihood and a consumer good. InfoResources Focus 1(7):Pp. 2-3.

Younas, Bakht Biland khan and Mohammad.

1999 Breeds and types of livestock in Pakistan, University of Agri. Faisalabad: Pp. 26-27.

Zubair, Muhammad.

2014 USAID-DRDF, Dairy Project Training and Support for Dairy Farmers. Dairy and Rural Development Foundation:Pp. 24-25.