



Full Length Research Article

BACKYARD POULTRY FARMING SYSTEM: WOMEN AND ITS ROLE

¹Abdul Motin Gazi, ²Goswami, A., ³Mazumder, D. and ^{1*}Biswajit Pal

¹Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata-700126

²Department of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences 68, K.B. Sarani, Kolkata-37

³Department of Agricultural Statistics, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 07th February, 2014
Received in revised form
13th March, 2014
Accepted 11th April, 2014
Published online 31st May, 2014

Key words:

Women,
Backyard,
Poultry farming.

ABSTRACT

Randomly selected 70 rural women engaged in backyard poultry farming from randomly selected one block of one purposively selected district of West Bengal were interviewed with the help of pre tested structured interview schedule during Jan-March, 2011. The collected data were analysed statistically after proper compilation. The study revealed that most of rural women engaged in backyard poultry farming were middle aged, landless, middle class educated, married and were from nuclear family. They had no improved poultry birds. They were having very few sources for communication of information. Further, it was found that women used to do all sorts of poultry farming activities significantly.

Copyright © 2014 Abdul Motin Gazi et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

Poultry farming is possible in widely different agro-climatic environment (National Commission on Agriculture 1976), as the fowl possesses marked physiological adaptability. Requirement of small space, low capital investment, quick return from outlay and well distributed turn over throughout the year make poultry farming remunerative in both rural and urban areas. The rearing of poultry provides an excellent opportunity for gainful employment to idle or unemployed members of rural communities. Additionally, chicken meat consumption is a significant protein source which helps to cover the nutritional needs of the rural population. rural poultry farmers in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Poultry production is highly adaptable in mixed farming system and provides continuous source of income to rural farmers during lean period (Saha et. al., 1995). Backyard poultry production is traditional in most rural and peri-urban areas of India, particularly in some communities. Until about 15 years ago, it contributed the major share of the total poultry production in India, but is now reduced to 25%. Studies were carried out in a number of clusters of villages in under-

developed pockets of western India, involving a variety of communities. The women empowerment can be enriched by this effort. 60.49 percent activities related to poultry production were carried out by females and 36.51 percent by male. Women were found to be actively engaged in production related activities (Ghosh and Mukhopadhyay, 1986). There is a need for marketing linkage, extension and training for women which would be useful in controlling losses and improving productivity and profits. In view of above, an attempt was made to study the women and its role in backyard poultry farming system in West Bengal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in purposively selected North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal considering the higher concentration of backyard poultry farming in the district. Basirhat-I block was randomly selected in the district. In that Block seven gram panchayats have been selected randomly and from each gram panchayat ten backyard poultry women farmers were selected randomly which formed the ample (N=70) of the study. The data was collected during the period of January, 2011 to March, 2011 with the help of pretested structured interview schedule. After computation of data, it has been analysed statistically to observe the objectives laid down in the study.

***Corresponding author: Biswajit Pal**

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata-700126

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Demographic and Socio-personal characteristics of women backyard poultry owners

Variables	Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Category	Landless	37	52.9
	Marginal	30	42.9
	Small	3	4.2
	Medium-Large	0	0
Age	20-30 Years	14	20.0
	31-40 Years	28	40.0
	41-50 Years	17	24.3
	51-60 Years	7	10.0
	Above 60	4	5.7
Religion	Hinduism	42	60.0
	Muslim	28	40.0
	Christian	0	0
	Others	0	0
Marital Status	Married	66	94.3
	Widow	4	5.7
	Unmarried	0	0
	Divorced	0	0
Poultry Holding i) Deshi	1-5	46	65.7
	6-10	24	34.3
	11-15	0	0
	16-20	0	0
Poultry Holding ii) Improved	Nil (Have No Improved)	64	91.4
	0-5	6	8.6
	6-10	0	0
	11-15	0	0
	16-20	0	0
Source of Income	Agriculture	14	20.0
	Service	13	18.6
	Business	24	34.3
	Others	19	27.1
	Animal Husbandry	0	0
Family Income (monthly)	Rs.2000-5000/-	33	47.1
	Rs.5001/- & Above	37	52.9
	Below Rs. 2000/-	0	0
	Labour	17	24.3
Occupation	Business	26	37.1
	Cultivation	14	20.0
	Service	13	18.6
	Caste Occupation	0	0
	Independent	0	0
Caste	General	58	82.9
	OBC	1	1.4
	SC	11	15.7
	ST	0	0
Education	Illiterate	3	4.3
	Can read & write only	7	10.0
	Primary	18	25.7
	Middle	40	57.1
	High School	2	2.9
Family Type	Graduate	0	0
	Nuclear	58	82.9
	Joint	12	17.1
Land	No Land	38	54.3
	Upto one Hectare	29	41.4
	Upto Two Hectare	3	4.3
	Above Two Hectare	0	0
House Type	Kutchra	3	4.3
	Pucca	51	72.9
	Mixed	16	22.9
	No House	0	0
	Hut	0	0
	Mansion	0	0
Material Possession	1 Mat. Pos.	31	44.3
	2 Mat. Pos.	30	42.9
	3 Mat. Pos.	9	12.9
	4 Mat. Pos.	0	0
	5 Mat. Pos.	0	0
Urban Contact	Rarely	6	8.6
	Sometimes	49	70.0
	Often	15	21.4
	never	0	0
	Most Often	0	0

Table 2. Frequency of Main activities

Active	Self involvement (%)	Whole family involvements (%)	Hired Labour involvement (%)	Significant
Egg Collection	95.71	4.28	0	P<0.05
Cleaning	95.71	1.42	2.85	P<0.05
Feeding	80	20	0	P<0.05
Treatment	95.71	4.28	0	P<0.05
Marketing	78.57	21.42	0	P<0.05
Others	81.42	13	0	P<0.05

From the table 1 it was observed that majority of the respondents (40%) were from the middle age group (< 31-40 yrs), whereas, 24.3% belonged to age group of (41-50 yrs), 10% hailed from the age group (51-60 yrs) and only a mere 5.7% had an old age of over sixty years. The (52.9%) of the poultry owners had no land. 42.9 percent possessed less than 1 hectare of land and belonged to marginal farmers category while 4.2% of the families had (1-2) hectare of land and fell in the small farmers category and medium-large category was not at all found among the respondents. Majority of the poultry owners (60%) were Hindu by religion, followed by (40%) Muslim. 94.3% of the respondents were married and 5.2% were widow. Majority (91.4%) of respondents used deshi poultry holding and only (8.6%) were having improved poultry holding.

65.7% of respondents had (0-5) deshi poultry, (34.3%) owners had (6-10) poultry and 8.6% respondents had (0-5) improved poultry. A cursory look at Table 1 indicated that majority of the poultry owners (34.3%) were having Business. 27.1 % poultry owners have been provided occupational livelihood by others, whereas, (20%) respondents earned through Agriculture. Service occupation was for (18.6%) families. Majority of the respondents (52.9%) fell in the category of high income group earning Rs. 5001/- & above/month followed by (47.1%) backyard poultry farmers belonging to low income group earning Rs. 2000-5000/-month. The study revealed that business was the main occupation of (37.1%) of the family and (24.3%) labour, (20%) cultivation and (18.6%) had service as occupation. Majority of the respondents (82.9%) belonged to general caste, followed by (15.7%) from schedule caste, (1.4%) from OBC caste. Majority of the respondents (57.1%) were at middle level, followed by (25.7%) primary level, (10%) can read and write only, (4.3%) illiterate and (2.9%) high school level. 82.9 % of the respondent belong to the nuclear family.

Majority of the respondents (54.3%) had no land, (41.4%) had upto one hectare land, (4.3%) had upto two hectares land and above two hectare land was not at all found among the respondents. 72.9% of respondents had Pucca house, (22.9%) had Mixed house, (4.3%) had Kutcha house and no house. Majority of the respondents (44.3%) had 1 material possession, (42.9%) had 2 material possessions, (12.9%) had 3 material possessions and nobody was having 4 and 5 material

possession. Majority of the respondents replied that (70%) their urban contact is some time followed by (21.4%) often, (8.6%) rarely. Table 2 depicted that most of the important activities were carried out by the women, only few family members were involved in this activities. It was found that in all in all cases women alone did all activities which is significantly higher than whole family or hired labour. Narmatha (1994) reported that women took active part in farm oriented activities in poultry production and Veeranna et. al. (1998) found in their report the similar finding that rural women's role in backyard poultry production has significant importance. They are performing most of task such as feeding, watering, housing and management with utmost care and interest.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study we may opine that most of the middle aged, landless, middle level literate and married women were involved in backyard poultry farming system. Mostly they used to rear deshi bird instead of improved variety. Their sources of information regarding backyard poultry farming system was very few through mass media, personnel cosmopolite and personnel localite sources. Women used to do all sorts of poultry farming activities significantly.

REFERENCES

- Ghosh B. and Mukhopadhyay, S.K. 1986. Gender differentials in the impact of technological changes in rice based farming system in India cit, In gender and poverty in India. A World Bank Country Study, New Delhi, India.
- Narmatha, N. 1994. A study on the role of women in poultry farming, M.V.Sc. Thesis, Submitted to Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Madras, India.
- National Commission on Agriculture 1976 Report Government of India. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, New Delhi, Part VII (Animal Husbandry).
- Saha, D. and N. Khandekar, P. khandekar and M.K. Mandal. 1995. Profile of rural poultry farmers in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.
- Veeranna, K.C., Tripathi, H. and Mandape, M.K. 1998. Extension approach for mobilizing rural women in backyard poultry production. Indian Farming, 48(3): PP. 13-15.
