

SHEEP REARING IN CHIKKAMGALUR

DISTRICT: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The rural economy of most of the developing countries of the world is agro- based. Agriculture and livestock are interdependent in our economy and livestock has been recognized as an important approach for sustained livelihood. Livestock contributes manure and draught power to agriculture while crop residues from the major source of feed to the livestock and this system of interdependence has sustained for centuries. Livestock are important source of income and employment in rural sector. They help to meet the equity objective in rural development through their contribution to the cash income of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. There is ample scope for economic improvement of the sheep as well as the poor shepherds in Indian. India is the sixth largest country in sheep population of the world having more than 48 millions of them.

Economy in sheep rearing like other livestock farming is subservient to genetic cum production potential and judicious management so as to reduce feeding cost without lowering nutritional level, sheep meat or mutton is the main revenue earning source for the shepherd. This paper focussed on Origin of Sheep Rearing, Sheep Rearing And Economic Development, Advantages of sheep rearing, Problems in Sheep Rearing, etc.

Keywords: Sheep Rearing, Animal husbandry, Agricultural Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

India has made remarkable stride in the area of livestock population in the world. Livestock are important sources of income and employment in rural sector. Livestock contributes manure and draught power to the agriculture while crop residues form the major source of feed to the livestock and this system of interdependence has sustained for centuries.

Livestock are important sources of income and employment in rural sector. They help to meet the equity objective in rural development through their contribution to the cash income of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. India has made remarkable stride in the area of livestock population in the world. Animal husbandry has been an inseparable part of human civilization and culture from the very ancient period. It is also emphasized in Vedas and Puranas that possessing livestock is a symbol of prosperity. Agriculture and livestock are inter-dependent in our economy and livestock has been recognized as an important approach for sustained livelihood.

The population of sheep and animal husbandry has increased because they are drought resistant animals and service even on the dried blades of grass and leaves. This is the reason that farmers depending on animal husbandry have survived and not went to the extreme step of committing suicide unlike farmers who depended exclusively on agriculture in case of drought vagaries of monsoon and failure of agricultural crops and low prices of agriculture produce.

India being one of the livestock loving countries, there is ample scope for economic improvement of the sheep as well as the poor shepherds. India is the sixth largest country in sheep population of the world having more than 48 millions of them. The annual contribution of livestock to national economy is about 45,000 crore rupees which is 10 percent of the N.G.P. Sheep with its multi-fact utility for wool, meat, skins and manure form an important component of rural economy particularly in the arid, semi-arid area of the country. It provides a dependable source of income to the shepherds through sale of wool and animals.

Sheep and goat have an inseparable identity with the farmers in India from time immemorial. They constitute an important component of agriculture and economy of the farming community in India especially those of the weaker sections among agriculturists. In addition they form substantially useful fraction if their total farm income particularly, when crops fail due to drought and other adverse conditions.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the socio-economic conditions of farmers engaged in rearing sheep & goat.
2. To study the financial feasibility in sheep rearing business.
3. To study the status of sheep rearing business in Chikkamagalur District.
4. To explore the possibilities of improving the sheep rearing and their utilization in the rural economy.

III. METHODOLOGY

Secondary data is used for the preparation of the paper.

3.1 Sources of Data

Secondary data has been gathered from published sources such as various journals, periodicals, articles, books, literatures, censuses report, statistical office in Chikkamagalur, Animal husbandry Department, News Paper, and reports on the subject. For the purpose of collecting the latest information on the topic E- sources also consulted.

IV. PROFILE OF THE CHIKKAMAGALUR

Chikkamagalur district has 07 taluks viz., Kadur, Tarikere, Chikkamagalur, Koppa, Shringeri, N.R. Pura, Mudigere, Totally 15 veterinary hospitals, 55 dispensaries, 55 primary veterinary centers, 2 artificial insemination centers and 3 polyclinics are situated in the district.

V. ORIGIN OF SHEEP REARING

In India though the sheep have been in close association since almost pre historic times, the development and management of sheep even up to the recent past has almost remained primitive. The domestic sheep is said

to have originated from two wild ancestors (Mifflin and Urial) the hundreds of completely dissimilar breeds with diverse production potentiality under different bioclimatic condition provide us an enormous store of genetic variability.

VI. SHEEP –FRIEND TO FARMER

Sheep are perhaps one of the first ruminants domesticated by man. They may be considered as man's first helpmates providing him with wool, meat, milk and pelt. The sheep also find a place in mythology emphasized in Vedas and Purnas that possessing livestock is symbol of prosperity.

VII. SHEEP REARING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sheep rearing became subsidiary to cultivation and is comparatively the oldest occupation of mankind. In an agrarian society, land being the principal means of production was concentrated in the fields of rich; the poor worked in the fields of rich as agricultural labour and supplemented their income by keeping a livestock. Thus, sheep rearing has been the saviour of weaker sections.

More than 70 per cent of India's population lives in rural areas. Consequently there is likely to be more pressure on land as almost all the village population depends on agriculture, resulting in an unfavourable land man ratio. Owing to the population explosion with the increasing pressure on land, agriculture alone cannot provide gainful employment to all the rural areas. Therefore, allied activities like animal husbandry will have to be viewed as effective instrument for supplementing the income and providing employment to the weaker sections in rural areas. Livestock are popularly known as "live banks", are the major contributors to our national wealth and thus help in improving the living standards of rural people.

VIII. ADVANTAGES OF SHEEP REARING

- Sheep do not need expensive buildings to house them and on the other hand require less labour than other kinds of livestock.
- The foundation stock is relatively cheap and the flock can be multiplied rapidly.
- Sheep are economical converter of grass into meat and wool.
- Sheep will eat varied kinds of plants compared to other kind of livestock. This makes them excellent weed destroyer.
- Unlike goats, sheep hardly damage any tree.
- The production of wool, meat and manure provides three different sources of income to the shepherd.
- The structure of their lips helps them to clean grains fallen or lost at harvest time and thus convert waste feed into profitable products.
- Mutton is one kind of meat towards which there is no prejudice by any community in India and further development of superior breeds for mutton production will have a great scope in the developing economy of India.

Economy in sheep rearing like other livestock farming is subservient to genetic cum production potential and judicious management so as to reduce feeding cost without lowering nutritional level, sheep meat or mutton is

the main revenue earning source for the shepherd. Sheep milk contribution to the sheep production ranks after meat, wool, manure, making of dairy sheep rearing an economically viable entity. In sheep farming 20 to 40 % of the income is from the wool to national income. Indian carpet wool and carpet still hold sway in the international market.

IX. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SHEEP REARES

SL.N O.	Characteristics of Sheep Reares	Unit	Small Rearers	Large rearers	Total
1.	Average age of the head of the family	Years	53.17	53.66	53.41
	<35	Nos	2 (2.89)	0 (0)	2 (1.68)
	35-50	Nos.	16 (23.18)	17 (34)	33 (27.74)
	>50	Nos.	51 (73.93)	33 (66)	84 (70.58)
2.	Education level				
	Illiterates	Nos.	25 (36.23)	15 (30)	40 (33.61)
	Primary	Nos.	21 (30.43)	15 (30)	36 (30.25)
	Secondary	Nos.	15 (21.75)	15 (30)	30 (25.21)
	College	Nos.	8 (11.59)	5 (10)	13 (10.93)
3.	Main occupation				
	Agriculture	Nos.	69 (100)	47 (94)	116 (97.47)
	Sheep rearing	Nos.	0 (0)	3 (6)	3 (2.52)
4.	Subsidiary Occupation				
	No Subsidiary Occupation	Nos.	0 (0)	3 (6)	3 (2.52)
	Sheep rearing only	Nos.	51 (73.792)	30 (60)	81 (68.06)
	Sheep rearing and	Nos.	18	17	35
	Others		(26.08)	(34)	(29.41)
	Total sample	Nos.	69	50	119

Note; figures in parentheses indicate respective percentages

Small rearers; flock= 14 Nos.

Large rearers; flock = 23N0s.

To ascertain the socio-economic characteristics of sample rearers it is essential to know some background of their characters which above on the table. Agriculture was the main occupation for percent small rearers and 94 percent of large rearers. And only 6 percent of the large rearers were taken sheep rearing as a main occupation.

Sheep Population in Various Livestock in Chikkamagalur District from 1972 to 2010.

Year	Chikkamagalur	Kadur	Koppa	Mudigere	N.R pura	Shringeri	Tarikere	Total
1972	10988	57465	442	906	432	56	8107	78376
1977	10726	59385	406	590	528	59	8833	80507
1983	10451	45127	212	870	208	33	7149	64051
1990	9770	9770	320	670	132	40	6583	57353
1997	10429	10429	42	800	79	5	14971	74407
2010	7950	7950	42	175	231	9	8898	62969

Sources; District at a glance, 2010-11. The above table clearly shows the sheep population in various livestock census of Chikkamagalur district from 1972 to 2010. The growth of sheep population in the district has been declining over the years. During the entire period, the district population of sheep was decreased from 78,376 in 1972 to 62,969 in 2010.

X. PROBLEMS IN SHEEP REARING

- a. Major production problems of the present study are inadequate grazing facilities, lack of quality feed and fodder, lack of knowledge about maintenance practices.
- b. Exploitation by middlemen and the lack of market intelligence as their one of the major marketing problem.
- c. Non-availability of quality breeds, lack of technical knowledge and disease outbreak are some of the technical problem.
- d. The lack of financial facility for purchase of quality breeds, lack of credit facility.
- e. Inadequate veterinary facilities may be reason for outbreak of diseases.
- f. Thefts and preying by wild animals wolf another menace.

XI. MAJOR FINDINGS:

- a. Animal husbandry is an important subsidiary activity; it provides reasonable income to farmers.
- b. Sheep rearing activities- which provide nutritious and tasty palatable meat and milk apart from providing manures, wool and skin.

- c. Sheep rearing is suitable for wide ranges of climate conditions of the world and they are one of the oldest livestock enterprises.
- d. Small farmers are now eager to have some sheep and putting their best efforts to apprise the utility of sheep as small flocks with them, as they think it will be a profitable enterprise for milk, meat, wool for clothing.
- e. State includes research work to improvise the technique of sheep husbandry and wool utilization for better production in quantity and quality.

XII. SUGGESTIONS

- a. The government has to introduce more and more promotional activities to develop sheep and goat production
- b. The government has to introduce domestic and foreign export market facilities.
- c. The new research and development activities as to be taken for the science field.
- d. The government has to provide certain increase to credit facilities for start this business and also issuing subsidies as a well as reduction in food production commodities.
- e. Increasing the veterinary facilities. In Chikkamagalur district some places don't have that facility.
- f. For the encouragement the government has to introduce free training camps.
- g. Lack of awareness programmers relating to health of shep and goat generation for business.

XIII. CONCLUSION

In spite of all these studies research is concerned on rearing and marketing of sheep. Agriculture is primary sector and sheep rearing comes under the animal husbandry and it is an allied subject, the landless and marginal farmers can easily adopt sheep rearing with low capital, so poverty eradication is possible, this research study will be on sheep rearing whether is profitable venture, economically viable one and income generating source of national income.

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