



Assessing the Adoption Level of Indigenous Practices Among the Tribal Women of Kalrayan Hills

¹M. Natarajan and ²B. Sudhakar

^{1,2}Assistant Professors, Department of Agricultural Extension, Annamalai University

Abstract: *The study was conducted in Kalrayan hills of Villupuram district. A total of 120 tribal women were selected as samples by proportionate random sampling technique. Twenty-five indigenous animal husbandry practices, which were considered rational by scientists, were selected for the study. The data were collected from the tribal women respondents with the help of a well-structured, pre-tested interview schedule. The lack of documentation was the major constraint expressed by one-fourth of the respondents. Hence, there is an urgent need to document native indigenous practices. The document information may be kept at the centre for technology assessment and refinement for the dissemination and adoption by the farming community.*

Keywords: *Documentation, Indigenous Practices, Tribal Women, Kalrayan hills*

1. Introduction

The People living in hilly tracts otherwise known as tribes are rich with traditional practices because of autonomous social structure and lesser contact with people in plains. Their lifestyle indicates that these tribes have intimate knowledge of the environmental process. They employ unique management strategies in agriculture to utilize the environment. Women's knowledge has been the mainstay of the dairy and poultry industry. Dairying, as managed by women in a tribal area, embodies practices that are logic rather different from those contained in the dairy science imparted at institutions of formal education in India, since the latter is essentially a report from Europe and North America. Women have been experts in the breeding and feeding of farm animals, which include not just cows and buffaloes but also pigs, chickens, ducks and goats. The study was conducted in Kalrayan hills of Villupuram district. A total of 120 tribal women were selected based on proportionate random sampling technique constituted the sample for the study. Twenty-five animal husbandry practices that were considered as rational by scientists were selected for the study. The data were collected from the tribal women respondents with the help of well structures, pre-tested interview schedule and simple percentage were used to analyze the data.

2. Methodology

A research study was conducted in Kalrayan hills of Villupuram district. A sample of 120 tribal women was selected for the study to identify the constraints faced by the respondents in the adoption of indigenous farm practices. Although the tribal women adopted the various indigenous farm practices, there existed certain constraints that impeded the women from adopting the same to the fullest extent. The data were collected with the help of a well-structured, pre-tested interview schedule and suitable statistical tools were used to analyze the data.

3. Findings and Discussion

Extent of Adoption of Indigenous Practices in Animal Husbandry

(n=120)

S. No.	Indigenous Animal Husbandry Practices	No. of Res.	Per cent
Foot and Mouth Diseases(FMD)			
1	Giving local liquor to control FMD	101	84.17
2	Rubbing of jaggery in the mouth	76	63.33
3	Applying salt solution inside the mouth and between the hooves of the animal	73	60.83
Ulcer on neck of the bullock			
4	Applying boiled and cooled edible oil over the neck	120	100.00



5	Applying powdered coal paste to minimize the pain	62	51.67
Dropping of placenta			
6	Giving two or three seeds of vellai kundumani with boiled bajra to the animal immediately after delivery	77	64.17
7	Feeding the animal with bambusa leaves for release of the placenta	67	55.83
Treatment for the dislocated / Fractured part			
8	Applying a mixture of honey and pure ghee	103	85.83
9	Applying pulp on the fractured part	41	34.17
10	Applying a mixture of salt, jaggery and turmeric powder	120	100.00
11	Applying of two fruits of partially burnt vilvam pound along with agave leaves	31	25.83
12	Applying a fenugreek seed paste and bandaged	48	40.00
Eradication of ecto parasites			
13	Applying a tobacco powder and edible oil mixture over the entire body of the animal	58	48.33
Flatulence			
14	Feeding a mixture of onion and areal root of banyan tree to the animal	57	47.50
15	Feeding a mixture of tuber 'Kund' plant and onion to the animal. Before giving the mixture, salt applied to the tongue of the animal	51	42.50
16	Feeding of suspension of edible oil (100gm), water and kerosene oil to animal	73	60.83
Skin diseases			
17	Applying used engine oil over the skin	38	31.67
Cold			
18	Dropping of Bhoyrogni juice in the nose	41	34.17
Diarrhoea			
19	Oral administration of the charcoal powder	19	15.83
20	Feeding the leaf extract of hupai	35	29.17
21	Feeding 3 kg of steamed varagu grains	95	79.17
Unsuccessful consumption			
22	Feeding 200 – 300 ml of castor oil	71	59.17
23	Feeding of banana leaf extract	49	40.83
Post-calving care			
24	Feeding 1-2 kg of jaggery dissolve in water to the animal immediately after calving	101	84.17
Poultry disease management			
25	Mixing onion and garlic pulps bounded together with the amarbel plant and the solution is giving to the birds in drinking water for listlessness and inactivity diseases	112	93.33

4. Interpretations

Table 1 reveals that only two of the practices under animal husbandry were found to be adopted by the cent per cent of the respondents. They were the practices under the control of ulcer on the neck of the bullock viz., application of boiled and cooled edible oil over the neck and treatment for the dislocated or fractured part by application of a mixture of salt, jaggery and turmeric powder.

A higher percentage 93.33 per cent of the respondents had adopted the indigenous practices against poultry disease management on listlessness and inactivity by feeding pounded onion and garlic bulbs mixed with amarbel (Aksavalli plant) vine in drinking water, followed by application of mixture of honey and pure ghee (85.83 per cent) for the treatment of dislocated or fractured part.



A similar percentage (84.17 per cent) had adopted the indigenous practices viz., giving local liquor or wine. This is in line with the findings of Gupta and Singh (1995) and feeding 1-2 kg of jaggery dissolved in water after calving and 79.17 per cent of the respondents adopted the indigenous practice of feeding 3 kg of steamed varagu grains as a treatment against diarrhoea of animals. This finding derives support from the findings of Hema et al. (1995).

The adoption against indigenous practices under animal husbandry ranged from a minimum of 51.67 per cent for the practice namely application of powdered coal paste on the ulcer to a maximum of 61.17 per cent for the practice of giving vellai kundumani with boiled bajra immediately after calving for dropping of placenta. The other indigenous practices adopted by the respondents and which fell between this range were viz., rubbing of jaggery in the mouth (63.33 per cent) and applying salt solution inside the mouth and between the hooves of the animal (60.83 per cent) treated against the control of foot and mouth diseases, followed by feeding of suspension of edible oil, water and kerosene against flatulence (60.83 per cent), feeding of castor oil for successful conception (59.17 per cent) and feeding the animal with bambusa leaves for release of placenta (55.83 per cent).

The remaining eleven indigenous practices under animal husbandry were found to be adopted by less than 50.00 per cent of the respondents. They were viz., application of tobacco powder and edible oil over the entire body of the animal for the eradication of ecto-parasite (48.33 per cent), feeding of mixture of onion and aerial root of banyan tree (47.50 per cent) and feeding a mixture of tuber of kund and onion to control flatulence (42.50 per cent), feeding of banana leaf extract for successful conception (40.83 per cent), application of perandai pulp on the fractured part (34.17 per cent), dropping of bhoyrogini juice in the nose against cold infection (34.17 per cent), application of used engine oil over the skin for treatment against skin diseases (31.67 per cent), feeding of leaf extract of hupai (29.17 per cent) application of partially burnt vilvam fruits pound along with agave leaves for the treatments of fractured part (25.83 per cent) and oral administration of charcoal powder to control diarrhea (15.83 per cent).

Similar findings on adoption of indigenous animal husbandry practices viz., foot and mouth diseases, ulcer on neck of bullock, dropping of placenta and treatment for the dislocated / fractured part were reported by Anil and Kirit (1991). Adoption of indigenous practices against flatulence, skin and cold diseases was reported by Pande et al, (1992). The findings on the adoption of indigenous practices against unsuccessful conception, post-calving care and poultry disease management are on line with the findings of Patel (1992).

Based on the findings it could be concluded that farming the different methods, oral administration of local liquor or wine was adopted to a greater extent for the treatment of foot and mouth disease. Application of boiled and cooled edible oil was adopted to a greater extent for the treatment of ulcer on the neck of the bullock and a higher percentage of the respondents had used vellai kundumani with boiled bajra for dropping of placenta while application of mixture of salt, jaggery and powder was adopted by all for the treatment of dislocation or fracture of the animal. Feeding of suspension of edible oil, water and kerosene was adopted by nearly two-third of the respondents for treatment of flatulence, while feeding of steamed varagu grains was found to be adopted to a greater extent for treatment of diarrhoea. Oral administration of castor oil towards unsuccessful conception was found to be adopted to a higher level (59.17 per cent). Only one indigenous practice was found to be adopted for skin disease, eradication of ecto parasite, cold, post-calving care and listlessness and inactivity disease in poultry.

5. Summary and Conclusion

In the above result and discussion chapter, the conclusion was vividly reported that cent percent of the respondents have adopted application of boiled and cooled edible oil over the neck again stulcer on the neck of the bullock and application of a mixture of salt, jaggery and turmeric powder for the treatment of dislocated or fractured part of the animal. In order to the result the feeding of suspension of edible oil, water and kerosene was adopted by nearly two-thirds of the respondents for treatment of flatulence, while feeding of varagu grains was found to be adopted to a greater extent for treatment of diarrhea. From the oral administration of castor oil towards unsuccessful consumption was found to be adopted to a higher level (59.17 per cent). By the application of tobacco powder and edible oil mixture over the entire body of the animal was adopted by nearly half of the respondents for the eradication of ectoparasites. As a result, the mixture of onion and garlic pound together with the vine or amarvel plant was administered in the drinking water of the birds by 93.33 per cent of the respondents against poultry disease management.

REFERENCES

1. Anil, K, Gupta and Kirit, K. Patel. 1991. Animal husbandry practices, Honey Bee, 2(1): 20-22.
2. Gupta, R.K and H.R. Singh. 1995. Traditional system to cure livestock diseases in the upper gangetic plains of UP in the paper presented at the 2nd Congress on Traditional Sciences and Technologies of India, 27- 31st December, Madras.



3. Hema Tripathi, M.K. Mandape and O.N. Kunzru. 1995. Indigenous vision of curing digestive disorders in Bovine. In the paper presented at the 2nd Congress on Traditional Sciences and Technologies of India, 27-31st December, Madras.
4. Pande, M. B., P.R. Patel, R.R. Mornin and S.K. Modi. 1992. Animal husbandry practices, Honey Bee, 3(1): 17-18.
5. Patel, K. 1992. Animal husbandry practices, Honey Bee, 3(1): 19-20.

