

STUDIES ON WORK DISTRIBUTION PATTERN IN POULTRY FARMING

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ABSTRACT

To study the work distribution pattern in poultry farming, an investigation was conducted in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, where two blocks were selected purposively having high poultry population. From each zone two clusters with three villages each, based on proximity were selected randomly on proportionate basis to form a total sample size of 150 respondents. The study revealed that in the intensive system, the majority of the activities were carried out by male members, whereas women were involved in very few activities. Further, in semi-intensive system, selling of meat/birds and purchasing of chicks were done by the male member, however, women involved regularly in the feeding, cleaning, releasing/receiving birds, health care and collection/storage of eggs. On the other hand in the backyard system, women were performing all the activities and very few men were involved limited to the marketing related activities.

Key Words : Work Distribution Pattern, Poultry Farming, Women.

INTRODUCTION

Poultry is the integral part of animal husbandry in India. It provides a much important subsidiary and gainful employment and raises the economic status of a mammoth portion of country population. During the lean period, it is a continuous source of income for rural farmers and also helps to engage their family members profitably round the year.

The role of women in poultry is an important one and her contribution also needs to be studied. Proper policies need to be planned. Parker and Friedman (1993) summed up the challenges by stating that “the gender issue is essentially one of power and politics”. If development projects are thoughtfully and correctly planned and if the political environment allows women to have the power in education, land ownership and access to supplies, poultry can continue to give women around the world the financial independence so long associated with the “Egg Money”. It is believed that role of women can't be overlooked in the economic development of India. The pace of development in any country depends upon the participation and commitment of all the women concerned with development activities. Veeranna et al. (1998) reported that rural women's role in backyard poultry production is of significant importance. They are performing most of the tasks such as feeding, watering, housing and management with utmost care and interest. Moreover, as pointed out by Jana, 2000, livestock development in the state of West Bengal is yet to make an impact on the improvement of socio economical progress of the rural society. Though the state possess a large livestock and poultry population,

most of it belonging to the weaker section of the people of the state (Jana, 2000). From this viewpoint, the present study was undertaken with the objective of the study of decision-making pattern in rural poultry farming practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India. Two blocks were purposively selected from the district having high poultry population from the two zones (i.e. non-saline and saline zones). From each zone two clusters with three villages each, based on proximity were selected randomly on proportionate basis to form a total sample size of 150 respondents. A structured interview schedule was prepared, pre-tested and administered personally for the purpose of data collection. The data collection was taken up during January to March 2003. Data thus generated were computed and analyzed through different statistical tools viz. frequency distribution, percentage analysis etc. In order to study the division of labour in poultry farming, data were collected regarding the major activities where the male, female and children were involved under all the three systems. The frequency of responses for each category was calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Intensive system—The data presented in table 1. reveal that under the intensive system, majority of the activities were regularly carried out by the male members viz., providing feed and water (85 per cent), cleaning of poultry house (80.8 per cent), health care (80.8 per cent)

and selling of meat or birds (97.8 per cent). Since there was only one intensive layer farmer, it can safely be said that the selling of eggs and collection and storage of eggs were regularly performed by the male members and occasionally by the female members. Only 14.9 per

cent female members were regularly involved in activities related to feeding as well as cleaning of shed (19.1%) and health care (19.1%). The majority of the women and nearly all the children were not involved themselves in any of the poultry activities.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their work distribution pattern under intensive system. (N=47)

Sl. No.	Activities	Regularly			Sometime			Occasionally			Never		
		M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C
1.	Providing feed and water	40 (85)	7 (14.9)	-	3 (6.4)	7 (14.9)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.1)	7 (14.9)	6 (12.8)	3 (6.3)	26 (55.3)	40 (85.11)
2.	Cleaning of sheds	38 (80.8)	9 (19.1)	-	-	1 (2.1)	-	-	7 (14.9)	-	9 (19.1)	30 (36.8)	47 (100)
3.	Health Care	38 (80.8)	9 (19.1)	-	-	1 (2.1)	-	6 (12.8)	3 (6.3)	-	3 (6.3)	34 (72.3)	47 (100)
4.	Selling of meat or birds	46 (97.8)	-	-	1(2.1)	-	-	-	1(2.1)	-	-	46 (97.8)	47 (100)
5.	Selling of eggs	1(2.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(2.1)	-	-	-	-
6.	Purchasing of chicks	-	-	-	46 (97.8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	47 (100)	47 (100)
7.	Collection and storage of eggs	1(2.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(2.1)	-	-	-	-

Key = M: Male; F: Female; C: Children

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

Semi-intensive system—It can be seen from table 2 that women involved regularly in the feeding, cleaning, releasing/receiving birds, health care and collection/storage of eggs. With regard to selling of meat/birds and purchasing of chicks the male member were some times involved in it. Children were also found to perform

activities related to feeding and cleaning of sheds although occasionally under the semi-intensive system. Ghosh and Mukhopadhyay (1986) and Narmatha (1994) stated that women carried out production-oriented activities while men were involved in commercial activities.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their work distribution pattern under semi-intensive system (N=96)

Sl. No.	Activities	Regularly			Sometime			Occasionally			Never		
		M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C
1.	Providing feed and water	-	7 (100)	-	3(42.8)	-	1(14.3)	2 (28.6)	-	5 (71.4)	2 (28.6)	-	1 (14.3)
2.	Cleaning of poultry house	-	6 (85.7)	-	-	11 (14.3)	-	-	-	5 (71.4)	7 (100)	-	2 (28.6)
3.	Releasing of birds from poultry house in morning	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	7 (100)
4.	Receiving of birds in poultry house at the evening	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	7 (100)
5.	Health Care	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	7 (100)
6.	Selling of meat or birds	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	3 (42.8)	-	-	4 (57.2)	7 (100)
7.	Selling of eggs	-	-	-	-	1 (14.3)	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	6 (85.7)	7 (100)
8.	Purchasing of chicks	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	7 (100)
9.	Collection and storage of eggs	-	7 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 (100)	-	7 (100)

Key = M: Male; F: Female; C: Children (Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

Backyard system—Under the backyard system as is found in table 3, all the women (100 per cent) performed activities regularly related to feeding, releasing and receiving of birds, health care and collection and storage of eggs, while health care (93.7 per cent) and selling of eggs (33.4 per cent) regularly. Whereas, they were sometimes involved in cleaning of shed (100 per cent), hatching activities (67.7 per cent), selling of meat or birds (79.2 per cent) and selling of eggs (45.8 per cent). Male members were sometimes involved in selling of meat or birds (8.3 per

cent) and selling of eggs (2.1 per cent). Children were also found to be involved in feeding and selling of egg some times (3.1 per cent each), whereas, 36.5 per cent, 34.4 per cent and 5.2 per cent were occasionally involved in feeding, collection/storage of eggs and selling of eggs, respectively. Majority of the male members did not involve themselves in any of the activities related to backyard poultry farmer. Agbede et al. (1995), Veeranna et al. (1998) also observed that women performed majority of the backyard related activities.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their Backyard system under semi-intensive system. (N=96)

Sl. No.	Activities	Regularly			Sometime			Occasionally			Never		
		M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C
1.	Providing feed and water	-	96 (100)	-	-	-	3 (3.1)	8 (8.3)	-	35 (36.5)	88 (91.6)	-	58 (60.4)
2.	Cleaning of poultry house	-	-	-	-	96 (100)	-	-	-	-	96 (100)	-	96 (100)
3.	Releasing of birds from poultry house in morning	-	96 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96 (100)	-	96 (100)
4.	Receiving of birds in poultry house at the evening	-	96 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96 (100)	-	96 (100)
5.	Health Care	-	90 (93.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96 (100)	6 (6.3)	96 (100)
6.	Hatching activity	-	-	-	-	65 (67.7)	-	-	31 (32.3)	-	96 (100)	-	96 (100)
7.	Selling of meat or birds	-	-	-	8 (8.3)	76 (79.2)	-	14 (14.5)	4 (4.2)	-	74 (77.2)	16 (16.6)	96 (100)
8.	Selling of eggs	-	32 (33.4)	-	2 (2.1)	44 (45.8)	3 (3.1)	7 (7.3)	-	5 (5.2)	87 (90.6)	20 (20.8)	88 (91.6)
9.	Collection and storage of eggs	-	96 (100)	-	-	-	-	-	-	33 (34.4)	96 (100)	-	63 (65.6)

Key = M: Male; F: Female; C: Children
(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

In the intensive system, it was observed that male members carried out the majority of the activities; women were involved in very few activities in small number of cases. Further, in semi-intensive system the commercial activities were performed by male members, however, in the other activities women played a major role. On the other hand in the backyard system women were performing all the activities and very few men were involved limited to the marketing related activities.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that in the intensive system, male members carried out the majority of the activities, whereas women were involved in very few activities. Further, in semi-intensive system, selling of meat/birds and purchasing of chicks were done by the male member, however, women involved regularly in the feeding, cleaning, releasing/receiving birds, health care and collection/storage of eggs. On the other hand in the backyard system, women were performing all the activities and very few men were involved limited to the marketing related activities.

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