

Impact of Personal Traits on Piggery Management

Monosri Johari¹, K. K. Saharia², P.Hazarika³, L.Sanathoi Khuman⁴,
Leema Bora⁵ and M.N.Ray⁶

1. M.V.Sc. Student, 2. Prof., 3. Associate Director of Extension Education, 4. Ph.D. 5. Asst. Prof., 6. Prof.,
Dept. of Extension Education, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam

Corresponding author e-mail: drmonosri@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

*A study on the impact of personal traits on piggery management in Dima Hasao district was carried out by contacting fifty pig farmers each from two developmental blocks namely Diyungbra and Jatinga in Assam. It was found that majority i.e. about 80 per cent of the respondents in Block I, Block II and pooled sample occupied medium category management/health care practices. Further, they showed that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water for the purpose of drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practiced deworming of piglets in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. In relational analysis management/health care was positively and high significantly ($p < 0.01$) related to education (0.52**), occupation (0.29**) and total time spent (0.34**). Management/health care was negatively and high significantly ($p < 0.01$) related to credibility of information sources (-0.38**).*

Key words: Castration; Deworming; Information sources;

Pig as livestock in the North Eastern Region of India is a big blessing, an asset of excellent nature and very much integral to the life system of people. Piggery is very popular because of the uneven terrain and small land holding of farmers, their socio-cultural and traditional involvement with animals, the food habits the rural tribal and other weaker sections of the population follow and also the natural resources available to the pigs as feed. Today, the situation is such that quantum of pork supplied in any occasion is a prestige symbol in absence of taboo against consumption of pork. In the whole region pork products are in gradual up-rise in popularity. For many, pigs serve as the primary and at times the only source of meat all around. The demand for pork among the urban elites as well cutting across the castes and creeds is one of the promoting factors today. The spreading of knowledge about the importance of inclusion of animal protein in the diet on one hand and educational achievements on the other hand had changed the age-old superstitious belief of the non-pork eaters.

Rearing of pig for the tribal population of Dima Hasao district is not a new concept. They have been traditionally doing so since time immemorial. Actually

animal husbandry in general and piggery in particular is an integral part of almost every household in the district. But of late, it is seen that those resorting to better rearing and smart marketing are reaping more benefits than others. Further at times the benefits are reaped by people other than the actual rearers for reasons not surely known. As such, a study was warranted and therefore, conducted to find out the piggery management/health care in Dima Hasao district of Assam in relation to the personal traits of the pig rearers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in two selected blocks of Dima Hasao (the erstwhile North Cachar) district of Assam during the month of October 2012 to February 2013. The blocks were selected in such a manner that, one block was located far off from the district headquarters having low pig population namely Diyungbra ITDP Block and second block which was nearest to the district headquarters having high pig population namely Jatinga Valley Development Block. From each selected block two villages were selected on the basis of maximum number of pig rearers. Again

from each village a total of 25 pig farmers were randomly selected for the present study making the sample size to be 100. A comprehensive interview schedule was developed for data collection. For obtaining response on different component areas of management/health care towards pig husbandry, the respondents were offered ten statements and they were asked to respond in either of the three degrees ranging from mostly, sometimes and occasionally categories. The proportionate scoring patterns were 3, 2 and 1 respectively. As such the minimum and maximum obtainable scores for a respondent were 10 and 30 respectively. Pre-testing of the interview schedule was done in the nearby simulating Cachar district to see the reliability and validity of the interview schedule. The reliability worked out was 0.89 and as far as the validity was concerned, content validity was ensured in consultation with all the experts available in the University, Research Institutes of national repute (NRC on pig) and field veterinarians. The information so collected were transformed into objective data, analyses were done according to the established norms and conclusions were drawn accordingly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Management of any livestock farm, big or small, is an indication of man animal relation one maintains. Management/health care practice is important for the growth and development of all types of farming including piggery. Table 1 showed that majority i.e. about 80 per cent of the respondents in Block I, Block II and pooled sample were in medium category of adopting the management/health care practices. This indicated that by and large commonly shared stereotype activities were followed in the areas under study by the pig farmers. As such the variations in community level were less. But when the mean was examined, it revealed that respondents in Block I scored much higher than the respondents in Block II. Therefore, there was significant mean difference (7.48**, p<0.01). The farmers in Block I scoring higher than the farmers of Block II might be a

reflection of their more involvement due to lack of better facilities, piggery being the only occupation at times and also income from piggery being more important for them in absence of other avenues in comparison to the other block. Similar findings were also reported by *Rahman (2007)* and *Zadeng (2012)*.

It could also be seen from Table 2 that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water for drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practice deworming in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. All these activities were performed as a part of their traditional belief and understanding in addition to availability of the specific kind of facilities. In case of management and health care not much innovation had taken place in the area under study. Similar results in the backward villages of Kamrup district of Assam were also reported by *Payeng, 2011* and *Shyam, 2011*. Further, this was in line with those found by *Rahman et al (2008)* who reported that castration and weaning were practiced by all the farmers. The result was conflicting with those of *Deka et al 2007* who found that during the household survey in Dhemaji only 25 per cent farmers reported the use of de-worming drugs while some of the interviewed farmers were even not aware of the drugs' importance, 35 per cent provided iron supplement, 23 per cent practiced weaning of piglets. All these activities were parts of their cultural/traditional norms to be followed in pig rearing in the state as there existed an atmosphere for such activities.

Table 3 showed that management/health care was positively and high significantly (p<0.01) related to education (0.52**), occupation (0.29**) and total time spent (0.34**). It might have been because of higher education broadened mental horizon and therefore, farmers with higher education might have adopted few things better than others by knowing the worth of such

Table 1. Frequency distribution of respondents on the basis of adoption of managerial/health care

| Variables | Blocks | Mean | SD | Range | Low | Medium | High | 't' value |
|------------------------|----------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Management/health care | Block I | 23 | 2.06 | 18-27 | 3(6) | 40(80) | 7(14) | 7.48** |
| | Block II | 19.68 | 2.05 | 16-22 | 6(12) | 40(80) | 4(8) | |
| | Pooled | 21.34 | 2.64 | 16-27 | 7(7) | 81(81) | 12(12) | |

**Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage.

practices. Similar findings were also reported by *Rahman et al (2008)* and *Zadeng (2012)*. In case of occupation also same fact was applicable. Farmers with high occupation had higher chances of knowing better

Table 2. Distribution of respondents on different areas of management/health care:

| Management/ Health care | Blocks | Degree of information | | |
|---|----------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| | | Mostly | Some times | Occasionally |
| Providing clean water for the purpose of drinking | Block I | 50(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Block II | 43(86) | 7(14) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 93(93) | 7(7) | 0(0) |
| Castration/spaying of piglets | Block I | 50(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Block II | 50(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 100(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| De-worming | Block I | 0(0) | 4(8) | 43(86) |
| | Block II | 1(2) | 3(6) | 35(70) |
| | Pooled | 1(1) | 7(7) | 78(78) |
| Weaning of piglets | Block I | 47(94) | 2(4) | 0(0) |
| | Block II | 50(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 97(97) | 2(2) | 0(0) |
| First aid treatment during emergency | Block I | 22(44) | 22(44) | 5(10) |
| | Block II | 5(10) | 23(46) | 1(2) |
| | Pooled | 27(27) | 45(45) | 6(6) |
| Separation of sick animals from healthy animals | Block I | 49(98) | 1(2) | 0(0) |
| | Block II | 50(100) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 99(99) | 1(1) | 0(0) |
| <i>Person approached for treatment of sick animals</i> | | | | |
| VAS | Block I | 4(8) | 27(54) | 6(12) |
| | Block II | 16(32) | 31(62) | 3(6) |
| | Pooled | 20(20) | 58(58) | 9(9) |
| VFA | Block I | 5(10) | 3(6) | 2(4) |
| | Block II | 0(0) | 3(3) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 5(5) | 6(6) | 2(2) |
| Fellow farmer | Block I | 3(6) | 1(2) | 3(6) |
| | Block II | 0(0) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| | Pooled | 3(3) | 1(1) | 3(3) |
| Self treatment by the farmer | Block I | 11(22) | 12(24) | 10(20) |
| | Block II | 0(0) | 8(16) | 3(6) |
| | Pooled | 11(11) | 20(20) | 13(13) |
| Cleaning the sty once/ twice a day | Block I | 1(2) | 14(28) | 35(70) |
| | Block II | 2(4) | 8(16) | 28(56) |
| | Pooled | 3(3) | 22(22) | 63(63) |
| Before fresh supply of feed, mangers & water troughs are cleaned every time | Block I | 35(70) | 9(18) | 5(10) |
| | Block II | 4(8) | 43(86) | 7(14) |
| | Pooled | 0(0) | 45(45) | 13(13) |

**Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage.

things including better inputs from others than other farmers. Therefore, farmers with better occupation had better managerial/health care. Same kind of findings were also reported by *Payeng (2011)* and *Shyam (2011)*. Further with better income the farmers were always in a position to provide better managerial/health care to their pigs whenever needed. Therefore, it showed the positive and high significant. Similar findings were also reported by *Deka et al (2007)* and *Talukdar (2012)*. Management/health care was negatively and high significantly ($p < 0.01$) related to credibility of information sources (-0.38**). This might have been an outcome of the situation that pig rearing in the district was an age old tradition and the most trusted (credible) information sources were their peers and close relatives for information sources, but not the extension personnel or development departments. As a result, with their credible information sources the farmers never obtained the beneficial information for adoption of practices in management/health care. That was the reason for showing negative relation with credibility of information sources. Similar results were also obtained by *Rahman 2007*, *Payeng 2011* and *Zadeng 2012*.

Table 3. Relational analysis between socio-economic variables and managerial/health care

| Variables | Pooled |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Age | 0.06 |
| Education | 0.05** |
| Family size | -0.15 |
| Occupation | 0.29** |
| Social participation | 0.15 |
| Extension contact | -0.06 |
| Sources of information | 0.03 |
| Credibility of information sources | 0.06 |
| Total time spent in managing pig | -0.06 |

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study revealed that majority i.e. about 80 per cent of the respondents in Block I, Block II and pooled sample were in medium category of adopting the management/health care practices. The mean value was found to be 21 out of the total obtainable score of 30. Further, in detailed analysis, it was found that 100 per cent, 86 per cent and 93 per cent of the respondents provided clean water for drinking, 100 per cent in all categories adopted castration or spaying of

piglets, 94 per cent, 100 per cent and 97 per cent practiced weaning of piglets and 0 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent practice deworming in Block I, Block II and pooled sample respectively. In relational analysis management/health care was positively and high significantly ($p < 0.01$) related to education (0.52**),

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