

Knowledge Level of Poultry Farmers about Recommended Poultry Farming Practices

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ABSTRACT

In India , Poultry farming an important source of livelihood and a major occupation and symbol of economic status specially in Rajasthan where plenty of irrigation water is not available due to lowering down of ground water. It was observed that 64.62 per cent registered big poultry farmers were having medium knowledge level whereas, 18.46 and 16.92 per cent of respondents, were having high and low knowledge while in case of un-registered big poultry farmers, 72.73,9.09 and 18.18 per cent of respondents, were having medium, high and low knowledge level, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices. It was also noted that 53.06 per cent registered medium poultry farmers were found to have medium knowledge level whereas 20.41 and 26.53 per cent of respondents were having high and low knowledge, respectively but in case of un-registered medium poultry farmers 56.67, 16.66 and 26.67 per cent of respondents were having medium,high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices. The findings were also supported by calculated 'Z' test value of big and medium (3.79), big and small (7.54) medium and small (3.43) which shown the significant difference between the knowledge level of different category of farmers about recommended poultry farming practices. Similar difference was also observed between the knowledge level of different category of unregistered poultry farmers with calculated 'Z' value of 2.28, 6.7and 4.56 , respectively about recommended poultry farming practices which were significant at one per cent level of probability. Therefore, it is recommended that knowledge of poultry farmers should be increased through exposure and trainings.

Key words: Knowledge; Registered; Unregistered Farmers; Poultry Farming Practices;

Indian poultry industry has made a tremendous growth during the last 4-decades. In the world market, India ranks 5th in egg and 20th in meat production. Poultry farming has proved that it can ensure economic and social rehabilitation of weaker sections of the society. This has been identified as a tool to fight three evils of our modern society, namely malnutrition, unemployment and supplementary income. There are wide variations in the production and consumption pattern of poultry in various regions. Under rural conditions, the consumption is still less. India's earning from export of poultry products is very low. The major share of broiler export is in favor of USA, China and Holland. China has emerged as a potential exporter country from Asia along with Thailand. India poultry industry has no search itself about facilities for producing safe products for human consumption. The reality is that more than 80 percent of the Indian population has not

begun to derive the benefits from the poultry industry. Now the problem lies as how to approach the major virgin sector in coming years. The extension works were in operation since early 1955 but with the little research support. In a planned manner to fill the required input gap, there is a need to judge the effectiveness of the existing practices and need for change in the approach. It is now gradually acknowledged that the main component needs to be addressed is to improve the existing efficiency and productivity to a desirable level. Indeed poultry industry of Rajasthan has also witnessed many ups and downs even since it began to transform itself into a highly vibrant business from merely a backyard activity. Layer farming gained momentum up to early nineties but after that, most of the layer farmers winded up their profession of layer keeping and broiler farming began to spread its wings. Right from the time of its set up, broiler industry also suffered several jolts

owing to increased cost of feed, frequent incidence of diseases and shrinking margins. The farmers who involved in poultry farming are yet ignorant about improved feeding breeding, management and marketing practices of poultry. Keeping the importance and utility of above facts, the present study entitled “problems and prospects of recommended poultry farming practices in Ajmer district of Rajasthan” was under taken with the specific objective To assess the knowledge level of poultry farmers regarding recommended poultry farming practices.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in four selected blocks viz., Srinagar, Pisangan, Jawaja and Silora of Ajmer district of Rajasthan as having the maximum poultry farms in operation. A list of all the poultry farms i.e. Registered (R) and Unregistered (UR) which are in operation atleast for last three years were obtained from concerned officials of the selected blocks. From the above list, 30 per cent registered and unregistered respondents were selected from each block. Based on Rajasthan Govt. recommendations the poultry farmers were grouped in to three categories i.e. respondents possessing 1000-5000 birds were included in to small poultry farmer, those possessing upto 10,000 birds, in to medium poultry farmers and all those possessing poultry birds above 10,000 were included in to third category i.e. big, poultry farmers. A list of total number of small, medium and big poultry farmers of Registered and Unregistered from the selected blocks was prepared. A sample size of 248 respondents was drawn from the list by consisting of registered (143) and unregistered (105) poultry farmers with the help of systematic sampling with proportional allocation. The data were collected by using pretested structured knowledge level schedule developed by the investigator. The schedule was consisting of major practices in which the statements related to knowledge level of farmers about the recommended poultry farming practices namely Chick procurement practices, Brooding practices, Litter management practices, Temperature & light regulation practices, Feeding practices, Watering practices, Equipment and spacing practices, Disease and parasites, Vaccination and management practices and Sanitation practices were included. The practices consisted of the few questions for which the scores were assigned as per the responses received i.e. one score was given to correct answer and zero for wrong answer. Based on

mean and standard deviation the registered and unregistered poultry farmers were categorised into three groups i.e. low, medium and high knowledge groups.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in Table 1 revealed that regarding knowledge level of registered big poultry farmers, 42 respondent (64.62%) were having medium knowledge whereas, 12 (18.46%) and 11 (16.92%) of respondents, were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices. The data in Table 1 revealed that regarding knowledge level of registered medium poultry farmers, 26 respondents (53.06 per cent) were having medium knowledge whereas, 10 (20.41%) and 13 (26.53%) of respondents, were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices.

Table 1. Knowledge level of different categories of registered farmers about the recommended poultry farming practices

A. Bg farmers (N = 65)

S.No.	Knowledge level categories	No.	%
1.	Low (< 64.79)	11	16.92
2.	Medium (from 64.79 to 79.81)	42	64.62
3.	High (> 79.81)	12	18.46
		$\bar{X} = 72.30,$	$\sigma = 7.51$

B. medium farmers (N = 49)

1.	Low (< 60.89)	13	26.53
2.	Medium (from 60.89 to 73.77)	26	53.06
3.	High (> 73.77)	10	20.41
		$\bar{X} = 67.33,$	$\sigma = 6.44$

C. small farmers (N = 49)

1.	Low (< 59.19)	7	24.14
2.	Medium (from 59.19 to 67.31)	16	55.17
3.	High (> 67.31)	6	20.69
		$\bar{X} = 63.25,$	$\sigma = 4.06$

The data in Table 1 indicated that regarding knowledge level of registered small poultry farmers, 16 respondents (55.17%) were having medium knowledge whereas, 6 (20.69%) and 7 (24.14%) of respondents were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices. These findings might have come due to the fact that the registered poultry farmers were associated with the poultry training centre for many years which might have raised their practical knowledge from medium to high level. However, those who were recently associated with the poultry training

centre might have gained low level of knowledge. The results are in concordance with the findings of *Sankhala and Sharma (2001)*, *ISSAR and Dhakar (2002)* and *Paul et al. (2003)* and contradicts with the findings of *Bhati and Sharma (2002)*. The data in Table 2A indicate that regarding knowledge level of un-registered big poultry farmers, 16 respondents (72.73%) were having medium knowledge whereas, 2 (9.09%) and 4 (18.18 %) of respondents, were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices.

Table 2. Knowledge level of different categories of unregistered farmers about the recommended poultry farming practices

A. Big farmers (N = 22)

S.No.	Knowledge level categories	No.	%
1.	Low (< 50.40)	4	18.18
2.	Medium (from 50.40 to 62.14)	16	72.73
3.	High (> 62.14)	2	9.09
$\bar{X} = 56.27, \sigma = 5.87$			

B. Medium farmers N = 30

1.	Low (< 46.33)	8	26.67
2.	Medium (from 46.33 to 58.53)	17	56.67
3.	High (> 58.53)	5	16.66
$\bar{X} = 52.43, \sigma = 6.10$			

C. Small farmers (N = 53)

1.	Low (< 41.66)	13	24.52
2.	Medium (from 41.66 to 51.72)	34	64.15
3.	High (> 51.72)	6	11.33
$\bar{X} = 46.69, \sigma = 5.03$			

The data in Table 2 revealed that regarding knowledge level of un-registered medium poultry farmers, 17 respondents (56.67%) were having medium knowledge whereas, 5 (16.66%) and 8 (26.67%) of respondents were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices.

The data in Table 2 revealed that regarding knowledge level of un-registered small poultry farmers, 34 respondents (64.15%) were having medium knowledge whereas, 6 (11.33%) and 13 (24.52%) of respondents were having high and low knowledge, respectively about recommended poultry farming practices. These findings might have come because of the reason that the un-registered poultry farmers were associated with the vocation of poultry farming for many years with might have helped them to increase their practical knowledge to be medium and high levels. However, those who were recently associated with this vocation might have gained low level of knowledge. The results are in support with findings of *Sankhala and Sharma (2001)*, *ISSAR and Dhakar (2002)* and *Paul et al. (2003)* and contradicts with the findings of *Bhati and Sharma (2002)*. A comparison was also made in the knowledge level about the recommended poultry farming practices of different categories of farmers by applying 'Z' test.

The stastical data regarding different categories of registered poultry farmers have been presented in Table 3, which indicated that the calculated values of 'Z' was 3.79, for big and medium farmers, 7.54 for big

Table 3. Categorywise comparison between knowledge level of different categories of registered farmers about the recommended poultry farming practices (N = 143)

S.No.	Category one	Category two	Mean score obtained by		"Z" value
			Category one	Category two	
1.	Big farmers (N=65)	Medium farmers (N=49)	72.30	67.33	3.79**
2.	Big farmers (N=65)	Small farmers (N=29)	72.30	63.25	7.54**
3.	Medium farmers (N=49)	Small farmers (N=29)	67.33	63.25	3.43**

** significant at 0.01 level of probability

Table:4 Categorywise comparison between knowledge level of different categories of unregistered farmers about the recommended poultry farming practices N = 105

S.No.	Category one	Category two	Mean score obtained by		"Z" value
			Category one	Category two	
1.	Big farmers (N=22)	Medium farmers (N=30)	56.57	52.43	2.28*
2.	Big farmers (N=22)	Small farmers (N=53)	56.27	46.69	6.70**
3.	Medium farmers (N=30)	Small farmers (N=53)	52.43	46.69	4.56**

** significant at 0.01 level of probability

* significant at 0.05 level of probability

and small farmers, 3.43 for medium and small registered farmers which were statistically significant at one per cent level of probability. Therefore, it might be concluded that there was a significant difference between the knowledge level of big and medium farmers, big and small farmers, medium and small farmers about recommended poultry farming practices. This shows that big farmers might have got more exposure, more contact with poultry training centre and more literacy were found in comparison to the medium and small registered farmer. Similar findings have also been reported by *Satyanaryana and Rao (2000)*.

The data in Table 4 indicate that the calculated values of 'Z' was 2.28 for big and medium farmers, 6.7 for big and small farmers, 4.56 for medium and small unregistered poultry farmers regarding knowledge level about recommended poultry farming practices which were significant at one per cent level of probability, Therefore, it might be concluded that there was a significant difference between the knowledge level of big and medium farmers, big and small farmers, medium and small unregistered poultry farmers about recommended poultry farming practices. This show that big unregistered poultry farmers might have also obtained more contact with near by progressive poultry farmers and more literacy were found in comparison to the

medium and small unregistered farmer. Similar findings have also been reported by *Satyanaryana and Rao (2000)*.

CONCLUSION

It was observed that registered big farmers were having medium low and high knowledge about recommended poultry farming practices, respectively. While registered medium farmers were found to have medium low and high knowledge, respectively regarding recommended poultry farming practices, whereas small registered poultry farmers had medium, low and high knowledge, respectively, regarding recommended poultry farming practices. It was also observed that these was a highly significant difference between the big and medium, big and small and also between medium and small registered poultry farmers knowledge, about the recommended poultry farming practices. It was also observed that there was a significant difference between the big and medium, big and small, medium and small farmers knowledge about the recommended poultry farming practices.

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