

## **WORK CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL FARM WOMEN IN GOAT REARING PRACTICES IN ERODE DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU**

**<sup>1</sup>N. Vimal Rajkumar and <sup>2</sup>N.V. Kavithaa**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension,  
Madras Veterinary College, Veppery, Chennai, Tamilnadu – 600007

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Erode 638004  
E-mail: kavikulandai1979@gmail.com

**Abstract:** This study was conducted in Erode District of Tamilnadu to explore the extent of work contribution of rural farm women in goat rearing practices. A total of sixty farm families who were actively involved in goat rearing practices were selected. Thus, the sample comprises of sixty farm men and sixty farm women. The data was collected through personal interview method and subjected to statistical analysis. The statistical tool like frequency and percentage were used for analyzing the collected data. The findings of the study revealed that most of the difficult, non cash generating and indoor activities like care and management of pregnant animals, care and management of new born kids and collection and sale of manure, fodder carrying, fodder cutting and chopping and taking animals for grazing were actively performed by 80, 76.66, 63.33 and 60 per cent of the rural farm women. The findings of the study also reveals that rural men were actively involved in health care, decision making and cash generating activities like taking sick animals for medical treatment (93.33 per cent), caring animals for breeding (86.66 per cent), taking the male kids for castration (85 per cent) and marketing of animals(81.66 per cent).

**Keywords:** Goat rearing activities, cash generating activities and marketing.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Women along with men are the main actors in feeding the world. Throughout the world rural or farm women are involved extensively in agricultural operations. Women are the most important segment of human resources who need attention for their development. There is a close relationship between the status of women and the socio-economic development of any country. The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they not only constitute nearly half of the population, but also positively influence the growth of remaining half of the population. A number of research studies had proved their participation in various agricultural activities having complementary roles, sharing agriculture related activities with their male counterpart (Oyesola, 2004).

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Women's participation in agricultural activities is higher than that of men (Prakash, 2003 and Tacio, 2003). Women actively participate in a range of activities related to crop production and livestock management. Rural Women remain busy from dawn to dusk in various agricultural activities and livestock management. Women play the most important role in goat rearing. The role of women in goat keeping is very significant in the rural families and goat is the most important means through which rural women are able to contribute meaningfully to the cash needs for herself and their family members. Goat rearing is the most useful way of women's earning those who stay at home (Rokonuzzaman and Islam, 2009). Keeping these points in mind, the present study was conducted to explore the extent of contribution of rural farm women in goat rearing practices.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Erode District of Tamilnadu to explore the extent of work contribution of rural farm women in goat rearing practices. A total of sixty farm families (60 rural farm men and 60 rural farm women) who were actively involved in goat rearing practices were selected for the study with the help of local leaders and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. The data was collected through personal interview method and subjected to statistical analysis. The statistical tool like frequency and percentage were used for analyzing the collected data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1.** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of extent of their work contribution in goat rearing practices

S.No	Activities	Farm men n = 60		Farm women n = 60	
		Number farm men (f)	Extent of contribution in goat rearing practices by rural men (%)	Number of farm women (f)	Extent of contribution in goat rearing practices by rural farm women (%)
1.	Taking animals for grazing	24	40.00	36	60.00
2.	Collection of leaves and fodder for goat	30	50.00	30	50.00
3.	Preparation of low cost concentrate feed	47	78.33	13	21.66
4.	Feeding and watering of adults and kids	26	43.33	34	56.66
5.	Storage of excess feed and	32	53.33	28	46.66

	fodder				
6.	Fodder carrying, Fodder cutting and chopping	22	36.66	38	63.33
7.	Construction of goat shed	48	80.00	12	20.00
8.	Collection and sale of manure	14	23.33	46	76.66
9.	Cleaning of goat shed	27	45.00	33	55.00
10.	Caring animals for breeding	52	86.66	8	13.33
11.	Care and management of new born kids	14	23.33	46	76.66
12.	Care and management of pregnant animals	12	20.00	48	80.00
13.	Care and management of sick animals	45	75.00	15	25.00
14.	Taking sick animals for medical treatment	56	93.33	4	6.00
15.	Taking the animals for Vaccination and deworming	48	80.00	12	20.00
16.	Taking the male kids for Castration	51	85.00	9	15.00
17.	Marketing of animals	49	81.66	11	18.33

The findings of the study revealed that most of the difficult, non cash generating and indoor activities like care and management of pregnant animals, care and management of new born kids and collection and sale of manure, fodder carrying, fodder cutting and chopping and taking animals for grazing were actively performed by 80, 76.66, 63.33 and 60 per cent of the rural farm women. This might be due to their family situations as their husband migrating towards cities for income generating activities and the women were bestowed with taking care of farm animals and another reason may be that institution of marriage in our society binds the women with more responsible roles of lending a helping hand and support to her husband's activities (Prakash Kumar Rathod et al., 2011). The finding of the study goes along with Toppo et al (2004).

The data in table 1 also reveals that rural men were actively involved in health care, decision making and cash generating activities like taking sick animals for medical treatment (93.33 per cent), caring animals for breeding (86.66 per cent), taking the male kids for castration (85 per cent), marketing of animals (81.66 per cent), taking the animals for vaccination and

deworming and construction of goat shed (80 per cent). A similar result was reported by Lok Nath Paudel et al., 2009.

From the above study it is crystal clear that rural farm women handle most of the critical jobs and are considered to be the main actors in small scale farming. Though women play a significant role in goat farming activities, the income from the enterprise does not remain in the hands of women; this might be due to their lesser involvement in income generating activities. Similar results was reported by Ramasamy (1999) that women only achieved symbolic representation and there are none or little opportunities for them to assume positions such as manager, planner or director in the organizations. So, the extension agencies and government organizations should formulate policies for gender empowerment, gender main streaming and ultimately for the sustainable development of the enterprise. Female extension wing and women training centres should be established at the district level to train and motivate the rural farm women to acquire newer and easier scientific technologies and to enhance their productivity.

## **CONCLUSION**

The finding of the study implies that women were actively involved in indoor activities and male in outdoor activities. So, there is a need for strengthening the extension work by government and non government organizations to ensure a continuous flow of information to the rural women to overcome the obstacle in goat rearing practices and to enhance their productivity.

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