

Impact of Livestock rearing on the economic conditions of people- A case study of Athani Taluq

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Abstract: *Livestock rearing is a cornerstone of the rural economy in Karnataka, supported by state-led initiatives offering financial assistance, training, and veterinary services for key sectors such as dairy, poultry, sheep, and goat farming. This sector, with a recorded 303.3 lakh livestock and 594.9 lakh poultry in 2019, is a vital source of livelihood and financial resilience. Within this framework, women's participation is extensive and often predominant, forming a critical pillar of the industry's workforce and economic output.*

Keywords: *Livestock Rearing, Karnataka, Women's Participation, Rural Economy, Livelihood*

1. Introduction

Livestock rearing in Karnataka is supported by government schemes offering financial assistance and training for dairy, goat, sheep, poultry, and pig farming. The state's Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services department focuses on developing infrastructure, improving animal breeds, providing veterinary care, and promoting animal welfare to boost rural economies and farmer income.

According to the previous census conducted in 2019, Karnataka had a total livestock population of 303.3 lakh and a Poultry population of 594.9 lakhs.

Women in Karnataka are extensively involved in livestock rearing, which is a crucial component of the rural economy and a significant source of livelihood and financial independence for many. Their participation is

high, often as a primary or secondary activity, encompassing a range of animals and tasks.

Key Aspects of Women's Involvement

- **High Participation Rates:** Studies indicate a very high proportion of females in rural Karnataka are engaged in animal care, with women's participation often higher than men's in many livestock activities.
- **Types of Livestock:** Farm women primarily engage in rearing:
 - Sheep** (highest percentage, 32%)
 - Poultry** (24.33%)
 - Cows** (21.67%)
 - Goats** (17%)
 - Buffaloes** (7.67%)
- **Role in Daily Management:** Women typically handle the majority of daily livestock management activities, including: Fodder collection, feeding, and watering

Cleaning animal sheds and managing manure

Milking and processing milk products (ghee/butter)

Providing healthcare for animals and their young

- **Economic Importance and Empowerment:** Livestock rearing provides an essential source of income, particularly for low socio-economic groups and as a form of insurance during crises. Successful women dairy farmers, such as Mangalamma from Mandya district, have been recognized for their significant earnings and for implementing scientific management practices, serving as role models for others.

Objectives:

- 1) To know the role of men and women in cattle-rearing.
- 2) To study the impact of Livestock rearing on economic empowering of women

Research Methodology:

Study was conducted by taking 50 samples of livestock rearing people of Athani taluks Belagavi district was chosen and Average percentage method is been used for the statistical purpose.

Gist of the Survey:

Findings:

- 1) Majority ie 62 percent of them are men and 38 percent of them are females who are involved in live stock rearing.
- 2) Majority ie 50 percent of them are primary and high schools certificate holders.
- 3) Majority ie 96 percent of them are married.
- 4) Majority ie 50 percent of them have three children
- 5) Majority ie 44 percent of their children are educated upto primary level.
- 6) Majority ie 76 percent of them rear buffalos
- 7) Majority ie 64 percent of them have 4 animals.
- 8) Majority ie 94 percent of them are males, who cleans live-stock keeping place.
- 9) Majority ie 76 percent of them are males, who rear live stock
- 10) Majority i.e. 84 percent of them get help from other family members in rearing cattles.
- 11) Majority ie 98 percent of the males will do milking.
- 12) Majority ie 88 percent of them sell milk to diary.
- 13) Majority ie 96 percent of them sell milk.
- 14) Majority ie 96 percent of them feel that they didn't face any difficulty in taking care of animals.
- 15) Majority ie 48 percent of them in case of summer, when they face the shortage of food and water to animals, at that time these people buy it from market.

- 16) Majority ie 96 percent of them after buying food for their cattle, they store it.
- 17) Majority ie 70 percent of them take their cattles to veterinary doctors when their cattles fall sick.
- 18) Majority ie 98 percent of them buy another cattle, if their one cattle dies.
- 19) Majority ie almost all ie 100 percent of them take veterinary doctor's advice.
- 20) Majority ie 98 percent of them got profits.
- 21) Majority ie 88 percent of them got monthly profits more than Rs.1000/-
- 22) Majority ie 92 percent of them sell their cattle in case they face any problem.
- 23) Majority ie 74 percent of them sold their cattle and used that money for marriages.
- 24) Majority ie 88 percent of them opine that cattle rearing don't have any adverse affect on health of their family members.
- 25) Majority ie 70 percent of them purchased gold by selling their cattle.
- 26) Majority ie 76 percent of them got help from government.
- 27) Majority ie 66 percent of them couldn't repay their bank's debt.

Suggestions:

- Majority ie 70 percent of them take veterinary doctor advice and 30 percent of them don't take doctor's advice that means they go for home-made remedies for their animal's treatment. If they use home-made remedies then it will have adverse affect on

the health of their animals leading to the death of the animals.

- Majority ie 92 percent of them sell their cattle in case they face any problems, instead of selling their cattle, they can take it to doctors and go for frequent treatment and check-up with veterinary doctors.
- Majority ie 74 percent of them sold their cattles and used that money for marriages and instead of using for marriages they should have used it for further buying extra cattles and expand their business.
- Majority ie 66 percent of them couldn't repay their debts, as they are using the earned money in unproductive things ie marriages, so they are not able to repay their debts.
- Majority ie 50 percent of them are educated upto primary and high school level so majority of them are not well-educated, if they are well educated then they can approach further to government and doctors and get best for their cattles.
- Majority ie 50 percent of them are not so educated and even their childrens are also not well educated, they too are at educated at primary level, so they should see to that their children are given more education, which will help them further in their business.

- Majority ie 88 percent of them get more than 1000 as their profits for cattle-rearing so they should further invest that money in buying more number of cattles so that they can expand their business.
- Only 38 percent of the females are involved in cattle rearing, so if more number of women join hands with their male counterparts then they can earn more and be economically more strong.
- More training and financial aid to be provided to these people.

Conclusion:

Despite high involvement in labor, women often face constraints in major decision-making processes regarding the sale of animals or access to institutional credit, although their role in decision-making for day-to-day animal health and feeding is high. The work can also be physically demanding, involving long hours collecting fodder and managing animals.

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