SOCIO AND HEALTH CONDITIONS OF SHEPHERDS IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

B. Saida Raju*   Dr. K. Dhanalakshmi**
*Research Scholar, Dept. of Sociology & Social Work, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.
**Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology & Social Work, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.

Abstract
Livestock plays a vital role in rural life and economy even today. In fact, animal husbandry and agriculture are twin occupations, which are practiced by the rural households since ancient times. Livestock rearing being 'a way of life' in rural areas and with more than 70 percent of the people relying on the above activities, it forms the backbone of the rural economy. In fact, combination of livestock rearing and crop production enables fuller utilization of farm by-products, conserves soil fertility and increase the household income. It provides employment especially self-employment and the most valuable supplementary income to the vast majority of rural households, majority of who are small marginal farmers and landless labourers. The present paper reveals that the economic conditions and health conditions of selected shepherds in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Economic factors, health factors, and sheep.

Introduction
Livestock plays a vital role in rural life and economy even today. In fact, animal husbandry and agriculture are twin occupations, which are practiced by the rural households since ancient times. Livestock rearing being 'a way of life' in rural areas and with more than 70 percent of the people relying on the above activities, it forms the backbone of the rural economy. In fact, combination of livestock rearing and crop production enables fuller utilization of farm by-products, conserves soil fertility and increase the household income. It provides employment especially self-employment and the most valuable supplementary income to the vast majority of rural households, majority of who are small marginal farmers and landless laborers.

Livestock provides nutritious protein rich balanced food viz., milk, egg, meat and value added products to the population. In fact, the milk and milk products are the major protein source to the vegetarian population. Organic fertilizer produced by this sector is an important input to crop production and dung from livestock and draught power are chief sources of energy in rural areas. Livestock is not only intricately associated with the social, cultural and traditional values of the region but also serves as an insurance substitute, especially for poor rural households since it is an asset that can be encased during times of distress. Livestock also provides the basic raw material namely, raw hides and skin for leather industry, which has great employment and export potential.

The contribution of livestock sector to the gross domestic product is immense. Between 1980-81 and 2002-03, the share of livestock sector has increased from 4.82 percent to 5.37 percent to the gross domestic product and from 13.88 percent to 26.51 percent to the agriculture sector. The dairy and poultry sectors contributed significantly to this growth. The annual growth rate of dairy and poultry sector is 4.08 percent and 7.09 percent respectively, which have a positive impact on the rural economy. Among, the major items, milk alone accounts for almost 2/3rd of the total value of output from livestock sector.

Review of literature

Review of literature Mohammed (2004)[1] reported that the majority of the Afar pastoralists depend on nomadic pastroralism, the data on occupation/type of activity/ of the surveyed population aged ten years and above, indicates that the major type of activity of the population is pastoralism 76.4%. This is followed by mixing farming 22.9% that is, both farming and livestock rearing (agro -pastoralism).

According to **Gangil and Y.P.S.Dabas (2005)[2]** the level of knowledge of livestock farmers was positively and significantly associated with age, education, land holding, herd size, production, consumption, sale, mass media exposure and extension worker's contact while nonsignificant association was observed between level of knowledge and size of family of respondents. Their training needs showed positive and significant relationship with their herd size. The authors are of the opinion that these variables should be considered at the time of organizing training programmes for livestock farmers.

Kher and Dhas (2006)[3] reported that India also has a large population of nomadic people not all of whom are pastoralists. Indian pastoralists studied and being discussed here live in mixed crop and livestock production systems in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Deccan plateau regions. These pastoralists hail from regions of fragile, semi-arid ecologies that were arguably more suited for grass lands but have seen increasing advent of settled agriculture. They have been engaged in pastoralism as a traditional occupation for generations and have evolved coping strategies that help them co-exist with the agriculturists though the effectiveness of these coping strategies is now increasingly in question.

Kakar (2011)[4] reported that Pastoralists in the Cho listen desert of Pakistan knows the cultural events along their migratory routes and hence they participate in the fairs to sell their male animals and milk. He also reported that stay near the peripheries in the fairs to sell their male animals and milk. They also stay near the peripheries of the cities to sell camel milk, which is usually mixed with buffalo milk by middlemen. Usually the pastoral women sell the camel milk and the earnings go to them.

Mastanbi shaik and et.al (2017)[5] conducted a study on socio-perosnal economic profile of and preferedness of sheep farmers. The study covers Prakasam and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh revealed that majority of sheep farmers belonged to middle age group. Hence, this group of shepherds should be imparted training so that they can act as catalysts in motivating other shepherds through interpersonal networks. As the educational level was low among most of the shepherds, governmental and non governmental agencies should try to educate them through adult education programmes during non grazing hours in order to make them aware of different Animal Husbandry developmental programmes and get their involvement. Traditional sheep rearers can be targeted towards adoption of recommended scientific health care practices through intensive extension education efforts.

Karthik & et.al., (2021)[6] they conducted a study on "Farming systems in sheep rearing: Impact on growth and reproductive performance, nutrient digestibility, disease incidence and heat stress indices". The present study can be concluded that extensive and semi-intensive farming systems imply heat stress in growing sheep, thereby decreasing the growth rate and bodyweight gains. The limited feed resources in extensive farming system may aggravate the weight loss in sheep. It is also evident that the type of farming system has a bigger influence on the quantity and quality of feed intake. The study revealed that the existing extensive rearing system in India could lead to enormous losses of small ruminant's production ability. Gompertz curve parameters facilitates the validation of non-linear

Research Paper
Impact Factor: 6.089
Peer Reviewed Monthly Journal
www.ijmdrr.com

IJMDRR
E- ISSN –2395-1885
ISSN -2395-1877

models in selecting the best performing animals under different managing systems. The intensive or semi-intensive rearing systems may extend lifetime productivity by enhancing reproductive performance of ewes. Intensive sheep evidenced higher gross and net incomes; however, the extensive farming system is proposed as a low-cost business idea for entrepreneurs with inadequate initial capital. Nevertheless, the higher disease incidence, panting scores, and erythrocyte osmotic fragilities reveal the compromised animal welfare in extensive and semi-intensive systems.

Objectives
1. To study the importance of lives of stock in Indian farmers
2. To study and analyse the economic and health conditions of shepherds in Prakasam district
3. To draw the conclusions

Sample Design
Present study adopted the *simple random sampling* method for selection of respondents. The main purpose to select this sampling method is to cover the all shepherds in research area. In the first stage, three revenue mandals were selected purposively based on the population as per the report of Census 2011 where significant shepherds household are located. In the second stage, from each Revenue mandal will take 100 sample. The total size of the sample is 300 which meet the objectives of the study.

Tool used
In the process of analysis of the present study, the researcher used simple statistical tools like percentages, mean and weighted averages.

Results and discussions

Table-1,Type of flock of selected sample respondents in the study area

S.No	Type	Frequency	%
1	Small	174	58.00
2	Medium	104	34.67
3	Big	22	07.33
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

The present table protroyat that the type of flock of the selected shepherds in Prakasam district of Costal Andhra region of Andhra Pradesh. It is found that 58 per cent of the shepherds have small size of flock, 34.67 per cent of the farmer have medium size of flock and it represents 1o4 respondents, and rest of them big size of flock, it shows that only 7.33 per cent in the study area.

Table-2, Number of earning members among the select shepherds

S.No	Earning members	Frequency	%
1	Two	158	52.67
2	Three	69	23.00
3	Four	35	11.67
4	Five and above	38	12.66
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Research Paper
Impact Factor: 6.089
Peer Reviewed Monthly Journal
www.ijmdrr.com

IJMDRR
E- ISSN –2395-1885
ISSN -2395-1877

Every big family have been getting income from various sources like agriculture, agricultural labour, services, business soon. The research intension that how many members have been getting income from the above stated sources. Based on this, the study presents number of earning members in selected shepherds families. It can be found that 52.67 per cent representing 158 sample respondents families have two earning members, 23 per cent of the shepherds families have three earning members, 11.67 per cent respondents families have four earning members and 12.66 per cent of the respondents have five and above earning members in the study area.

Table-3,Details of possession of live stocks among the farmers in the study

S.No	Live stocks	Yes	No
1	Bullock & Bullock cart	53 (18.00)	247 (82.00)
2	Milch Cows	48 (16.00)	252 (84.00)
3	Sheep & Goats	40 (13.00)	260 (87.00)

Source: Field Survey

Table 3 depicted that the particulars of the live stocks possessed by the select respondents in Prakasam district. It is further found that 53 or 18 per cent of the select shepherds farmers have bullock & bullock cart, 48 sample respondents representing 16 per cent and only 13 per cent of the shepherds farmers out of 300 select respondents have milch cows and. On the whole, it is disheartening to notice that a substantial percentage of the select respondents do not possess the live stock.

Table 4,Particulars of Shepherds income levels in the study area

S.No	Income	Frequency	%
1	<30000	05	1.67
2	Rs.30000-Rs.50000	13	4.33
3	Rs.50000-Rs. 70000	121	40.33
4	Rs.70000-Rs.90000	64	21.33
5	Rs.90000 and above	97	32.34
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Income is one of the compulsory components of every human being. Human being moving effectively in the society, because of his/her needs have been fulfilling successfully through getting income from the various sources. So, fulfill needs and wants, definitely earn something. Based on importance of the income, the researcher was focused on income of the sample respondents, collected primary data, tabulate, analyse and presented. It is found from the above table that, various income group of selected shepherds in the Prakasam District and income is classified into various classes like lessthan Rs. 30,000, Rs. 30000 to Rs.50000, Rs.50000-Rs.70000, Rs.70000-Rs.90000, and finally Rs. 90000 and above income group. It can be understood that majority of the sample respondents income group is Rs. 50000-Rs. 70000 it is reported that 40.33 per cent, followed by Rs. 90000 above income group (32.34 per cent), Rs. 70000 to Rs. 90000 (21.33 per cent), Rs. 30000 to Rs.50000 (4.33 per cent) and 1.67 per cent have less than Rs. 30000 income per annum respectively.

It is traced form the study that the majority of the respondents income group between Rs. 50000 to Rs. 90000 and above in the study area.

Table 5,Annual saving amount by the selected shepherds

S.No	Amount (Rs)	Frequency	%
1	< Rs.30000	25	08.33
2	Rs.30000-Rs.40000	142	47.33
3	Rs.40000-Rs.50000	98	32.67
4	Rs. 50000 and above	35	11.67
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Saving is one of the better attitudes towards future needs of human being. Based on this concept, the enumerator has to tried to understand about saving amount of selected households and saving amount have classified in to four groups like lessthan Rs. 30000, Rs.30000-Rs. 40000, Rs. 40000-Rs. 50000, and Rs. 50000 and above group. It is quite interestingly found that majority of the sample shepherds income range was Rs. 30000-Rs. 40000, and it is reported that 142 (47.33 per cent), 98 sample respondents represents 32.67 per cent of shepherds have been saving Rs. 50000 and above, and meager percentage of respondents have been saving amount of Rs. Less than Rs. 30000 per annuam respectively. It can be concluded from the above table that, the saving amount range was Rs. 30000-Rs.50000 having majority of the selected respondents.

Table 6,Opinion of sample respondents on respiratory problems

S.No	Problem	Opinion			Weighted average
		Agree	Disagree	Can't say	
1	Asthma	219 (73.00)	23 (07.67)	58 (19.33)	**0.73**
2	Pneumonia	81 (27.00)	149 (49.67)	70 (23.33)	**0.27**
3	Chronic obstructive pulmonary Diseases (COPD)	162 (54.00)	86 (28.67)	52 (17.33)	**0.54**
4	Tuberculosis (TB)	74 (24.67)	191 (63.67)	35 (11.67)	**0.24**
5	Flue	65 (21.67)	201 (67.00)	34 (11.33)	**0.21**
	Average of weighted average				**0.398**

Source: Field Survey

The researcher has focused another health problems like respiratory problems such as Asthma, Pneumonia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), Tuberculosis (TB), and Flue etc. according to opinion of the respondents among these diseases, 219 respondents have strongly agreed on facing Asthma problem, and 23 shepherds are not agreed, i.e., strongly disagreed.

In case of pneumonia, 27 per cent of the shepherds have facing this problem hence the strongly agreed and 23.33 per cent of them has not agreed or agreed and majority of the respondents has stated that

strongly disagreed. It is further fund that, 54 per cent of the respondents have stated strongly agreed, 28.67 respondents stated strongly disagreed and 17. 33 per cent have can't say in case of Chronic Obstructive pulmonary Diseases (COPD). And in case of Tuberculosis (TB) have also one of the problems which are facing by the shepherds, based on this, 24.67 per cent have strongly agreed, 63.67 per cent have strongly disagreed and rest of them have stated can't say.

Conclusions
In fact, combination of livestock rearing and crop production enables fuller utilization of farm by-products, conserves soil fertility and increase the household income. It provides employment especially self-employment and the most valuable supplementary income to the vast majority of rural households, majority of who are small marginal farmers and landless labourers. The present concluded that the sheep raring is best economic sources (income generating activities) that have patient, committed farmers and also they develop economic dimension rapidly. Hence, the government will support to the shepherds in all the ways like vaccination point, grazing land, increasing the veterinary facilities, awareness programme on health conditions, credit facility soon.

References
1. Mohammed (2004). Pastoral land tenture issues and development in the middle awash valley: Case study on Amibara and Gewane Wore, M.A, Thesis, School of Graduate Studies, Addis Ababa University.
2. Gangil and Y.P. S. Dabas (2005), "Effects of Socio-Economic Variables on the Level of Knowledge and Training needs of Livestock", *Kurukshetra,* February, vol.53 (4), pp.11-15.
3. Kher and Dhas (2006). *How the migrant livestock herd owners of Gujarat and Rajasthan manage water for their livestock,* paper presented at the Annual Partners Meet of IWMI-Tata Water Policy Programme, Anand March.
4. Kakar (2011) Rapid changes of strategy is necessary for development of dromedary camel pastoralism in the Cholistan desert of Pakistan Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice.
5. Mastanbi Shaik, Subrahmanyeswar.b, and Sharma.G.R.K (2017) Analysing the Socio-Personal, Economic profile and Preparedness of Sheep Farmers, *International Journal of Science, Environment*, ISSN 2278-3687 (O) and Technology, Vol. 6, No 3, pp. 1641 – 1649.
6. Karthik, D, Surest.j, Ravindra Reddy.Y, Sharma.J.V.R., Gangaraju.G, Pradeep Kumar Reddy. Y, Yasaswini.D, Adegbeye. M.J, and Ravi Kanth Reddy.P (2021) Farming systems in sheep rearing:Impact on growth and reproductive performance, nutrient digestibility, disease incidence and heat stress indices, published on *line journal Plos one,* January.