

Role of Women in Home Poultry Farming at Athani Taluk

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The paper addresses the topic of women involvement in home poultry farming in Athani Taluk of Belagavi district, Karnataka. One hundred and fifty women reared poultry were chosen and the average percentage method used to analyse the data. The result shows that the main caregivers of poultry are the women, who rear traditional indigenous jawari (desi) hens by traditional care management. Home poultry farming though not well supported by the government and having scarce resources offers supplementary income and enhances the economic status of women in rural areas. The research paper identifies the home poultry farming as a significant livelihood and empowerment practice of women in rural locations.

Keywords: Women, home Poultry, Athani, Gender, Economic Status.

Introduction

Poultry farming is a great part of the rural economy since it generates additional income, nutrition, and jobs among the farm families. Poultry rearing in Athani Taluk is mostly house hold level and it is strictly linked with active involvement of women. In home poultry industries, women are engaged in virtually household duty, such as feeding, breeding, health care management and selling of eggs and birds. Although they have a significant input, their value and contribution tend to be underestimated.

Home poultry farming is also a valuable source of marginal and small farmers in Athani Taluk, where agriculture is the leading source of livelihood. The participation of women in this activity does not only increase household income but also helps towards food security and family welfare. In addition, poultry production empowers women in the rural areas by enhancing decision making power, economic independence and the social value. It is also important to learn how women can be used in home poultry farming to ensure that efficient

rural development plans are designed and to ensure that agricultural production is encouraged with gender inclusivity. This paper tries to analyse the role, obstacles and relevance of women involvement in home rearing of poultry in Athani Taluk.

Objectives of The Study

1. To study the role of women in home poultry farming in Athani Taluk of Belagavi district.
2. To suggest measures for improving home poultry farming and enhancing the economic empowerment of women.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted using a sample of 150 women engaged in home poultry farming from Athani Taluk of Belagavi district. The average percentage method was employed for statistical analysis.

Gist of the Survey:

Findings:

- 1) Majority i.e. 90 percent of the respondents are having nuclear family

- 2) 99 percent of them are females, who are taking care of poultry
- 3) Majority i.e. 68 percent of them fall in the age group of 30-40 years.
- 4) Majority i.e. 60 percent of them are illiterates.
- 5) Majority i.e. 58 percent of them have 6-8 members in the family
- 6) Majority i.e. 44 percent of them have 10-20 hens with them.
- 7) Majority i.e. 48 percent of them have left their hens to get fed by garbage and 40 percent of them feed their birds with flowers.
- 8) Majority i.e. 45 percent of them lay 6-10 eggs per week.
- 9) Majority i.e. 46 percent of them have 2-4 cocks.
- 10) Majority i.e. 70 percent of them have build individual nest for their birds
- 11) 90 percent of their husbands take care of their house.
- 12) 48 percent of them earn more than Rs.2000 in this business.
- 13) 60 percent of these women take care of birds.
- 14) 70 percent of their husbands go for selling birds in the market.
- 15) 66 percent of them get nice money after selling birds.
- 16) Majority i.e. 78 percent of them have jawari(des) hens with them.
- 17) Majority i.e. 78 percent of them opine that 200-300 will be the price through which they sell their birds.
- 18) Majority i.e. 58 percent of them opine to sell Roaster from 300-400 range.
- 19) Majority i.e. 80 percent of them use the waste material of birds as manure
- 20) 52 percent of them are involved in agriculture business apart from poultry.
- 21) Majority i.e. 70 percent of them say that they don't have poultry farm
- 22) 44 percent of them earn monthly income more than 2000
- 23) 54 percent of them spend their earnings from poultry farm for household purpose.
- 24) Majority i.e. 60 percent of them feed their birds in the morning.
- 25) 100 percent of them believed that this poultry business improved them economically.
- 26) Majority i.e. 60 percent of them agreed that poultry farming is not hereditary
- 27) Majority i.e. 58 percent of them said that it takes three weeks to the egg to get converted to chicks.
- 28) Majority i.e. 56 percent of them agreed all hatched eggs become chicks.
- 29) Majority i.e. 60 percent of them said hatching process starts in summer season.
- 30) Majority i.e. 58 percent of them said they rear only jawari(des) hens
- 31) 56 percent of them told it takes birds more than a month to lay eggs.
- 32) 82 percent of them told they haven't got any aids from government.
- 33) 62 percent of them took this business in order to earn income for livelihood
- 34) 66 percent of them sell their birds monthly once.
- 35) 98 percent of them agreed their birds are healthy
- 36) 62 percent of them agreed to take their birds to doctors, if they get any health issues.
- 37) 45 percent of them sell their birds in and around their villages.

38) 68 percent of them fix the rate of eggs as per the market situation or price prevailing in the market.

Suggestions

- 99 percent of the females are involved in this home-poultry business even men should take up this business, as it requires very less capital to start.
- Majority i.e. 68 percent of them fall in the age group of 30-40 years, why only this age group anybody can start poultry farm as less efforts are required to start this business.
- Majority i.e. 58 percent of them have 6-8 members in their family, so one or the other can take care of hens.
- Majority i.e. 60 percent of them are illiterate, so if they are literate or educated, then they could use more scientific method to take care of birds.
- Majority i.e. 44 percent of them have 10-20 hens with them and if they put more efforts and run scientifically then the numbers may grow and they slowly they can go for mini poultry farm at home
- Majority i.e. 48 percent of them leave their hens to eat at garbage, but instead of garbage if they prepare food for birds at home then more nutrition can be given to birds and your hens will be healthier and more nutritious.
- Majority i.e. 46 percent have 2-4 Roasters, its better they increase Roasters so that a greater number of chicks and later hens can be produced and added in your poultry.
- Majority i.e. 90 percent of their household work will be taken care by their husbands which is very good sign and help more women to be empowered in business.

- Majority i.e. 48 percent earn more than 2k in this business which means it's a very profitable business to undergo.

- Majority i.e. 78 percent of them have jawari (desi) hens, if all go for taking care of desi hens then there is more demand for jawari hens, which will lead for you to get more profits.

- Majority i.e. 70 percent of them say that they don't have poultry farm, because they don't think big. If they are literate then they can look for more information on how to take care of birds profitably, more scientifically, then they can protect and grow a greater number of hens and then later on start poultry farms, looking for government financial help to set poultry farm.

- All 100 percent of them believed this business improved them economically its true this business with less capital and efforts can be started.

- Majority 82 percent of them told that they haven't got any help from government, so these people have to approach government or district Industrial Centre to check out if any loans, subsidies are given to these people to start poultry.

Conclusion

The current paper shows the significant contribution of women in home poultry farming in Athani Taluk of Belagavi district. The results indicate that women are the ones who mainly take care of poultry even though the marketing activities are most of the time backed up by the male relatives. The majority of the respondents are members of nuclear families, and they are in active age bracket, with limited resources, and are

practicing poultry in a traditional manner. Native jawari (desi) hens are extensively reared and they are fed largely by low cost means like scavenging and household waste.

Home poultry farming offers a significant background of additional income to rural women albeit with small flock sizes and government lack of support. The household expenses are achieved primarily through the income earned which leads to better economic conditions and security of livelihood. All the respondents have accepted that poultry farming has served to improve their economic status. The study concludes that home poultry farming is a practical and empowering exercise to rural women and more institutional support, training, and veterinary services can reinforce this sector.

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