

HEALTH STATUS OF BACKYARD POULTRY IN BASTAR DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH

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Received 3-5-2015**Accepted 15-8-2015**Corresponding Author: ajay.chaturvedani001@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

The Present study was conducted to assess health care status of tribal backyard poultry in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. A multi-stage random sampling procedure was used to select 120 respondents (12 respondents per village) in the purposively selected study area. A structured interview schedule duly pre-tested and validated was used to elicit information from the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using statistical tools like frequency counts and percentage. The results showed that 86.67% respondents reported major cause of mortality was due to Attack by predators, 66.67% respondents reported disease encountered by avian influenza, 46.67% respondents treated their sick bird by herself with ethno-veterinary medicines and 48.33% vaccinated against New castle disease (ND) with the help of government supplied vaccines.

KEYWORDS : Health care, Backyard poultry, Chhattisgarh**INTRODUCTION**

Backyard poultry farming in tribal villages, which was the primary source of animal protein, and supplementary income for more than 50 per cent of the population of this country, has suffered in the wake of commercialization (Singh, 2000). Rural backyard poultry, though still contributing nearly 30% to the national egg production, is the most neglected one. This is in spite of the fact that their poultry eggs and meat fetch a much higher price than that from commercial poultry. About 70% of the poultry products and eggs are consumed in urban and semi-urban areas and the rural consumption is quite low. One must remember that the cheapest egg and poultry is one which is produced in the backyard/free range or semi-scavenging system (Buragohain *et al.*, 2007). Consequently, due to the changing rural scenario, backyard poultry rearing has taken a back seat and unless laid down a sound health care strategy, it would be impossible to revive this age old practice which is an important tool for nutritional security. Therefore, an appropriate health care strategy is necessary in tribal backyard poultry rearing for hitting two birds with one stone. Firstly, this would help to alleviate the health status of the poultry birds (decrease mortality rate and increase production performance) and secondly, to improve nutritional status of the tribal people. The aim of the present study was to evaluate health status of backyard poultry in Bastar District of Chhattisgarh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was purposively conducted in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. The Bastar district comprises of 7 blocks out of which two blocks (Bakawand and Jagdalpur) were chosen randomly. From each block five villages were selected randomly and from each village, 12 poultry rearing households were selected randomly making a total 120 poultry rearers selected for the study.

Assessing health care was performed by tribal's backyard poultry rearers practices, such as causes of mortality, diseases encountered, treatment of sick birds, types of medicine, vaccination and its source in backyard poultry production. The data were obtained based on structured personal interview schedule and analyzed by using statistical tools like Frequency and Percentage (Saha, 2003)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On having a look into the table 1(a) it is understood that, Majority (86.67%) of the respondents claimed that major cause of mortality was due to attack of predator followed by outbreak of diseases (81.67%) due to poor housing and health care facilities in the tribal villages leads to overcrowding, cannibalism and huddling etc. In backyard poultry majority (66.67%) respondents reported influenza as major disease encountered as the outbreak of Influenza in the year 2012; whereas for all the time, 25.83% respondents believed New castle disease was the most devastating disease in free-range systems, the main cause of high mortality in the tribal area and high speed of disease spread was due to hot and humid climate (Khan, 2009). Most of the death occurred during early stage of life.

Majority (51.67%) of the respondents never vaccinated their poultry birds against any disease because they did not know the importance of vaccines. Whereas 48.33% respondents vaccinated their bird against New castle disease (ND) while 7.50% and 5.83% respondents vaccinated against Marek's disease and Fowl pox respectively. Most of the respondent availed the vaccine from the government supply by paying the nominal charge (Saha, 2003).

Table 1(b) reveals that 55.00% respondents used ethno-veterinary medicines for the treatment of birds because it provides cheaper options than comparable western drugs, and the products are locally available and more easily accessible, so they can easily treat their sick birds by themselves or with the help of *ojha*/ local healer. Whereas 28.33% and 5.00% respondents used allopathic and homeopathic medicines respectively with the help of veterinary doctors for treatment of sick birds (Mondal, 2006).

Tables 1(a):-Distribution of Respondents according to single/multiple responses on Causes of Mortality, Diseases, and Vaccination in backyard poultry as perceived by them

Health care Practices	Total (N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage
Cause of Mortality		
Outbreak of vaccine	10	8.33
Diseases	98	81.67
Chilling	22	18.33
Attack by predators	104	86.67
Diseases Encountered		
Ranikhet	31	25.83
Fowl pox	27	22.50
Infectious bursal disease	2	1.67
Respiratory diseases	11	9.17
Avian Influenza/ Bird flu	80	66.67
Marek's disease	25	20.83
Vaccination		
Marek's disease	9	7.50
Ranikhet (F1)	58	48.33
Fowl pox	7	5.83
No vaccination	62	51.67

Tables 1(b):-Distribution of respondents according to single response on treatment of sick birds, Medicine, and Source of vaccines.

Health care Practices	Total (N=120)	
	Frequency	Percentage
Treatment of Sick Birds		
Ojha/local healer	08	6.67
Self	56	46.67
Veterinary doctor	36	30.00
Homeopathic	06	5.00
Not treated	14	11.67
Type of Medicine Used		
Allopathic	34	28.33
Homeopathic	06	5.00
Ethno-veterinary medicine	66	55.00
Source of Vaccine		
From government supply	47	39.17
Purchase from market	05	4.17
Supply from middle man/local dealer	06	5.00
No vaccination	62	51.67
Total	120	100.00

CONCLUSION

In backyard poultry rearing health care is one of the major management practices for improving production performance and decreasing rate of mortality rate because it needed no or less capital investment for farming activities. Organizing training, vaccination camp and regular medication have generated faith in the farmers to rear the backyard poultry in better and profitable way without the fear of outbreak havoc of poultry diseases. In addition to that improved ethno-veterinary practices and stable supply of high-quality animal food, backyard poultry production promotes income opportunities particularly for the weaker sections in the tribal areas.

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