



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN BALOCHISTAN: POVERTY MITIGATION PROSPECT

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Abstract

With the intention of challenges and opportunities in the livestock sector this research was conducted in Balochistan. Cross-section research design was used. Systematic sampling procedure was applied. Three districts like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were selected. Three hundred livestock farmers were taken 100 from each district. The Chi-Square test was run by using SPSS. P-value was set on ($p < 0.05$) significant. Results revealed that 56% of respondents fell into 31 to 40 years' age categories. Vast majority (89%) of livestock farmers were illiterate. Another vast majority (81%) of the livestock farmers were married and (95%) of the livestock farmers lived in a joint family system. Chi-Square Pearson technique was used. Highly statistically differences were found in various statements like challenges in livestock sector, opportunities in livestock sector and threats in livestock sector at province level (Balochistan). Hence, a significant difference was found on three out of three statements. Extreme poverty is the major obstacle for rural



livestock farmers. In this regard, a solid poverty alleviation policy should be developed to strengthen the socioeconomic condition of the rural farmers or livestock farmers as well as make the livestock sector more productive in Balochistan.

Keywords: livestock and animal husbandry sector, challenges and opportunities, poverty mitigation, Balochistan

1.1 Introduction

Livestock play a significant role in Pakistan's economy. Livestock sector in this regard contributes the major shareholder in the current labor force which constitutes more than 35 million individuals who are directly or indirectly involved in the livestock sector at country level. On the other hand, the livestock industry is a major contributor in the development sector. Animal husbandry sector on the other hand, as the causative sharing or major shareholder around 60.6 % to total agricultural then 11.7 % to the Gross Domestic Product in the period of 2020 in Pakistan. However, in the same years 41.2, 49.6, 5.4, 78.2 and 30.9 million buffaloes, cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep respectively as quantity-wise existed in Pakistan. Alternatively, commercial poultry and broilers were also available with the ratio of 170.1 and 10.36 million respectively in the year of 1999 (PAH, 2011; Wasim, 2020; and Siddiqi, 1977).

Mostly in northern lands and the central region of Pakistan is famous for goat and sheep widely grazing. However, as some standard criteria these sheep wool is exported in foreign in a bulk quantity. In Punjab and Sindh regions the famous livestock breeds like Red Sindhi and Sahiwal were extensively recognized and famous for their dairy products. Furthermore, the livestock sector is the major or vital source for fuel purposes. At the country level, the livestock sector is still a major contributor and has immense potential. The dairy product items and red meat productions at country level are still sufficient. The margarine, grease, sherbet, milk, cheeses and butter is carried out by dairy products. In addition, 41% of milk products have increased in the period of 1990. Similarly, 48% meat production has also been enlarged in the period of 1990. Frequently, instead of the majority or bulk quantity of animals transported but still in Pakistan (rural areas) having vigorous potential within terms of livestock in this regard. Various challenges in this context especially in the livestock sector existed in Pakistan like high animal mortality rates, various disease occurrences in animal or livestock sector as well as unproductive marketing arrangement (PAH, 2011; Wasim, 2020; and Siddiqi, 1977).



Majority of the people in the livestock sector have faced extreme poverty in this aspect. In order to remove the poverty dynamics in the livestock sector, the government of Pakistan has taken basic initiatives to improve the livestock industry. In this aspect, the federal government has started major developmental programs with the assistance of Asian Development Bank so as to make the live sector more productive and beneficial. The socio-economic circumstances of the livestock farmers evolved in the livestock sector. Animal husbandry still remains as the neglect-able and immature sector in Pakistan (PAH, 2011; Wasim, 2020; and Siddiqi, 1977).

1.2 Livestock Sector in Balochistan

Poverty is the threatening and menacing factor in Balochistan, however, the poverty alleviation aspects at province level are directly or indirectly interconnected to the animal husbandry and livestock sector. On the other hand, seventy percent of the demographic population is directly or indirectly evolved into these sectors in Balochistan. Apparently, small cartage industries like wool making, carpet and leather productions are based on the livestock sector. At province level livestock remains a rural based pastoral economy feature which contributes the 4% of GDP and constitutes the 50 percent of labor forces. At provincial level, the red meat production is 2,04,000 and 28,000 tons' mutton and beef respectively annually. But despite these facts and figures the province livestock depicted the bleak picture in the animal husbandry sector and livestock sector was not potentially exploited yet. In previous years the livestock sector was facing a low budgetary allocation. Typically, on the other hand, the livestock sector boasts up and the provincial government distributes a bulky maximal sum (like Rs280 million) so as to promote these sectors. Livestock sector is conventionally based on milk and meat purposes at domestic level so as to enhance the farmers or livestock farmer's socio-economic circumstances (GOP, 2015-16).

In Balochistan the livestock sector was developed to stimulate the vision of 2015 livestock development. In order to reduce the poverty and poverty gap the livestock sector was developing safe and sound products at competitive prices in both national and international markets. The livestock sector in this regard also designed the well marketing value chain to reduce poverty (GOP, 2015-16).

1.3 Problem Statement

Balochistan has very vast rangeland resources that are major places for livestock rendering/rearing. These vast rangelands and pasturing resources provide the suitable atmosphere for livestock. On the other hand, poor physical infrastructure, like insufficient



range management by the government, continuation of outmoded policies, non-availability or lack of appropriate veterinary provision system as major identified difficulties, lack of linkages among the livestock farmers, processors and marketers at province level, poorer marketing systems, insufficient veterinary up-to-date technology transfers in the livestock sector and the like were the major hurdle in this regard. Therefore, present research was determining the challenges and opportunities in the livestock sector in Balochistan within terms of poverty alleviation prospect.

1.4 Objectives Regarding Challenges and Opportunities in the Livestock Sector in Balochistan

1. To check the perceived perception of livestock farmers regarding their socio-economic characteristics outlook.
2. To determine the perceived opinion of livestock farmers about livestock sector enhancement for poverty reduction in rural areas.
3. To develop the perceived view of policy-makers concerning the strategy measures for livestock improvement and mitigation poverty.

1.5 Methodology

Cross-section research design was applied in this research (Gay & Mills, 2006). Perceived perception of the livestock farmers was noted into the survey form. So as to measure the perceived challenges and opportunities in the livestock sector in Balochistan within the poverty alleviation prospect was conducted. In this regard the actualities of the livestock respondents were highly extolled as research ethics. Systematic sampling procedure was applied (Babbie, 2004). Three districts like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were selected as a target population from diverse ecological zones in the province. Three hundred livestock farmers were taken. 100 livestock farmers from each district were selected as a sample size. In order to capture the perception of the livestock farmers a detailed questionnaire was designed. Fitz-Gibbon and Morris (1987) table about selecting sample sizes from a given population was applied. Person to person communication methods were realistically applied. SPSS (a statistical software) was run. Chi-Square test was run based on perceived perception of the livestock farmers (Mohsin et al., 2011). Nevertheless, the p-value was set on ($p < 0.05$) significant.

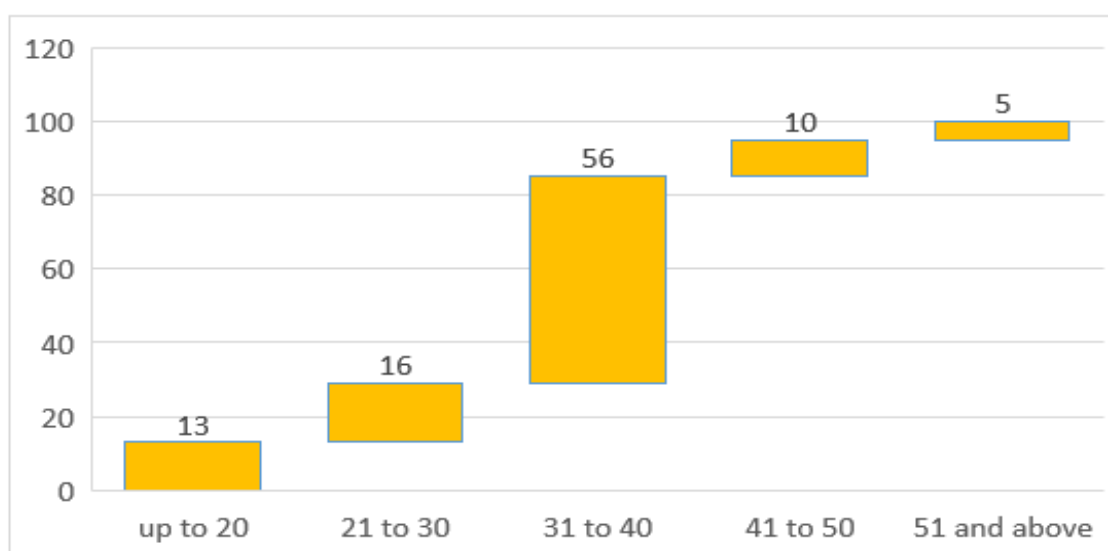
1.6 Study finding

1.6.1 Socioeconomic characteristics



Socioeconomic characteristics remain as the major authority's direction regarding decision-making process. Socioeconomic characteristics of the livestock farmers like the age composition of the livestock farmers, educational level or educational profile of the livestock farmers remains as the main demographic profile (Allahyari *et al.*, 2008; and Fadare *et al.*, 2014).

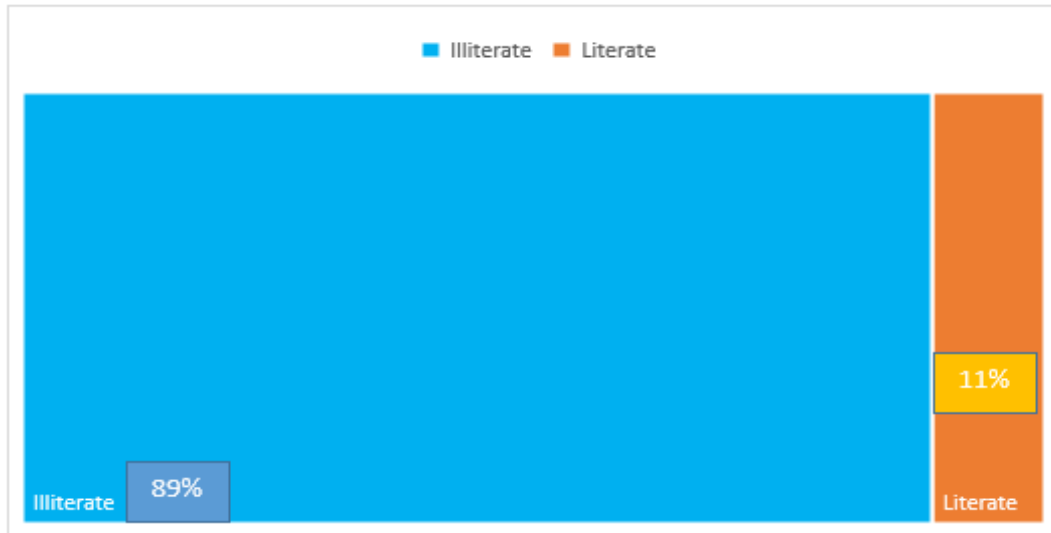
Figure-1, Livestock Farmers Age Distribution



Age is the imperative variable in this research. However, in this regard the data was gathered at field level. Figure-1 depicted the outcome of age distribution. Most 56% of the three district respondents fell into 31 to 40 years' age categories. However, 16-13-10% of the livestock farmers fell into the 21 to 30, up to 20 and 41 to 50 years' age categories respectively.



Figure-2, Livestock Farmers Education Distribution



Education status of livestock farmers was checked on a treemap graph based on or compared the two levels like literate and illiterate on hierarchy possible level or as a rectangle as shown in figure-2. Results showed that the vast majority (89%) of livestock farmers in three districts of Balochistan like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were illiterate and they did not get the formal or religious education at formal institutions and Madressas. Only 11% of livestock farmers in three districts of Balochistan were literate or read and write.

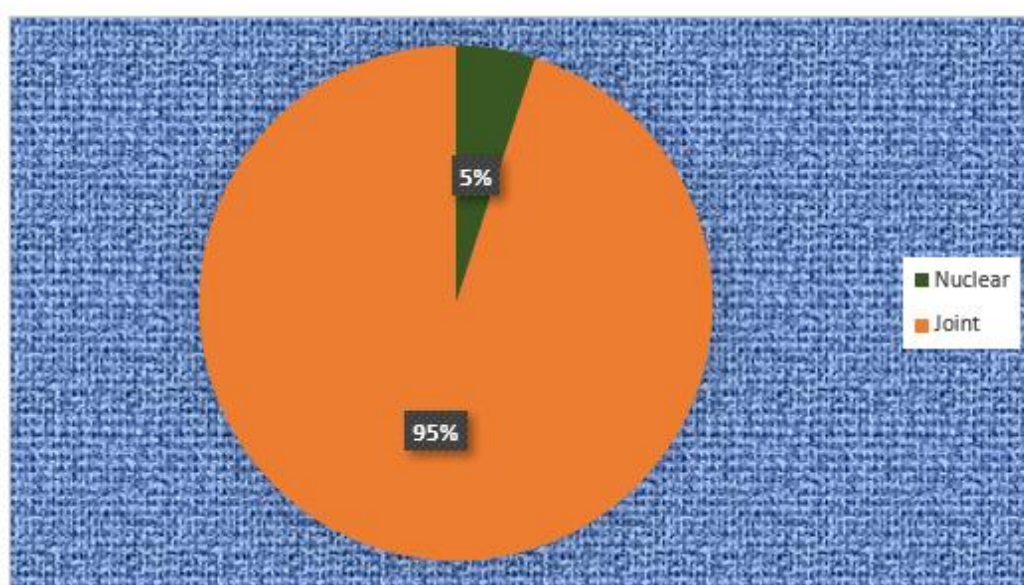
Figure-3, Livestock Farmers Marital Status Distribution





Livestock farmers' marital status distribution were depicted in figure-3. In this regard the data was gathered at field level. Vast majority (81%) of the livestock farmers in three districts of Balochistan like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were married while only 19% of the livestock farmers were unmarried.

Figure-4, Livestock Farmers Family System Distribution



Majority (95%) of the livestock farmers in three districts of Balochistan like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were lived into joint family system, whereas only 5% of the livestock farmers in three districts of Balochistan like Jaffarabad, Mastung and Loralai were lived into single family system (figure-4).



Table-1 Chi-Square Outcome About Challenges, Opportunities And Threats In Livestock Sector In Balochistan

Challenges, opportunities and threats in livestock sector	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
CHALLENGES IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR			
Pearson Chi-Square	38.120 ^a	8	.000**
Likelihood Ratio	40.943	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.024	1	.876
Phi	.356	-	.000
Cramer's V	.252	-	.000
OPPORTUNITIES IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR			
Pearson Chi-Square	76.540 ^a	8	.000**
Likelihood Ratio	85.596	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	20.677	1	.000
Phi	.505	-	.000
Cramer's V	.357	-	.000
THREATS IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR			
Pearson Chi-Square	120.673 ^a	8	.000**
Likelihood Ratio	139.981	8	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.150	1	.000
Phi	.634	-	.000
Cramer's V	.448	-	.000
No. of Valid Cases = Three hundred respondents (300)			
*Significant at 5% alpha level			

Scale: ***<0.01** and p<0.05**



In order to measure the perception of the livestock farmers this research was carried out as shown in table-1. Chi-Square Pearson technique was used in this research in order to determine the challenges, opportunities and threats in the livestock sector in Balochistan. However, the alpha level was set at ($p \leq 0.05$) level. Highly statistically differences were found in various statements like challenges in livestock sector, opportunities in livestock sector and threats in livestock sector at province level (Balochistan). Variable based variations were detected in following items. Otherwise, Chi-Square value was measured at ($p \leq 0.05$) level. On the other hand, substantial value was measured within terms of Phi or Cramer's. Chi-Square values were highly statistically significant such as 38.120a, 76.540a and 120.673a related to challenges in the livestock sector, opportunities in livestock sector and threats in livestock sector respectively as group-wise. Yet, calculated values estimated as an item and set on 005 level. Whereas 000, 001, and 002 values were highly statistically significant. Hence, a significant difference was found on three out of three statements.

1.7 Conclusions and Policy Implications

Extreme poverty is the major obstacle for rural livestock farmers. In this regard, a solid poverty alleviation policy should be developed to strengthen the socioeconomic condition of the rural farmers or livestock farmers as well as make the livestock sector more productive in Balochistan. Red meat consumption patterns should be increased so as to uplift the mutton and beef productivity in order to eradicate the poverty at grass root level. Livestock department at province level should be developed or to plan the better feed and fodder mechanism for animals, reinforce the cattle breeding system or mechanism, healthier animal health facilities, upright disease surveillance mechanism and their diagnosis.



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