

ROLE OF LIVE STOCKS IN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS- A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TWO VILLAGES IN MANIPUR

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The paper attempts to study the role of livestock in supporting the livelihoods of rural households in Manipur. The paper tries to examine whether livestock rearing has a significant role in income generation in the rural households in Manipur. The paper presents a comparative study of two villages in Manipur. Field studies have been conducted in the villages by considering both cultivating as well as non cultivating households to get a complete picture of livestock rearing in these rural households.

Keywords: Livestock, Rural households, Village, Livelihood

INTRODUCTION-

Livestock sector plays a significant role in the development of rural households in India. It provides a variety of food and non food products for consumption and for income generation as well. In India, the major livestock products constitute milk, meat, wool and eggs. Apart from its food production functions, livestock sector also provides draught power, organic manure to crop sectors and other significant contribution such as conservation of the environment (Jabir 2007). It is quite relevant to mention that agricultural activities being seasonal in nature, the livestock sector also provides employment to help in the livelihood pattern of rural farmers during lean season in agriculture in India. Therefore, Livestock husbandry is an important source of economic activity in the agricultural sector and helps in improving the socio economic conditions of the rural people in India (Asif,2010). Besides, the livestock sector also plays an important role in the economy of the farmers in India in such a way that they maintain mixed farming system, that is, a combination of crops and livestock where the output of one enterprise becomes the input of another enterprise. Moreover, Livestock serve as a subsidiary income for many families in India especially the resource poor (Soumyakant, 2017).

The study attempts to understand the status of rural livestock in Manipur. The state of Manipur lies in the extreme north eastern corner of India. Imphal is the capital city of Manipur. Agricultural sector contributes a major share of the total state domestic product and provides employment to about 52.19 per cent of the total workers in Manipur (Economic Survey,2008-09). The total population of Manipur according to census 2011 is 28,55,794, out of which the number of male population is 14,38,586 and that of female is 14,17,208 (Statistical Yearbook,2015).

**Objective-**

- i) To compare the status of livestock in the two villages under study.
- ii) To identify the type of livestock existed in the two villages.
- iii) To examine the role of livestock in the livelihood of the villages.

Methodology:

The study is based on the result of a census survey conducted in two villages, each from two valley districts of Manipur. The first village that has been chosen for the study namely Taobungkhok is situated eight kilometers away from the Patsoi Assembly constituency of Imphal West District. The entire village is surrounded by paddy fields. The village of Patsoi is situated on the west of Taobungkhok, Changangei on the South, Ghari on the East and Langjing on the North. The settlement area of the village is divided into three segments viz, Awang Leikai, Mayai Leikai and Makha Leikai. This village has been chosen to study the status of livestock rearing in a village strongly integrated with the urban economy.

The second village that has been chosen for study namely Tejpur is located at about forty two kilometers away from Imphal under Hiyanglam constituency in Kakching District. The neighbouring village of Hiyanglam and Lamjao lie on the west, Langmeidong and Laimanai on the south, Kakching on the West and Keirak on the north of it. The settlement area in Tejpur too, has been divided into three segments namely Awang Leikai, Mayai Leikai and Makha Leikai.

Information was collected in two rounds of survey, the first round of survey was a preliminary type where no structured questionnaires were used. The purpose of the preliminary survey was to get acquainted with the villages and also with the people residing in it. However, in the second round of survey, that is, the census survey, information was collected on the age and sex distribution of the population in the villages, their education level, occupational structure and finally, the status of livestock rearing in the villages.

The total number of Households in Taobungkhok during the surveyed year, in 2007, is 419 and that of Tejpur is 174. The total population of Taobungkhok is 2288 with 1176 male (51.4 percent) and 1112 (48.6 percent) female population while the total population of Tejpur is 890 with 457 male (51.3 percent) and 433 (48.7 percent) female population. Literacy rate of Taobungkhok excluding children population during the surveyed year is 88.6 per cent including 28 post graduates and one PhD. On the other hand, Tejpur has a literacy rate of 65.4 per cent excluding children population with no post graduate degree holder.

Findings of the study-

Table 1 and Table 2 show the distribution of livestock among cultivating as well as non-cultivating households in Taobungkhok and Tejpur respectively. In both the villages, majority of the operational land holdings are of small and marginal holders. The size classes of agricultural land holdings in the villages have been classified as 0-1 acre, 1-1.5 acres, 1.5-2 acres, 2-3.5

acres, 3.5-5 acres and above 5 acres. It is worth mentioning here that there are no households with size classes of 5 and above acres in Taobungkhok. Besides, there is a category landless households too. Landless households in this study refers to those households that donot have agricultural land for cultivation in both the villages. However, these landless households have small homestead lands.

Table 1

Distribution of livestocks among cultivating as well as non-cultivating households (Taobungkhok)

Size class (in acres)	Bullock	Cows	Pigs	Ducks	Poultry	Total
0-1	4	44	32	30	200	310 (43.6)
1-1.5	0	8	2	60	280	350(49.2)
1.5-2	0	7	1	0	0	8 (1.1)
2-3.5	0	12	3	0	0	15(2.1)
3.5-5	0	2	4	0	0	6(0.8)
5 and above	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landless	2	5	15	0	0	22 (3.1)
Total	6 (0.8)	78 (11.0)	57 (8.0)	90 (12.6)	480 (67.5)	711(100)

Source:Census survey

Note: figure in the parenthesis indicate percentage

Table 2

Distribution of livestocks among cultivating as well as non-cultivating households (Tejpur)

Size class (in acres)	Bullock	Cows	Buffaloes	Pigs	Ducks	Poultry	Total
0-1	4	4	1	7	50	10	76 (26.7)
1-1.5	4	2	1	3	5	5	20 (7.0)
1.5-2	4	2	0	3	5	5	19 (6.6)
2-3.5	6	9	2	6	25	30	78 (27.4)
3.5-5	6	3	0	0	55	5	69(24.2)
5 and above	0	0	0	6	0	0	6(2.1)
Landless	0	1	0	1	15	0	17 (6.0)
Total	24(8.4)	21(7.4)	4(1.4)	26(9.1)	155(54.4)	55(19.3)	285 (100)

Source: Census survey

Note: figure in the parenthesis indicate percentage

In table 1 we see that the types of livestock have been categorized into bullocks, cows, pigs, ducks and poultry in Taobungkhok. Among these livestock, poultry farming occupies a major share with 67.5 per cent of the total livestock followed by duckery consisting of 12.6 per cent. Cows occupy 11 per cent of the total livestock population while piggery occupies only 8.0 per cent of the total livestock population during the surveyed year. The percentage share of bullock among all types of livestock in Taobungkhok is only 0.8 per cent during the surveyed year. This reflects that the use of bullocks in farming have reduced considerably in the village and the phenomenon of mechanization in terms of replacing bullock with machines in farming activities have taken place. This indicates the rising importance of mechanical technology in agriculture within the village. Looking into the picture of livestock according to size classes, cultivating households with size classes of 0-1 acre of agricultural lands occupies 43.6 per cent of the total livestock in the villages. The size class of 1-1.5 acre occupies the major share of livestock with 49.2 per cent. The table shows that the size class of 1.5-2 acre occupies only 1.1 per cent of the total livestock while the size class of 2-3.5 acre occupies 2.1 per cent of the total livestock. The size class of 3.5 to 5 acres occupies only 0.8 per cent of the total livestock in the village. The landless category occupies 3.1 per cent of the total livestock in Taobungkhok.

Table 2 shows that the type of livestock in Tejpur consisted of bullock, cows, buffaloes, pigs, ducks and poultry. Of these livestock in Tejpur, the percentage share of bullock is 8.4 per cent, cattle rearing occupy 7.4 per cent, buffaloes occupy 1.4 per cent, piggery occupies 9.1 per cent, duckery occupies a major share of 54.4 per cent and the percentage share of poultry is 19.3 per cent. On the other hand, the distribution of livestock according to size classes of agricultural land holdings in Tejpur shows that the size class of 0-1 acre occupies 26.7 per cent, 1-1.5 acre occupies 7 per cent, 1.5-2 acre occupies 6.6 percent of the total livestock. The size class of 2-3.5 acre occupies the major share with 27.4 per cent and the size class of 3.5-5 acre occupies 24.2 per cent. The size class of 5 and above acre occupies 2.1 percent while the landless category occupies 6 per cent of the total livestock.

A major difference regarding livestock in the two villages is that in Tejpur, the major share of livestock is occupied by duckery which is more than 50 per cent of the total livestock population while in Taobungkhok, poultry occupies more than 50 per cent of the total livestock population. In Tejpur, buffalo also occupies 1.4 per cent while the study shows that there is complete disappearance of buffaloes in Taobungkhok. It has also been shown in the table that the number of bullocks is more in Tejpur that is, 24 as compared to Taobungkhok which is only 6 during the surveyed period. The paucity of bullock in Taobungkhok gives an implication that mechanization process in agriculture is faster in Taobungkhok as compared to Tejpur.



In Taobungkhok, households having agricultural land with size classes of 0-1 acre and 1-1.5 acre together occupy more than 90 per cent of livestock whereas in Tejpur households with size classes of 2-3.5 acres and 3.5-5 acres together occupies more than 50 per cent of the total livestock.

On the whole, it is reflected in the findings that households depending on livestock as major sources of livelihood were few and limited in both the village. Therefore, apart from livestock, rural households in both the village had to depend on multiple occupations in order to support their livelihood.

CONCLUSION-

It is evident from the findings that the major share of livestock consisted of poultry in Taobungkhok village which is situated close to the urban centre. On the other hand, duckery occupies a major share of the total livestock in the Tejpur village which is situated far from the urban centre. However, major share of these livestock is concentrated within few households in both the village. It is also confirmed from the study that households with livestock as a major source of livelihood were few and limited in numbers and farmers in both the village look for diversified occupation in order to support their livelihood. Thus, steps should be taken up to enhance the scope of livestock rearing in both the village for income generation of the rural households as well as for the development of the rural economy as a whole.

*Note: The surveys referred to in this article are part of the field work conducted for submission of doctoral thesis of the author.

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