

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 7; Issue 6; June 2024; Page No. 351-354

Received: 19-03-2024
Accepted: 24-04-2024

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Constraints faced by Gaushalas in Telangana state

¹Siguram Rohit, ²Muniandy Sivaram and ³Arpula Sairam

¹Ph.D. Research Scholar, ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New-Delhi, Delhi, India

²Principal Scientist, Southern Research Station, ICAR- National Dairy Research Institute, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

³Ph. D. Research scholar, ICAR – Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New-Delhi, Delhi, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2024.v7.i6e.724>

Corresponding Author: Siguram Rohit

Abstract

Gaushalas play a vital role in safeguarding the cattle resources of our country. Gaushalas offer refuge and selfless support to many wounded, stray, old and abandoned cattle. It is a serious challenge to handle Gaushalas effectively in the present context. Lack of funds, insufficient government financial support, inadequate availability of feed and fodder, poor access to technical facilities, weak infrastructure and poor management are some of the persistent challenges facing Gaushala. In order to define and prioritize the constraints faced by Gaushalas in Telangana State, the current study was conducted by surveying 14 Gaushalas spread across the state. The results of the current study clearly show that many Gaushalas in the state face problems such as poor housing conditions, restricted access to veterinary / technical facilities, insufficient land for grazing & fodder cultivation, insufficient funds / capital, lack of labor, etc.

Keywords: Gaushalas, constraints

1. Introduction

Gaushala means an institution established for keeping, breeding, rearing and maintaining cattle for the purpose of reception, protection and treatment of infirm, aged or diseased cattle. It is primarily focused on providing shelter to cows and caters mostly to the needs of non-lactating, weak, unproductive, and stray cattle^[1]. India is blessed with rich livestock diversity. As of 2019 the total cattle population in India has reached to 192.49 million^[2]. Though the major population of cattle in India constitutes indigenous cattle contributing 73.8 per cent of the total population as against 26.2 per cent of crossbred cattle the population of crossbred cattle increased from 39.73 million cattle in 2012 to 50.42 million cattle in 2019 a total increase of 26.9 per cent, but the indigenous cattle population fell from 151.17 million cattle in 2012 to 142.11 million in 2019 a fall of 6.0 per cent^[2]. This decreasing trend of indigenous population is a matter of serious concern as this may lead to loss of diverse genetic base of India. The major reason for this problem is that farmers are showing preference to crossbred cattle over native cattle as the milk yield of crossbred cattle is more when compared to that of indigenous^[3]. Farmers abandon cattle once they cross their productive state as it becomes burden to feed unproductive cattle. When the milk yield of cattle decreases after 7th or 8th lactation farmers stop feeding them and abandon them. Thus, these unproductive & old cattle with no source of feed start wandering on farms and destroying crops. In urban areas, stray cattle are usually found eating plastic and other garbage which eventually leads to severe health problems or even death. These stray cattle also pose a threat to humans

as they usually roam on highways and other roads leading to accidents. With further ban on slaughter of cow the stray cattle population is increasing continuously. At present there are about 50, 21, 587 stray cattle in India and 36,366 in Telangana state^[2]. Solution for these increasing stray cattle population is hard to find. With strict cultural and government restriction against slaughtering of cattle in almost all parts of India it is hard to control their population. Sheltering stray cattle in Gaushalas can provide an alternative. Gaushalas in some states along with sheltering cattle are also taking up breeding activities to preserve the indigenous germplasm. Most of the Gaushalas are expected to have efficient management, veterinary doctors and volunteers who provide shelter, feed and also health care facilities. In view of this understanding various constraints faced by Gaushalas is very helpful as it can be used to direct the effort in meeting most immediate requirements. In the similar studies conducted in Haryana lack of green fodder, High cost of concentrates, Insufficient and irregular government grants, less space and lack of adequate market information are found to be major constraints^[4]. In Karnataka inadequate capital for infrastructure development, high cost of inputs and inadequate support for training and development were important constraints^[5]. Surprisingly no such study has been conducted on Gaushalas of Telangana in this background the present study “Constraints faced by Gaushalas in Telangana state” has been taken up.

2. Materials and Methods

For the purpose of the present study 14 Gaushalas spread

across 10 districts of Telangana have been chosen by implementing purposive sampling method. The management of Gaushalas have been interviewed with a pre-tested interview schedule in order to get relevant information required for the study during the year 2019-2020.

Ranking of constraints

Garret ranking method was used to rank these constraints. After respondents ranking the constraints, they were converted into score values with the help of following formula:

$$\text{Percent position} = 100 \times (R_{ji} - 0.5) / N_j$$

Where R_{ji} = Rank given for the i^{th} variable by j^{th} respondent, N_j = Number of variables ranked by j^{th} respondent.

By using Garrets table ^[6] the scores were developed using percent position values. These scores of each factor by all respondents were added together and then divided by no of respondents to attain average values. These average values were arranged in increasing order, the factor with highest average score is ranked first.

3. Results and Discussion

Constraints faced by Gaushalas

In maintaining large herds of cattle which are generally unproductive, there would obviously be several constraints for gaushalas. These constraints faced by gaushalas in Telangana state were grouped with respect to nine dimensions

viz., housing, feeding, breeding, labour, marketing, institutional, animal health, financial and waste disposal. Based on the responses from management of sample Gaushalas towards these constraints they were ranked using Garret ranking technique. The results are represented in Table 1 to Table 9 along with their average score and Garret rank.

Housing constraints faced by Gaushalas in Telangana state are presented in Table 1. It is observed that less availability of space especially in sheds (74) is found to be major constraint followed by less availability of open space per cattle. Similar findings were reported by Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11].

Table 1: Housing constraints faced by Gaushalas

Housing constraints	Average Score	Garret rank
Less Space (Shed)	74.00	1
Less space (Open)	53.00	2
Lack of provision of cooling in summer	50.00	3
Poor quality roofing material	41.00	4
Lack of cleanliness	40.00	5

Constraints with regard to feeding the cattle in Gaushalas are presented in Table 2. It is seen that high cost of concentrate (70.5) was the major constraint whereas lack of availability of green fodder (66.42) throughout the year was the 2nd major constraint. Similar findings were reported by, Varthan *et al.* (2012) ^[9], Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11].

Table 2: Feeding constraints faced by Gaushalas

Feeding constraints	Average Score	Garret rank
High cost of concentrates	70.50	1
Lack of green fodder	66.42	2
Lack of dry fodder	56.00	3
Unbalanced feed	55.42	4
Lack of land for fodder cultivation	54.42	5
Lack of concentrate	54.35	6
Insufficient feed	44.85	7
Insufficient water	32.64	8
Less storage space	23.35	9

Breeding constraints faced by Gaushalas are presented in Table 3. Unavailability of trained inseminator (59.5) was the major constraint faced by Gaushalas followed by incidence

of reproductive disorder. On the contrary Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11] in Haryana incidence of reproductive disorder was found to be the major constraints.

Table 3: Breeding constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Breeding constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Unavailability of trained inseminator	59.50	1
Incidence of reproductive disorders in cattle	56.28	2
Less availability of improved germplasm	48.57	3
Low conception rate	46.21	4
Problem of heat detection	45.92	5
Inferior bulls used for Natural Service (N.S)	43.50	6

Labour constraints faced by Gaushalas are represented in Table 4. Less availability of labour (63.57) was the major constraint faced by Gaushalas followed by high prevailing wage rates (51.37). Similar findings were reported by Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11] in Haryana and Mohi and Bhatti (2006) ^[6] in Punjab.

Table 4: Labour constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Labor constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Less availability of labour	63.57	1
High prevailing wage rates	51.35	2
Unskilled workers	35.07	3

Marketing constraints faced by Gaushalas are shown in Table 5 and it can be seen that inadequate market information (68.57) is the major constraint faced by

Gaushalas. Similar findings are reported by Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11] in Haryana. The second major constraint is inadequate value addition (54.85).

Table 5: Marketing constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Marketing constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Inadequate market information	68.57	1
Inadequate value addition	54.85	2
Less diversification of products	52.64	3
Delay in payments	42.42	4
Problem of transportation of products	29.5	5

Institutional constraints faced by the Gaushalas are shown in Table 6. Lack of emergency veterinary service (64.42) is the

major constraint followed by difficulty in registration/removal procedure (55.5).

Table 6: Institutional constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Institutional constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Lack of emergency veterinary service	64.42	1
Difficulty in Registration/ Removal procedure	55.50	2
Lack of awareness of new practices	52.85	3
Lack of support of local people in maintaining the gaushala	50.14	4
Problem of proper division of labour	48.00	5
Lack of vehicles to bring the stray cattle	47.78	6
Lack of improved equipment's	47.50	7
Unavailability of ambulance	33.78	8

Animal health constraints faced by the Gaushalas in Telangana state are shown in Table 7. Tick/worm/parasite infestation (65.35) was found to be the major constraint followed by Disease outbreak (53.85). In the similar study conducted by Bijla and Singh (2019) ^[11] in Haryana and Patel *et al.* (2013) ^[7] in Gujarat Injuries due to fighting and high cost of veterinary services were reported as major constraints.

Table 7: Animal health constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Animal health constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Tick/worm/parasite infestation	65.35	1
Disease outbreak	53.85	2
High cost of medicines/ veterinary services	52.85	3
Irregular visits of veterinary staff	44.42	4
Injuries due to fighting or due to male	32.5	5

Financial constraints faced by Gaushalas in Telangana state are shown in Table 8 Irregular government grants (70.35) is found to be major constraint followed by delay in availability of funds (57.78).

Table 8: Financial constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Financial constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Irregular government grants	70.35	1
Delay in availability of funds	57.78	2
Inadequate funds to meet operational expenses	47.42	3
Lack of ease of finance	45.71	4
Auditing of expenditures	27.71	5

Waste disposal constraints faced by the Gaushalas are shown in Table 9 Inadequate space for disposal of dead animals (55.42) is the major constraint faced by Gaushalas followed by Lack of adequate processing of waste from

Gaushalas (54.42).

Table 9: Waste disposal constraints faced by the Gaushalas

Waste disposal constraints	Average score	Garret rank
Inadequate space for disposal of dead animals	55.42	1
Lack of adequate processing of waste	54.42	2
Social taboos in using hoofs and skin	44.57	3

5. References

- 20th Livestock Census report. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; c2019.
- Ali MH, Khan MAS, Islam MN, Khan MKI, Rashid MM, Khatun MJ. Comparative performance study on the *Crossbreds* and indigenous cows under small holder dairy farming. Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences. 2000;3:795-798.
- Bijla S. Economic study of *Gaushalas* in Haryana [dissertation]. Karnal: National Dairy Research Institute; c2018.
- Dhanavandan S. Application of *garret* ranking technique: practical approach. International Journal of Library and Information Studies. 2016;6(3):135-140.
- Mandi K. Management of *Gaushalas* in Karnataka State: An exploratory study [dissertation]. Bengaluru: National Dairy Research Institute, Southern Research Station; 2018.
- Mohi AK, Bhatti JS. Constraints encountered by dairy farmers in adoption of improved dairy farming practices. Journal of Dairying, Foods and Home Sciences. 2006;25(1):47-50.
- Patel NB, Saiyed LH, Rao TKS, Ranjeetsingh R, Modi RJ, Sabapara GP. Status and constraints of dairying in the tribal households of Narmada valley of Gujarat-India. Animal Science. 2013;7(3):31-37.

8. Rohith S, Pradeep R, Sivaram M, Subash S. Economic sustainability analysis of *Gaushalas* in selected districts of Telangana state. *Indian J Dairy Sci.* 2021;74(6):1-7.
9. Varthan JB, Prabhu M, Pandian SS, Kumar KN. Production and marketing constraints in dairy cattle rearing. *International Journal of Veterinary and Animal Sciences.* 2012;8(2):68-71.
10. Yadav DK. Ethno-veterinary practices: A boon for improving indigenous cattle productivity in *Gaushala*. *Livestock Research for Rural Development.* 2007;19(6).
11. Bijla S, Singh A. Economic study of Gaushalas in Haryana: functioning and profitability. *Indian Journal of Dairy Science.* 2019 Jan 1;72(1).