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An Assessment of the Brooke International Extension Related Activities for the Welfare of Equine in District Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract: Equines (include mules, horses and donkeys.) are important draught animals and are used to pull carts and carry loads. Working horses are the most important source of agriculture energy and transport for resource poor communities in both urban and rural areas of developing countries. In Pakistan, role of equine in various capacities is highly admirable but from welfare aspects, they are ignored. A higher percentage of mules and donkeys are suffering from rough abusive and cruel handling practices in Faisalabad. For the welfare of the working donkey, horses and mules the Brooke is doing efforts along with their partners by the alleviation of existing suffering and development of the equine welfare practices. They also provide facilities to prevent and reduce suffering in the future. Faisalabad is the important district of the province Punjab, Pakistan. It has 6 Tehsils, the present study was conducted in Tehsil Faisalabad. Under the Brooke Hospital there were 13 community organizations (COs) working for the welfare of Equines in Tehsil Faisalabad, 6 COs were selected randomly. From each CO 20 respondents were taken by simple random sampling technique, thus making sample of 120 respondents. For the collection of desired data an interview schedule was developed. The collected data was statistically analyzed by using the computer software SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Based on the results it was concluded that majority of the respondents were illiterate and had no land holding. Extension methods mostly used by Brooke Hospital were training meeting, group discussion and result demonstration. Similarly, extension services provided by the Brooke Hospitals such as provision of information about diseases, imparting technical skills, provision of clinical treatment, conducting field demonstration, awareness about feeding practices, water requirement, house management and fodder improvement for equine. It is suggested that steps must be taken to impart education for increasing awareness and the better adopion of modern technologies for the welfare of equine. Brooke hospital should provide technical skills to the equine owners to get acquaint with modern method of animal husbandry. There should be adequate input supply in research to ensure availability of fodder during hot season.

Key words: Brooke · Extension · Welfare of equine · Activities

INTRODUCTION

The livestock sector contributes 55.1% to the value addition in the agriculture sector and 11.6% to GDP. This sector as a whole plays a crucial role in the country's rural economy. It provides employment to 45% rural population. It is also a source of draft power; food, fuel and manure. Equine represent a vital component of livestock [1].

Equines are important draught animals and are used to pull carts and carry loads. Horses have always seems to be the symbol of dignity, power and honour in the world. The horses can withstand in harsh climate found in different parts of Pakistan. They are able to endure temperature even higher than 48-50°C in summer in some areas of the country [2].

Working horses are the most important source of agriculture energy and transport for resource poor communities in both urban and rural areas of developing countries. The 90 million equines in the developing world comprise 80 % of the world's equine population. Horses provide low-cost transport, agriculture power and in many cases, the sole means of generating income for their owners, many of whom live in poverty [10].

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While, healthy and well managed horses are assets, many owners are too poor to access information about animal care and are often remote from veterinary care. Welfare of working horses in developing countries is crucially important, not only for the health and survival of those horses but also for the livelihood of people dependent on them [3].

There are over 90 million equine in the developing world, the highest population concentration in central Asia and East Africa [4]. In Pakistan, role of equine in various capacities is highly admirable but from welfare aspects view points, they are ignored. The overloading has been reported as a major cause of cruelties in draught animal [5]. In developing countries, working horses and mules are mostly used for heavy labour, whether it is hauling heavy loads of cargo up and down a mountain side. Conditions are harsh whether it is extremely hot or cold with rough surface land. The animal may be suffering malnutrition, dehydration, disease, lameness or injury [6].

A higher percentage of mules and donkeys are suffering from rough abusive and cruel handling practices in Faisalabad. Draught animal were facing approximately 90 % more cruel practices then meat type animal [7]. The most commonly thought of draught animals are horses, donkeys, mules and camels. Most organization addressing the health issues of draught animal focus part of their efforts on educating the human beings who care for them. Draught animal live in varying conditions throughout the world but face the worst overall condition in developing nations. Where they are not nourished and took care properly as they are dependent upon the children who are the most often responsible for their care. They don't know how to handle and care for these animals. One of the issues for draught animal is malnutrition. Malnutrition leads to poor health and increased risk of diseases which in turn affect the working capacity of the animals [8].

In Pakistan, the Brooke Hospital is the largest animal welfare organization working since 1991, which aims to improve the welfare of mules, horses and donkeys working in many poor communities throughout Pakistan. It is also providing facilities worldwide for the betterment of the equine to keep them healthy and disease free. It also provides emergency veterinary treatment for the animals and training in animal care and husbandry for their owners who depend on the working equine animals for their livelihoods. Keeping in view the importance of equines, the present study was designed to assess the Brooke's extension related activities for the welfare of Equines. The main objectives of the study were a) to identify the demographic characteristics of the respondent, b) to find out extension methods used by the EFS of Brooke Hospital c) to find out the services provided by the Brooke Hospital in the study area and d) to determine respondent's level of satisfaction about the extension services.

Methodology: Faisalabad is the important district of the Punjab, Pakistan. The present study was conducted in Tehsil Faisalabad. Under the Brooke Hospital there were 13 community organizations (COs) working for the welfare of equines in Tehsil Faisalabad, 6 COs i.e. (i) Malikanwala community, (ii) Pansara community, (iii) Nitriwala community, (iv) Aziz town community, (v) Karadhwala community and (vi) Ilaiyahabad community were selected randomly. From each CO 20 respondents were taken by simple random sampling technique, thus making a total sample of 120 respondents. For the collection of desired data an interview schedule was developed. The collected data was statistically analyzed by using the computer software SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The data was tabulated and percentages calculated for interpretation, discussion and drawing conclusions to formulate suggestions.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics of the respondents like education and size of land holding plays a significant role in collecting the information about the extension activities used by the Extension Field School of Brook Hospital.

The respondents were asked about the number of visits conducted by EFS of the Brooke hospital for treatment of their animals. The data regarding this aspect are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to no. of visit conducted by EFS per month

No. of visit per month	Frequency	%
4	95	79.2
3	20	16.7
2	5	4.7

Table 2: Ranking of extension methods used by EFS of Brooke Hospital

Extension methods	Mean	SD	WS	Rank
Group discussion	1.72	0.51	206	1
Training meeting	1.46	0.53	174	2
Result demonstration	1.42	o.51	156	3
Magazines	1.11	0.34	122	4
Mobile phone	1.70	0.66	34	5
Office calls	1.75	0.46	14	6
Home visits	1.80	0.45	9	7

n=120

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to extension services provided by the Brooke Hospital

Extension services	Frequency	%
Provision of information about disease	117	97.5
Imparting technical skills	115	95.8
Provision of clinical treatment	105	87.7
Provision of material (medicines, supporting equipments etc.)	98	81.7
Conducting field demonstration	117	97.5
Awareness about feeding practices for equine	78	65
Awareness about water requirement for equine	113	94.2
Awareness about housing management of equine	95	79.2
Awareness about fodder improvement for equine	88	73.4

n=120

Table 4: Ranking of extension services providing by Brooke Hospital

Extension services	Mean	SD	WS	Rank
Awareness about housing management for equine	2.63	0.48	316	1
Awareness about fodder improvement for equine	2.56	0.50	307	2
Awareness about water requirement of equine	2.52	0.50	302	3
Provision of material (medicines, supporting equipments etc.)	2.29	0.47	275	4
Awareness about feeding practices for equine	2.28	0.45	274	5
Provision of clinical treatment	2.17	0.44	260	6
Provision of information about disease	2.17	0.61	200	7
Conducting field demonstration	1.58	0.59	190	8
Imparting technical skills	1.48	0.59	178	9

The respondents were asked about the extension methods regarding their use by the EFS of the Brooke Hospital the data regarding this are given in Fig. 2

Table 2 shows the effectiveness of extension methods and most effective extension methods were group discussion and training meeting while least effective methods were office calls and home visits.

The respondents were further asked about the provision of extension services by EFS of the Brooke Hospital. The data regarding this aspect are given in Table 3.

The data given in Table 3 represent the ranking of extension methods used by EFS of the Brooke Hospital to contact the equine owners for giving information to them. The data regarding the mean, standard deviation and ranking of extension methods are given in Table 4.

The Table 4 represents the extension services which were provided by EFS of the Brooke Hospital to the respondents. The data shows the Mean, Standard Deviation, weighted scores and ranking of extension services according to its effectiveness.

Table 4 show the effectiveness of extension services and most effective extension services were awareness about housing management and fodder improvement for equine and least effective were conducting field demonstration and imparting technical skills.

DISCUSSION

Figure 1 indicates that a large majority (77.5%) of the respondents was illiterate and 22.5% were literate. Out of respondents, 15 % had primary, 5 % middle and only 2.5 % had matric. As, from the result it is deduced that illiteracy is the major cause for lack of awareness among equine owners about the care of equines.

The data in Table 1 revealed that a large majority (79.2%) of the respondents were visited by the EFS of the Brooke Hospital four times in a month while 16.7 and 4.7% of the respondents were visited 3 and 2 times, respectively.

The data in Figure 2 discussed the extension method used by EFS of the Brooke hospital and the response of the respondents toward these extension methods. They were almost all of the respondents (99.3%) (94.2) (91.7%) had given more response toward training meeting, group discussion, magazines and result demonstration,

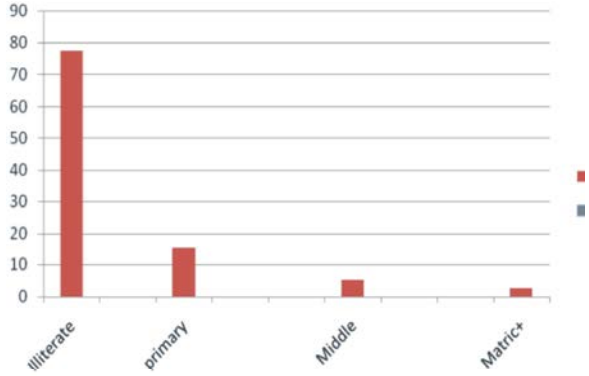

Fig. 1: Distribution of respondents according to their education

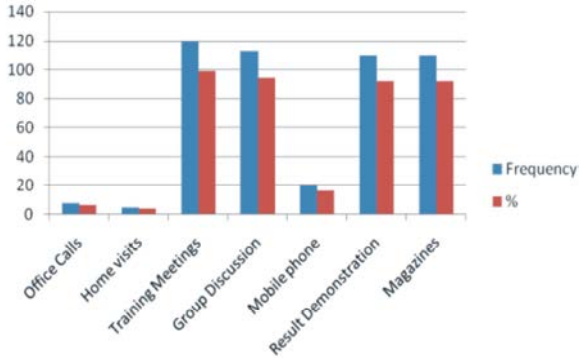

Fig. 2: Distribution of respondents according to extension methods used by EFS

respectively. While, a small number (6.7%) and (4.1%) of the respondents had given response toward office calls and home visits, more than one tenth (16.7%) of the respondents had given response towards the use of mobile phone.

The data in Table 3 showed that large majorities of the respondents 97.5%, 95.5%, 87.7% and 73.4% had positive response toward the extension services like provision of information about diseases, imparting technical skills, provision of clinical treatment, conducting field demonstrations, awareness about feeding practices, water requirement, house management and fodder improvement for equine, respectively. Pearson *et al.* (1998) also discussed the response to clinical treatment as mentioned above.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above mentioned results it was concluded that majority of the respondents were illiterate and had no land holding. Extension methods mostly used by The Brooke Hospital were training meeting, group discussion and result demonstration. Similarly, extensions services provided by the Brooke Hospitals such as provision of information about diseases, imparting technical skills, provision of clinical treatment, conducting field demonstration, awareness about feeding practices, water requirement, house management and fodder improvement for equine. It is suggested that steps must be taken to impart education for increasing awareness and the better adoption of modern technologies for the welfare of equine. Brooke hospital should provided technical skills to the equine owners to get acquaint with modern methods of equine husbandry. There should be adequate input supply in research to ensure availability of fodder during hot season.

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