



Practices Adopted for Backyard Poultry Rearing in Dungarpur District of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The present study covered four tehsils of Dungarpur district namely Dungarpur, Bicchiwada, Aspuri and Sagwara and from each tehsil three villages and 15 poultry growers each from each village were selected for the study. Thus, a total of 180 backyard poultry growers were interviewed through a structured interview schedule to note down various feeding and breeding practices being followed by them. The study revealed that in feeding practices (86.11%) used self-produced feed for poultry birds, 67.78 per cent respondents fed poultry bird twice a day, most of the respondents (86.11%) not used mineral mixture, 75.0 per cent were not using grits, 36.67 per cent used feeders of plastic and 32.78 per cent metallic waterer. In breeding practices, 75.56 per cent respondents were using their own male for breeding purpose.

Key Words: Feeding practices, breeding practices, management practices.

INTRODUCTION

Backyard poultry serves as an inexpensive means for households to generate highly nutritious food commodities at minimal cost. It is an age-old practice carried out by poor farmers and tribal population in rural areas. This backyard poultry production consists of keeping indigenous birds with poor production performances. About 66 per cent of the total population of country still lives in rural part, which predominantly constituted by farmers of poor socioeconomic status *i.e.*, poor, marginal farmers and landless labourer. Backyard poultry farming system profitability can be increased if we adopt an improved indigenous strain of poultry birds (Chatterjee and Rajkumar, 2015). Moreover, the consumers have liking for eggs and meat of indigenous poultry compared to those realized from farm bred chickens or exotic breeds of chicken (Jha and Chakrabarti, 2017). Similarly, backyard poultry manure can be used directly (Pal *et al*, 2020).

The backyard poultry birds have desirable plumage colour with high performance compared

to local indigenous bird with very small change in husbandry practice followed for the indigenous fowl. Crossbred fowl produced using exotic breed is being used for backyard poultry farming (Das *et al*, 2008; Padhi *et al*, 2012). The poultry birds reared in the backyard poultry farming are also important from the biodiversity point of view as they act as a natural scavenger. Budharam *et al* (2021) reported that in health care management practices maximum respondents had veterinary facilities, but did not follow the vaccination schedule, however, respondents provide vaccine to bird after hatching. Hence, a study was conducted to note down various feeding and breeding practices being followed by them so that this information can be used for planning a welfare project for this farming category in the state.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

District Dungarpur comprises of total 8 tehsils, out of which 4 tehsils *i.e.*, Dungarpur, Bicchiwada, Aspuri and Sagwara and from each tehsil three

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Table 1. Distribution of respondents on the basis of practices followed for backyard poultry rearing. N=80.

Particular	Number of respondents	Per cent (%)
Feed		
Formulated at household level	155	86.11
Purchased from market	35	19.44
Frequency of feeding		
Once in a day	58	32.22
Twice in a day	122	67.78
Mineral Mixture		
Yes	35	13.89
No	155	86.11
Fed Grits		
Yes	45	25.00
No	135	75.00
Type of feeder		
Earthen	57	31.67
Metallic	52	28.89
Plastic	66	36.67
Others	5	2.78
Type of waterer		
Earthen	58	32.22
Metallic	59	32.78
Plastic	58	32.22
Others	5	2.78

villages and 15 poultry growers each from each village were selected for the study. To select the villages, a comprehensive list of all the villages consisting backyard poultry farming in selected tehsils was arranged in consultation with the individual of revenue department and Agriculture Technology Information Center. Thus, a total of 180 backyard poultry growers were interviewed to note down various feeding and breeding practices being followed by them so that this information can be used for planning a welfare project for this farming category in the state. The data were recorded at fortnightly interval during investigation period. The questions were offered to them in their local language and Hindi confirming that they got the

queries properly so as to escape any interpretational disparity of the query by the farmers. The answers obtained from respondents were documented and only single respondent was questioned at a time. The data were analysed by using frequency, mean and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Feeding practices followed

It was found 86.11 per cent of respondents used self-produced feed for poultry, while 19.44 per cent used purchased feed. Only 32.22 per cent respondents fed their poultry bird once in a day while 67.78 per cent respondents fed twice a day (Table 1). It was apparent from the data that most of

Practices Adopted for Backyard Poultry Rearing

Table 2. Distribution of respondents on the basis of criteria of selection of eggs for hatching.

Item	Number of respondents	Percent
Selection of eggs for hatching		
Egg size	5	2.78
Egg shape	9	5.00
Both egg shape and size	166	92.22
Type of poultry houses		
Kaccha	22	12.22
Pucca	25	13.89
Mixed	133	73.89

the respondents (86.11%) not used mineral mixture and a very few respondents (13.89 %) were using mineral mixture for backyard poultry. Likewise, most of respondents (75.00 %) were not using grits and used feeders of earthen, metallic, plastic and other materials as 31.67, 28.89, 36.67 and 2.78 per cent, respectively. Further, the respondents used waterer of earthen, metallic, plastic and other as 32.22, 32.78, 32.22, and 2.78 per cent, respectively. Most of the farmers fed own produced feed to poultry birds. These findings were in agreement to Chaturvedani *et al* (2016).

Breeding practices followed

The data (Table 2) revealed that respondents purchasing breeding male from outside was 24.44 per cent and rest of 75.56 per cent were using their own male for breeding purpose. The overall percentage of selection criteria for egg hatching used by the respondents were 2.78, 5.00 and 92.22 for egg size, egg shape and both egg shape and size, respectively. The mean hatchability of the eggs was found to be 77.06 per cent. Perez and Polanco (2003) found higher hatchability of eggs at 87.2 per cent, which was in contradiction to the findings acquired in the present study.

The data (Table 2) revealed that respondents of study area used 12.22 per cent kaccha, 13.89 per cent pucca and 73.89 per cent used mixed of type poultry house. However, Monsi and Ayodele (1989) noticed that poultry birds were reared in open sided house with a concrete floor covered with wood shadings.

Constraints faced

The important constraints faced by the poultry farmers in Dungarpur district of Rajasthan were predator's problems, non-availability of balanced poultry feeds and lack of veterinary facilities.

CONCLUSION

Backyard provides quality nutrition as meat and egg which reduce the malnutrition among rural population of country. The overall aims of development of backyard poultry system are to reduce poverty, malnutrition and increase income of rural poor families. It helps in conserving the natural resources and maintaining biodiversity. Moreover, there is no special infrastructure required for running backyard poultry farm. It can be started in small covered structure surrounded by net wire. In this poultry farming system, rearing of local poultry breeds is an important and best choice for development of backyard poultry production. It is source of livelihood and employment generation tool for the rural population.

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