



# Effect of Training on Knowledge Gain of Livestock Inspectors

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## ABSTRACT

This investigation was done during 2017-18 to study the effect of training on the knowledge gain of livestock inspectors who attended the training programme conducted at College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala. The data were collected using well structure interview schedule. All the fifty six participants were interviewed and pre and post training knowledge score were collected using a teacher made scale for the study. The study revealed that trainees had a positive impact on the knowledge gain by the participants. Women participation was found to be less in the training. The respondents had medium level of favourable opinion about the training. Major suggestion given by participants included improving the lodging and boarding facilities, providing more handouts, conducting training especially during the start of financial year.

**Key Words:-** Livestock, Knowledge, Gain, Kerala, Opinion, Suggestions, Training.

## INTRODUCTION

Veterinary professional plays a vital role in the delivering quality and timely veterinary services for the farming community in the state. Para-medical staffs who assist the Veterinary professionals in the veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions forms the major work force in this sector.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service is the technical department with the main responsibility of ensuring all round development of animal husbandry sector (Aiswarya *et al*, 2019). Moreover, for better job performance of field level personnel, systematic and continuous training for them is a must (Sandika *et al*, 2007). Timely update of current, scientific and relevant changes happening in the field of animal husbandry sector need to be given to the para-medical staffs. During the year 2017-18, livestock inspectors from Kannur, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts were given hands-on training at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala.

Hence, a study was conducted to find out the effect of training on the knowledge gain among the trainees, assess the opinion, satisfaction level and suggestions of the trainees regarding the hands-on training programme.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of fifty six participants who attended the training were interviewed using well structured interview schedule. The pre and post knowledge score were identified by using a teacher made scale and tabulated (Sehgal *et al*, 2021). To analyse overall knowledge gain of the trainees, score obtained from each area of expertise of the subject taught were summed up to the total knowledge score of the participants (Purnima *et al*, 2021). All the data were analysed using total scoring, mean and ‘t’ test. The statistical variables such as frequency, percentage and equal interval method were used for interpretation of data.

The opinion scale consisted of ten statements of which statements from first to eighth be positive

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**Table. 1 Socio-personal variables of the trainees.****N=56**

Sr. No.	Parameter	Category	F	Percentage
1.	Gender	Male	43	76.79
		Female	13	23.21
2.	Age	Old (50 and above years)	20	35.71
		Middle (between 35 to 50 years)	32	57.14
		Young (below 35 years)	4	7.14
3.	Educational qualification	B com – 1	9	16.07
		BA – 2	11	19.64
		BSC. -3	12	21.43
		VHSE – 4	19	33.93
		MSc. – 5	1	1.79
		pre degree – 6	4	7.14
4.	Experience in years	1 to 5	8	14.29
		5 to 10	21	37.50
		above 10	27	48.21

**Table 2. Pair ‘t’ test analysis of training programmes.**

Sr. No.	Name of the training	Number of trainees		Average knowledge score		T-test
		Male	Female	Before	After	
1	Training conducted on 5-9/ march/2018 (Training 1)	11	9	Mean =13.50 SD = 2.598	Mean =17.55 SD = 3.248	7.254**
2	Training conducted on 12-16/march/ 2018 (Training 2)	15	2	Mean =13.24 SD = 3.245	Mean =18.82 SD = 3.655	9.782**
3	Training conducted on 19/23/march/2018 (Training 3)	17	2	Mean =16.79 SD = 2.839	Mean =18.72 SD = 3.193	3.301**

statements whereas, last two (9th and 10th) statements were negative. The scale was plotted in a four point continuum with a score of four for strongly agree, three for agree, two for disagree and one for strongly disagree for positive statements. The overall total score for individual trainees were also calculated and based on equal interval method, these opinion of trainees were classified into three

categories namely, highly favourable, favourable and not favourable opinion categories.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was revealed that (Table 1) majority of the trainees (57.14%) fell into middle age group followed by old age group (35.72%) and by young age (7.14%). It was observed that more than three-fourth (76.79%) of the trainees were male

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**Table 3. Distribution of participant respondents according to their extent of satisfaction with the facilities provided during the training programme. (N=56)**

Extent of satisfaction	Full extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Programme content	52	92.86	3	5.36	1	1.79
Major Instructors	48	85.71	8	14.29	0	0.00
Programme in general	48	85.71	8	14.29	0	0.00
Relevance to your need	35	62.50	20	35.71	1	1.79
Boarding and lodging	20	35.71	11	19.64	35	62.50
Physical facilities in class room	35	62.50	13	23.21	8	14.29
Exposure visit	27	48.21	25	44.64	4	7.14
Study materials given during training	25	44.64	27	48.21	4	7.14
Availability of reading materials	37	66.07	18	32.14	1	1.79

**Table 4. Participant's opinion regarding training programme. (N=56)**

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
A very good educational experience.	33	58.93	22	39.29	1	1.79	0	0.00
I would like to take another programme presented this way	31	55.36	22	39.29	2	3.57	1	1.79
Easy to remain attentive.	21	37.50	34	60.71	1	1.79	0	0.00
Material covered was worthwhile.	21	37.50	28	50.00	4	7.14	3	5.36
Subject was quite interesting.	30	53.57	22	39.29	4	7.14	0	0.00
The faculty demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the subject matter.	32	57.14	19	33.93	3	5.36	2	3.57
Training material supplied was quite interesting and useful.	21	37.50	25	44.64	5	8.93	4	7.14
The exercise sessions were organized very well.	17	30.36	31	55.36	3	5.36	5	8.93
Not much was gained by participation in this programme.	17	30.36	14	25.00	4	7.14	21	37.50
I would have preferred another method of teaching the programme.	11	19.64	26	46.43	4	7.14	15	26.79

participants. Around one-third (33.93%) of them had plus two education in agricultural and allied courses from Vocational Higher Secondary Schools, followed by degree in science (21.43%), degree in Arts (19.64%), degree in commerce (16.07%), pre-

degree (7.14%) and master of science (1.79%). Regarding the work experience, around half of the trainees (48.21%) were having an experience of above 10 yr followed by 5 to 10 yr (37.50%) and one to 5 yr (14.29%).

**Table 5. Suggestion given by participants regarding training programme. (N=56)**

Suggestion	No.	Frequency	Percentage
Must improve the lodging and boarding facilities	I	48	85.71
More hands-on training	II	44	78.57
Provide more training especially during the start of the financial year	III	41	73.21
More effective after training for continuing learning	IV	39	69.64
Provide more reading materials, CD's, leaflets etc.	V	38	67.86
Provide more exposure visits as well as contact address of progressive farmers	VI	33	58.93

Three state level hands-on training conducted during the month of march, 2018 were selected for the study. Altogether fifty six livestock inspectors from southern district of Kozhikode, Malappuram and Kannur attended the five days training programme. A total of fifty six Livestock Inspectors participated, forty three were male and thirteen of them were female. The pre and post knowledge scores improved from 14.51 to 18.36 indicated that there was significant gain in knowledge among the participants. The 't' value was 6.779 indicating high significant knowledge gain.

The data (Table 3.) showed that full satisfaction was observed among 92.86 per cent of the trainees for programme content, 85.71 per cent for major instructors and programme in general and 62.50 per cent for physical facilities in class room respectively. It was also found that satisfaction to some extent was observed for study materials given during training (48.64%) and exposure visit (44.64%). It was also found that 62.50 per cent of respondents were not satisfied with boarding and lodging facilities.

The perusal of data revealed that the respondents studied had medium level of agreement towards most of the statement asked for obtaining the opinion of the training programme. It was also found that more than three-fourth (76.79%) of the respondents had medium favourable opinion about the training programme, followed by less favourable (14.29%) and highly favourable opinion (8.93%) respectively.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the hands-on training, trainees' suggestion was also taken into account. It was found that 85.71 per

cent of the respondents suggested to improve the lodging and boarding facilities for trainees followed by providing more hands-on training (78.57%), providing more training especially during the starting of financial year (73.21%), providing more training as continuing education or learning (69.64%), providing more reading materials, handouts etc. (67.86%) and providing more exposure visits (58.93%) (Sandika *et al*, 2007).

## CONCLUSION

The study revealed the importance of training as one of the core competencies is vital for overall professional competency of the field level workers. Training proved to improve the knowledge level trainees in their core competent area as well. The in-service training should be systematized and regularized or at least the frequency of in-service training should be increased in the future. More emphasis must be given regarding the participation of women as well. Due importance must be given in providing necessary infrastructure and follow-up of trainings.

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Received on 12/11/2021

Accepted on 21/2/2022