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## Constraints faced by pastoral communities of Jammu & Kashmir apropos dairying

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### Abstract

The study was carried out in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Two district Rajouri & Poonch from Jammu division were selected purposively because of being the districts of highest *Gujjar* population. Two districts Anantnag & Baramulla from Kashmir division were selected purposively because of being the districts of highest *Bakarwal* population. 60 respondents (*Gujjars*) from migratory tracts of district Rajouri & Poonch from Jammu division were selected randomly and 60 respondents (*Bakarwal*) from migratory tract of districts Anantnag & Baramulla from Kashmir division were selected randomly comprising a total of 120 respondents. Pastoralists those who were rearing at least 10 milch animals were selected for the study. Garret ranking method was used for prioritization of constraints. "Non-availability of fodders during winter season", "Apathetic government behaviour in times of natural calamities" and "Poor market linkages" were the most serious constraints as perceived by the respondents and Exploitation by the middle man, Poor extension services, Poor veterinary services, Lack of knowledge about clean milk production, Poor road connectivity, Pendency of insurance claim in animal death cases and Exploitation by quacks were the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> most serious constraints as perceived by the respondents respectively.

**Keywords:** pastoralism, gujjar, bakerwal, constraint, dairying

### Introduction

Pastoralists are people who depend primarily on livestock for subsistence. They inhabit in those parts of the world where the potential for crop cultivation is limited. There are about 120 million pastoralists in the world (Rass, 2006) [7]. Pastoralism makes a significant contribution to the economy of developing countries in terms of providing employment and in supplying nutrition to the rural poor. However, as an economic system it is constantly threatened by apathetic government attitude. There are so many pastoral communities in India but Pastoralism in a country like India is under- researched and poorly documented. The pastoral communities of Jammu and Kashmir have retained all the typical characteristics of pastoral communities, viz. migration, having no land for tilling, having livestock as the sole source of subsistence and have no permanent structures. So, pastoral communities of J & K are a typical model to study. To identify and prioritize the constraints faced by the pastoralists regarding dairying, this study was undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

### Research methodology

In the study two districts Rajouri & Poonch from Jammu division were selected purposively because of being the districts of highest *Gujjar* population. Two districts Anantnag & Baramulla from Kashmir division were selected purposively because of being the districts of highest *Bakarwal* population. Sixty respondents (*Gujjars*) from migratory tracts of district Rajouri & Poonch from Jammu division were selected randomly and 60 respondents (*Bakarwals*) from migratory tract of districts Anantnag & Baramulla from Kashmir division were selected randomly comprising a total of 120 respondents. Pastoralists who were rearing at least 10 milch animals were selected for the study. In this study for the purpose of identifying the constraints a semi-structured schedule was developed. In the preliminary survey the respondents were asked to list out the factors which are a barrier in dairying. A final screening and sorting out of the constraints was undertaken depending on their frequency of occurrence. The top ten most frequent constraints were selected for the study and for prioritization Garrett Ranking Technique was used.

Then in the data collection proper the respondents were asked to rank each of the ten factors relevant to them according to the degree of importance as perceived by them. As all the items may not be ranked by all the respondents the method of combining of incomplete order of merit ratings as suggested by Garrett (1981) was followed.

The formula for percent position as suggested by Garrett (1981) is  $\text{Percent position} = 100 (R - 0.5) \div N$

Where R is the rank of the individual item in the series and N is the number of individual items ranked.

Scores for each of the factors after transmutation of orders of merit as per Garrett (1981) was found out. To obtain the final order of merit, the scores for all the respondents for each of the factor was summated and the mean value was calculated. In finding out the mean values, the sum of the scores for each item was divided by its frequency of responses.

### Result and Discussion

The results in Table 1 reveals that “Non-availability of fodders during winter season”, that affects the productivity of the animals as reared by the respondents was the most important constraint as perceived by the respondents. This is in line with the report of the working group on Animal Husbandry & Dairying 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-17) submitted to Planning Commission Government of India New Delhi.

**Table 1:** The constraint mean score different rank

Constraint	Mean score	Rank
Non availability of fodder during winter season	77.89	I
Apathetic government behaviour at the time of natural calamity	74.78	II
Poor market linkages	72.34	III
Exploitation by the middle man	61.02	IV
Poor extension services	58.08	V
Poor veterinary services	57.17	VI
Lack of knowledge about clean milk production	53.41	VII
Poor road connectivity	51.54	VIII
Pendency of insurance claim in animal death cases	44.17	IX
Exploitation by quacks	43.06	X

The respondents perceived, “Apathetic government behaviour in times of natural calamities”, as the second important constraint. The respondents off and on encounter the natural calamities like land-slides, snow slides but since the respondents do not possess land and hence don't have records with the Union Territory revenue department. The revenue department being the relief and rehabilitation agency out rightly rejects their claims for compensation. The third important constraint as perceived by the respondents is, “Poor market linkages”, the obvious reason is the nomadic culture by virtue of which permanent bond with the fixed marketing channels cannot be developed and the pastoral location of the respondents rendering them too far from the markets. This leads to poor market linkages. The findings were similar to Singh (1997) [9], wherein he reported that transportation was perceived as the major constraint amongst tribals in Ranchi district of Bihar. The constraint, “Exploitation by the middlemen”, was perceived as the fourth important constraint, the reason may be lack of access to market and lack of preservation and processing facilities. “Poor extension services” was the fifth important constraint as perceived by the respondents, the reason being the poor access to these

communities and lack of popularity and acceptability of extension agencies. This is in consonance with the findings of Acharya (1990) [1] who reported that lack of proper extension, instructions and education about hygiene and prevention of disease was the main constraint in health-care. The respondents perceived, “Poor veterinary services”, as the sixth important constraint. The reason may be the tough terrains in the pastures, lack of infrastructure in these distant locations for trained professionals and apparently ignorant behaviour of the government towards these communities. This is in consonance with the research findings of Selvaraj (2002) [8] in studies among Toda tribe Sothern India and Jarial (2006) [6] in Himachal Pradesh wherein it was reported that lack of A.I Centers, ill equipped A.I centers, lack of services at A.I centers were the main constraints. Similar kind finding were reported by Das (2003) [2] in case of van gujjar of Uttaranchal in north – western part of India. The constraint “Lack of knowledge about clean milk production practices” was the seventh most important constraint as perceived by the respondents. The reason could be complete reliance on localite sources of information. The respondents being members of a typical traditional society have minimum external contact, so lack information on almost all the areas of improved dairy farming practices. Srivastava, 1982 reported on similar lines and revealed that lack of knowledge about scientific dairying was the major constraint as perceived by the respondents. The same was reported by Ganai *et al.*, 2008 [3] for farmers of Kashmir valley. Hussain *et al.* (2011) [4] also reported similar results in district Kupwara of Jammu and Kashmir. This was followed by, “Poor road connectivity”, the pastures are rarely connected to roads mostly horses and mules carry loads to and fro. This may be partly due to climatic conditions where harsh winters compel the farmers to go for intensive management (Ishfaq *et al.*, 2017) [5]. Another important constraint as perceived by the respondents is, “Pendency of insurance claims in animal death cases”, the reason being the red-tapism culture and corrupt practices in the administrative machinery. The constraint, “Exploitation by quacks”, as perceived by the respondents was the tenth important constraint. The reason may be the monopoly of these quacks in areas where trained veterinary professionals do not prefer to go. This exploitation consequently has lead to antibiotic resistance due to administration of sub-normal doses of antibiotics.

### Conclusion

The study revealed that non-availability of fodder in winter months was the most serious constraint as perceived by the respondents. Efforts can be made to help these pastoralists to have access to *kah charai* (land earmarked exclusively as pasture land in revenue records, but under illegal occupation) to these livestock rearers. The government needs to patronize the pastoralists in times of natural calamities, as they are very devastating in nature. The government needs to facilitate marketing of milk and milk products at remunerative prices. Extension agencies need to gear up in this area for helping the respondents to have access to information regarding dairying. The insurance claims need to be settled on a fast track basis so as to avoid the inconvenience faced by the respondents.

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