



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
 ISSN (P): 2349-8242
 NAAS Rating: 5.23
 TPI 2023; 12(5): 3893-3897
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 02-03-2023

Accepted: 09-04-2023

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Influence of non-genetic on production performance traits in Murrah buffaloes: A review

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Abstract

Murrah buffaloes are the cynosure of milch buffalo breed in India having the potential for high milk production and widely used for the up gradation of the local and non-descript animals. Genetic worth is determined by the production efficiency of the animals and due to this, these traits has been a primary part of all breeding strategies conducted for improvement in dairy animals. Apart from this, these production performance traits viz. 305 days milk yield (305 DMY), peak yield (PY), lactation length (LL), dry period (DP), lactation milk yield (LMY), wet average (WA), milk yield per day of calving interval (MCI) and milk yield per day at age at second calving (MSC) are under the influence of non-genetic factors like period of calving, season of calving and parity of the animals. Adjustment for these non-genetic factors is necessary for accurate estimation of genetic parameters. Consideration of environmental influence directs the selection process accordingly and aids in breeding strategy of the herd.

Keywords: Murrah buffaloes, genetic parameters, non-genetic factors, production performance traits

Introduction

Buffaloes are considered as the major backbone for dairy and it contributes to huge milk production in India producing more than 50% of milk production of our country. The total milk production in India during 2021-22 was 221.06 million (BAHS, 2022) [2] with an annual growth rate of 5.29%. among all the buffalo breeds, Murrah breed of buffalo holds a predominant position in term of its production efficiency and maintaining its world class position in milk production. This breed mainly resides in Haryana and the adjoining states of Punjab, UP and Delhi. Production performance of animals is a determinant factor for its economic worth. Genetic parameters along with the influence of non-genetic factors aids in improving the worth of animals in a herd and direct the animal breeders towards the selection of appropriate breeding plan for their farm. The ongoing breeding goals are mainly focused on the production efficiency of the animals, thus considering this in view, production performance traits viz. 305 days milk yield (305 DMY), peak yield (PY), lactation length (LL), dry period (DP), lactation milk yield (LMY), wet average (WA), milk yield per day of calving interval (MCI) and milk yield per day at age at second calving (MSC) were taken into consideration for this review. Along with this, the non-genetic factors like period of calving, season of calving and parity had a influential impact on the production performance traits. Under this background, this review was aimed to evaluate the influence of non-genetic factors on the production performance traits in Murrah buffaloes.

Production performance traits

Averages and factors affecting production performance traits

The reports of earlier researchers depicted in table 1 for prior estimated values of production performance traits viz., 305 days milk yield (305 DMY), peak yield (PY), lactation length (LL), dry period (DP), lactation milk yield (LMY), wet average (WA), milk yield per day of calving interval (MCI) and milk yield per day at age at second calving (MSC) varied from 1686.20 kg (Thiruvankadan, 2011) [45] to 2258.17 kg (Kaur *et al.*, 2020) [24]; 8.87 kg/day (Thiruvankadan *et al.*, 2014) [46] to 13.17 kg/day (Kaur *et al.*, 2020) [24]; 267.15±8.52 (Suresh *et al.*, 2004) [42] to 340.48 days (Kaur *et al.*, 2020) [24]; 121.68 days (Jamal *et al.*, 2018) [20] to 250.50 days (Thiruvankadan *et al.*, 2010) [47]; 1686.20 kg (Thiruvankadan *et al.*, 2010) [47] to 2465.48 days (Kaur *et al.*, 2020) [24]; 6.34 kg/day (Kumar *et al.*, 2014) [28] to 7.29 kg/day (Jamuna *et al.*, 2015a) [21]; 3.20 kg/day (Suresh *et al.*, 2004) [42] to 4.40 kg/day (Patil *et al.*,

2018)^[33] and 1.00 kg/day (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2010b)^[8] to 1.08 kg/day (Patil *et al.*, 2018)^[33].

Effect of period of calving on production performance traits

Pathodiya and Jain (2004)^[32]; Sarkar *et al.* (2006)^[37]; Wakchaure (2008)^[49]; Gupta *et al.* (2012)^[17] and Jamuna *et al.* (2015b)^[22], reported that 305 days or less milk yield (305DMY) was significantly ($p<0.05$) influenced by the period of calving in Murrah buffaloes. Similar results for significant ($p<0.01$) effect of period of calving on 305 DMY was reported by Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42]; Thiruvankadan *et al.* (2010)^[47]; Pawar *et al.* (2012)^[34]; Chaudhari (2015)^[10] and Singh *et al.* (2012)^[40]. Likewise, Jakhar *et al.* (2016)^[19] obtained significant ($p<0.05$) effect of period of calving on LMY, 305DMY and PY. However, Barman *et al.* (2012)^[4], Pawar *et al.* (2012)^[34] and Kumar *et al.* (2014)^[28] reported non-significant effect of period of calving on LMY in Murrah buffaloes. Prakash and Tripathi (1987)^[35] reported no effect of period on PY in Murrah buffaloes and Aziz *et al.* (2001)^[1] reported non-significant effects of period of calving on LL in buffaloes. Significant ($p<0.01$) effect of period of calving on dry period (DP) was reported by Jamal *et al.* (2018)^[20], similar results were reported by Lathwal (2000)^[29] and Sidgel *et al.* (2014)^[39]. Contrarily, Jamuna *et al.* (2015b)^[22] found non-significant effect of period of calving on lactation length (LL). Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42] and Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] reported significant influence of period of calving on MCI in Murrah buffaloes whereas Chakraborty *et al.* (2010b)^[8] and Chaudhari (2015)^[10] found non-significant effect of period of calving on MCI. In addition to this, Chakraborty *et al.* (2010b)^[8] also reported significant effect of period of calving on MSC.

Effect of season of calving on production performance traits:

According to Catillo *et al.* (2001)^[6], season of calving has a mild effect on MY and LL. Kumar *et al.* (2014)^[28] and Jakhar *et al.* (2016)^[19] reported that the season of calving showed non-significant effect on 305DMY which was in accordance with the findings of Singh *et al.* (2011)^[41] in Nili-Ravi breed while contrary reports were reported by Dass and Sadana (2000)^[13]; Thiruvankadan *et al.* (2010)^[47]; Pawar *et al.* (2012)^[34] and Chaudhari (2015)^[10] in Murrah buffaloes. Thiruvankadan *et al.* (2010)^[47]; Chaudhari (2015)^[10] and Kaur *et al.* 2020 reported significant ($p<0.05$) effect of season on PY. Jakhar *et al.* (2016)^[19] found significant effect of season of calving on LL and DP. Similar findings were reported by and Wakchaure *et al.* (2008)^[49]. Likewise, Jamal *et al.* (2018)^[20] reported significant ($p<0.05$) effect on dry period. Similar results were reported by Dass and Sadana (2000)^[13], Lathwal (2000)^[29], Kumar *et al.* (2000)^[26],

Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42] and Sidgel *et al.* (2014)^[39]. In addition to this, Pawar *et al.* (2012)^[34]; Chaudhari (2015)^[10] and reported highly significant ($p<0.01$) effect of season of calving on LMY in Murrah buffaloes. A significant effect of season of calving was also reported by Barman (2009)^[3] and Barman *et al.* (2012)^[4] in Murrah buffaloes. However, Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42] and Kumar *et al.* (2014)^[28] reported non-significant effect of season of calving on LMY in Murrah buffaloes. Significant effect of season of calving on MCI was reported by Kumar (2000)^[26], Dass and Sadana (2000)^[13], Godara (2003)^[16], Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42] and Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] however, Chaudhari (2015)^[10] reported contrary to it. Also, significant ($p<0.05$) effect of season of calving on MSC was reported by Deshpande *et al.* (1992)^[14] and Tekerli and Gundgaon (2005)^[44]. Contrarily, Chakraborty *et al.* (2010b)^[8] in Murrah buffaloes reported non-significant effect of season of calving on MCI and MSC.

Effect of parity on production performance traits

Catillo *et al.* (2001)^[6] reported that the calving order (parity) has a positive effect on milk yield especially because older cows produce more milk in shorter lactations. Jakhar *et al.* (2016)^[19] and Kaur *et al.* (2020)^[24] reported significant effect of parity on 305 DMY, PY and LL. Buffaloes were found to attain peak average production (10.13 kg) during second stage of lactation (Kaur *et al.*, 2020)^[24]. Jamuna *et al.* (2015b)^[22] reported significant effect of parity on LL. Parity had non-significant influence on dry period as found by Chaudhari (2015)^[10] and Jamal *et al.* (2018)^[20]. In other research studies, Lathwal (2000)^[29], Jakhar *et al.* (2016)^[19] recorded significant effect of parity on DP and LMY whereas Kaur *et al.* (2020)^[24] reported non-significant effect of parity on LMY. Dhar and Deshpande (1992)^[14], Dass and Sadana (2000)^[13], Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] and Chaudhari (2015)^[10] reported significant ($p<0.05$) effect of parity on LMY, PY, WA and MCI in Murrah buffaloes. Hussain *et al.* (2006)^[18], Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] Chaudhari (2015)^[10] and Jamuna *et al.* (2015b)^[22] reported significant effect of parity on 305DMY and LL in Murrah buffaloes. However, Singh *et al.* (2011)^[41] and Pawar *et al.* (2012)^[34] reported non-significant effect of parity on LMY in Nili-Ravi and Murrah buffaloes, respectively. A non-significant effect of parity on PY was obtained by Chowdhary and Chowdhary (1981)^[11] in Mehsana buffaloes. A non-significant effect of parity on LL was reported by Bharat *et al.* (2004)^[5] and Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] in light breed of buffaloes and Murrah buffaloes, respectively. Dass and Sadana (2000)^[13] and Thiruvankadan (2011)^[45] reported highly significant ($p\leq 0.01$) effect of parity on MCI in Murrah. Suresh *et al.* (2004)^[42] and Chaudhari (2015)^[10] reported non-significant effect of parity on MCI in Murrah buffaloes.

Table 1: Least square mean and heritability estimates of production performance traits

Production Traits			
305 Days Milk Yield (kg)			
No. of obs.	Means \pm SE	$h^2 \pm S.E$	Reference
326	1937.88 \pm 28.56	0.29 \pm 0.25	Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2010a) ^[7]
395	1686.20 \pm 44.40	-----	Thiruvankadan (2011) ^[45]
330	1942.75 \pm 53.79	-----	Gupta <i>et al.</i> (2012) ^[17]
1213	1761.57 \pm 506.91	0.28 \pm 0.08	Singh and Barwal (2012) ^[40]
515	2229.87 \pm 93.70	-----	Pawar <i>et al.</i> (2012) ^[34]
832	2034 \pm 47.97	-----	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[38]
435	-----	0.20 \pm 0.18	Pareek and Narang (2014) ^[30]

479	2086.17±44.66	0.39±0.14	Dev <i>et al.</i> (2015) ^[15]
522	2078.20±31.26	0.15±0.03	Jamuna <i>et al.</i> (2015a) ^[21]
1637	2060.93± 20.22	0.50± 0.08	Jakhar <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[19]
----	1758±31	0.18±0.08	Singh <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[51]
536	2041.27 ± 32.78	0.26±0.18	Patil <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[33]
445	2258.17 ± 95.73	-	Kaur <i>et al.</i> (2020) ^[24]
Peak Yield (kg/day)			
506	-----	0.24±0.13	Chander (2002) ^[9]
326	10.16±0.26	0.19±0.11	Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2010a) ^[7]
1479	10.50±0.30	-----	Singh <i>et al.</i> (2011) ^[41] Nili-Ravi
395	9.09±0.07	-----	Thiruvnkadan (2011) ^[45]
--	12.11±0.27	-----	Tanpure <i>et al.</i> (2013) ^[43]
435	-----	0.48±0.17	Pareek and Narang (2014) ^[30]
1980	8.87±0.05	-----	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[46]
479	9.96±0.11	0.37±0.13	Dev <i>et al.</i> (2015) ^[15]
1637	10.08± 0.96	0.52± 0.08	Jakhar <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[19]
536	10.55±0.25	0.24±0.17	Patil <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[33]
-	11.13±0.44	-	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2017) ^[25]
445	13.17±0.45	-	Kaur <i>et al.</i> (2020) ^[24]
Lactation Length (days)			
1003	303.74± 5.92	---	Yadav <i>et al.</i> (2002) ^[50]
	267.15±8.52	---	Suresh <i>et al.</i> (2004) ^[42]
	269.69±4.87	0.23±0.14	Sachan <i>et al.</i> (2006) ^[36]
441	323.62± 3.73	---	Katneni (2007) ^[23]
1200	321.21± 2.25	0.09±0.07	Wakchaure <i>et al.</i> (2008) ^[49]
628	326.13± 6.70	---	Gupta (2009) ^[52]
698	312.8± 5.7	0.10±0.10	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2010) ^[47]
113	313.16± 0.43	---	Pandey <i>et al.</i> (2015) ^[53]
522	286.08±2.23	-	Jamuna <i>et al.</i> (2015a) ^[21]
1637	311.68 ±3.35	0.36± 0.09	Jakhar <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[19]
445	340.48±14.14	-	Kaur <i>et al.</i> (2020) ^[24]
Dry Period (days)			
1200	164.18± 4.70	---	Wakchaure <i>et al.</i> (2008) ^[49]
698	250.5± 15.9	0.19 ±0.13	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2010) ^[47]
1637	173.34± 5.59	0.23± 0.07	Jakhar <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[19]
742	121.68± 1.39	---	Jamal <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[20]
Lactation Milk Yield (kg)			
698	1686.2± 44.4	0.14± 0.10	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2010) ^[47]
435	---	0.23 ±0.18	Pareek and Narang (2014) ^[30]
698	1855.6± 16.1	---	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[46]
832	2034.88 ±47.97	---	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[28]
1637	2182.82±20.19	0.47±0.08	Jakhar <i>et al.</i> (2016) ^[19]
176	2253.88± 70.15	---	Verma <i>et al.</i> (2017) ^[48]
445	2465.48±130.72	-	Kaur <i>et al.</i> (2020) ^[24]
Wet Average (kg/day)			
560	6.09±0.03	0.36±0.20	Godara (2003) ^[16]
624	5.33±0.12	-	Suresh <i>et al.</i> (2004) ^[42]
326	6.09±0.07	0.19±0.23	Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2010b) ^[8]
462	6.80±0.20	0.22±0.08	Singh and Barwal (2012) ^[40]
1980	6.16±0.04	-	Thiruvnkadan <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[46]
832	6.34 ±0.10	---	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2014) ^[28]
522	7.29± 0.06	0.17±0.4	Jamuna <i>et al.</i> (2015b) ^[21]
479	6.85±0.90	0.36±0.12	Dev <i>et al.</i> (2015) ^[18]
7870	7.00 ±0.22	0.34± 0.03	Parmar <i>et al.</i> (2019) ^[31] Mehsana buffaloes
Milk Yield Per Day of Calving Interval (kg/day)			
1214	3.65±0.07	0.20±0.07	Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2000) ^[26]
560	4.00±0.03	0.26±0.15	Godara (2003) ^[16]
624	3.20±0.13	-----	Suresh <i>et al.</i> (2004) ^[42]
326	3.98±0.06	0.26±0.18	Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2010b) ^[8]
536	4.40±0.07	0.30±0.21	Patil <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[33]
Milk Yield Per Day of Age at 2nd Calving (kg/day)			
326	1.00±0.02	0.27±0.19	Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2010b) ^[8]
536	1.08±0.01	0.28±0.21	Patil <i>et al.</i> (2018) ^[33]

Heritability estimates of production performance traits
Prior heritability estimated values of production performance

traits, as shown in table 1 like 305 days milk yield, peak yield, lactation length, dry period, lactation milk yield, wet average,

milk yield per day of calving interval and milk yield per day at age at second calving varied from 0.15 (Jamuna *et al.*, 2015a) ^[21] to 0.50 (Jakhar *et al.*, 2016) ^[19]; 0.19 (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2010a) ^[7] to 0.52 (Jakhar *et al.*, 2016) ^[19]; 0.09±0.07 (Wakchaure, 2008) ^[19] to 0.36 (Jakhar *et al.*, 2016) ^[19]; 0.19 (Thiruvenkadan *et al.*, 2010) ^[47] to 0.23 (Jakhar *et al.*, 2016) ^[19]; 0.14 (Thiruvenkadan *et al.*, 2010) ^[47] to 0.47 (Jakhar *et al.*, 2016) ^[19]; 0.17±0.04 (Jamuna *et al.*, 2015a) ^[21] in Murrah buffalo to 0.34 (Parmar *et al.*, 2019) ^[31] in Mehsana buffalo; 0.20 (Kumar *et al.*, 2000) ^[26] to 0.30 (Patil *et al.*, 2018) ^[33] and 0.27 (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2010b) ^[8] to 0.28 (Patil *et al.*, 2018) ^[33], respectively.

The content of table 1 reveals the heritability estimates of different fertility traits as age at first calving, service period, conception rate, calving interval, number of services per conception and pregnancy rate ranges from 0.07 (Seno *et al.*, 2010) ^[38] to 0.37 (Wakchaure *et al.*, 2008) ^[49]; 0.07 (Kumar, 2000) ^[26] to 0.32 (Dev *et al.*, 2015) ^[15]; 0.08 (Dash *et al.*, 2015); 0.02 (Patil *et al.*, 2018) to 0.38 (Dev *et al.*, 2015) ^[15]; 0.18 (Patil *et al.*, 2018) and 0.06 (Dash *et al.*, 2015) ^[12] to 0.09 (Jamuna *et al.*, 2015b) ^[22], respectively.

Conclusion

The basic objective of animal breeders is to maximize the production in the farm and carry the production along with its enhancement to next generation. Selection of elite animals keeping in the mind the health status and production efficiency of the animals as to accurately identifying the parents for next generation. Judicious use and meticulous mating of the superior germplasm owning animals gives the tremendous results. Basically, the selection of animals is done on their past records and performances of their parents, siblings and relatives. The variation in the production performance might come from the environmental factors, selection process or combination of both factors. As the literature, non-genetic factors like period of calving, season of calving and parity of animals significantly influenced the production performance traits in Murrah buffaloes. Therefore, adjustment for non-genetic effect is crucial for the accuracy of estimation of genetic parameters.

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