

TRADITIONAL WISDOM OF FARM WOMEN IN TREATMENT OF COMMON AILMENTS OF MILCH ANIMALS

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ABSTRACT

Livestock are the backbone of Indian economy. In order to ensure maximum productivity, they must always be kept in a state of perfect health. The present study was undertaken to explore the traditional treatments of common ailments among animals followed by rural women. Findings of the study indicated that the respondents applied *mahua*, custard apple leaves, *gangali* seeds for cure of Black Quarter and Foot and Mouth disease. Turmeric, fenugreek seeds in Pneumonia, *dhan* and *jyo dalia* for Burcellosis. Internal parasites were treated by feeding neem, *bakaan* tree leaves, *karangaj* leaves. Other diseases like dry cough and wounds were treated by *kanjadi*, *ratanojat* milk, while for digestive disorder, feeding *bail patra*, *ajma*, *mehandi* and *kemaj* beans and pigeon droppings for reproductive disorder were common practices.

INTRODUCTION

Since last decade, attempts have been made by the scientists to analyse the consequences of their developmental efforts. Due importance was given to traditional wisdom prevalent in the society from time immemorial. But the potentialities of these is especially being recognized during these days. The prevalence and dimension of traditional knowledge in the field of animal husbandry are very much. The livestock owners have developed technologies, approaches, production system, livestock breeds based on knowledge gained through generations of experience, keen observation, market demand, their needs etc. It serves the purpose of meeting emergencies with confidence in the absence of modern veterinary hospitals in rural areas.

During the course of time through observation, trial and error and experience, farm women have evolved their own ways and practices to treat the various ailments among animals. All these treatments, which are based upon one's own experience, may be environmentally sound, cost effective and much acceptable to farm families they are used from generations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two villages of

Girwa panchayat samiti of district Udaipur, with 80 farm women. Interview schedule was used for collecting data. The other group of sample included 20 experts from the field of Ayurveda and animal science which was taken for scientific validation of identified traditional treatments for which questionnaire was used. The obtained data were then analysed through calculating frequency and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rural people have their own ways to take care of their animals in various ailments and many of them are still in practice today. The information on this aspect has been gathered on various ailments like viral diseases, bacterial diseases, internal parasites, digestive disorders, reproductive disorders and others. The pertinent information has been presented from Table 1 to 6.

Table 1 clearly portrays that Foot and Mouth Disease was treated mainly by rubbing common salt on affected portion (97.50%), applying ground custard apple leaves, *gangali* seeds, dipping the foot of animal in its urine etc. Out of which two practices i.e. dipping the foot of animal in its urine and applying ground custard apple leaves were considered as scientific by majority of experts (65 to 100%) while rest of the practices were ranked

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either in the category of unscientific or uncertain.

Table 2 reveals that, a majority of respondents (50 to 90%) treated Black Quarter through fomenting with yellow clay, applying mahuva, custard apple

leaves etc. and feeding methi dalia, roonja knots and boiled and mashed fish in that order. All these treatments were considered to be unscientific by 90 to 100 per cent experts except the practice of

Table 1. Traditional treatments of viral diseases and their scientific validation

Viral Diseases	Traditional Treatment	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)		
			Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain
1. Foot and Mouth	1. Rub common salt on affected area.	78 (97.50)	-	20 (100)	-
	2. Dip the foot of animal in its urine	46 (57.50)	20 (100)	-	-
	3. Foment with yellow clay and klin tiles.	30 (37.50)	-	8 (40)	12 (60)
	4. Drench local liquor	7 (8.75)	-	20 (100)	-
	Apply 5. Ground custard apple leaves	47 (58.75)	13(65)	7 (35)	-
	6. Ground <i>Gangali</i> seeds	40 (50.00)	-	10 (50)	10 (50)
	7. <i>Kanjadi</i> oil	25 (31.25)	2(10)	8 (10)	10 (50)
	Feed 8. Dhan dalia + salt	30 (37.50)	-	18 (90)	2 (10)
	9. Black gram chapatti with oil	15 (18.75)	-	15 (75)	5 (25)
	10. Lime water	10 (12.50)	-	16 (80)	4 (20)
2. Rinder Pest	-	-	-	-	
3. Cow Pox	-	-	-	-	

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

Table 2. Traditional treatments of bacterial diseases and their scientific validation

Bacterial Diseases	Traditional Treatment	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)		
			Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain
1. Black Quarter	1. Fomenting with yellow clay	72 (90.00)	-	20 (100)	-
	2. Brauding with hot iron rods	38 (47.50)	-	20 (100)	-
	Apply 3. Mahuva	42 (52.50)	-	18 (90)	2 (10)
	4. Ground custard apple leaves	40 (50.00)	-	20 (100)	-
	Feed 5. <i>Methi dalia</i> + Jaggery	30 (37.50)	-	20 (100)	-
	6. Ground <i>Roonja</i> knots in water.	27 (33.75)	-	7 (35)	13 (35)
	7. Solution of boiled and mashed fish.	17 (21.25)	-	5 (25)	15 (75)
2. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	1. Foment inflamed portion with hot white pebbles	50 (62.5)	-	20 (100)	-
	2. Brauding with hot iron rods	10 (12.5)	-	20 (100)	-
3. Pneumonia	Drench 1. Local liquor 3-4 times	76 (95.0)	-	3 (15)	17 (85)
	2. Mixture of garlic + turmeric + jaggery	74 (92.5)	10(50)	10 (50)	-
	3. Powdered and boiled <i>Adoosa</i> bark extract	40 (50.0)	-	8 (40)	12 (60)
	4. Hot aqueous mixture of galic + asafocida + alum	20 (25.0)	-	7 (35)	13 (65)
Feed 5. Powdered fenugreek seeds in oil or in concentrated ration	72 (90.0)	12(60)	3 (15)	5 (25)	
4. Brucellosis	Feed 1. Pure Ghee	72 (90)	-	10 (50)	10 (50)
	2. <i>Dhan dalia</i> soaked overnight	70 (87.5)	-	6 (30)	14 (70)
	3. <i>Jyo dalia</i>	68 (85.0)	-	9 (45)	11 (55)
5. Anthrax	Drench onion + turmeric + lime water	6 (7.5)	-	-	20 (100)

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

Table 3. Traditional treatments of internal parasites and their scientific validation

Internal Parasites	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)		
		Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain
1. Internal parasite Feed				
Ground neem leaves	76 (95)	20 (100)	-	-
Butter milk + salt	76 (95)	6 (30)	-	14 (70)
Ground <i>Karangaj</i> leaves	64 (80)	-	2 (10)	18 (90)
<i>Bakaan</i> tree leave	40 (50)	-	-	20 (100)
Slightly warm mustard oil	32 (40)	-	20 (100)	-

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

Table 4. Traditional treatments of digestive disorder and their scientific validation

Digestive Disorders	Traditional Treatment	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)		
			Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain
1. Impaction	1. Make animal to tun	20 (25.00)	10 (50)	8 (40)	2 (10)
	Feed 2. Ground <i>Ajma</i> (Omum)	80 (100.0)	20 (100)	-	-
	3. Turmeric + Onion + <i>Ajma</i>	79 (98.75)	10 (50)	10 (50)	-
	4. Hot mixture of <i>Ajma</i> + Asafetida + Salt + Onion + Garlic	79 (98.75)	20 (100)	-	-
	5. Soap solution	25 (31.25)	6 (30)	-	14 (70)
	6. Lime Water	1 (1.25)	-	20 (100)	-
2. Diarrhoea	1. Offer more water to drink	80 (100.0)	-	8 (40)	12 (60)
	Feed 2. Alternate green and dry fodder	55 (68.75)	5 (25)	6 (30)	9 (45)
	3. Ground <i>Sheesham</i> leaves	42 (50.00)	-	4 (20)	16 (80)
	4. Dry <i>Menhdi</i> in water	40 (50.00)	-	6 (30)	14 (70)
	5. Butter milk + salt	40 (50.0)	-	10 (50)	10 (50)
	6. Ground <i>Gobal</i> bark extract	34 (42.50)	-	2 (10)	18 (90)
	7. <i>Jyo dalia</i>	29 (36.25)	-	11 (55)	9 (45)
	8. <i>Dhan</i> flour in water	25 (31.25)	-	11 (55)	9 (45)
	9. <i>Bail Patra</i> in water	17 (21.25)	8 (40)	2 (10)	10 (50)

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

Table 5. Traditional treatments of reproductive disorder and their scientific validation

Reproductive Disorders	Traditional Treatment	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)		
			Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain
1. Prolapse of uterus, vagina and cervix	1. Tie idooni (a round spiral structure made up cotton thread) at the back.	80 (100)	20 (100)	-	-
	Feed 2. Apply paste of ground roots of <i>Beri</i> + <i>Bamboo</i> + <i>Goondi</i>	40 (50)	-	7 (35)	13 (65)
	3. Feed boiled tea leaves	2 (2.50)	-	2 (10)	18 (90)
2. Anaestrus	Feed 1. Steamed jaggery + yellow maize	72 (90)	9 (45)	-	11 (55)
	2. <i>Kemaj</i> beans	56 (70.00)	-	-	20 (100)
	3. Sprouted whole wheat for 10-15 days continuously.	49 (61.25)	20 (100)	-	-
	4. Pigeon droppings in <i>chapati</i>	49 (61.25)	10 (50)	-	10 (50)
	5. Brinjal	25 (31.25)	-	6 (30)	14 (70)

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

feeding solution of boiled and mashed fish and ground ronjha knots about which experts expressed their uncertainty.

The respondents mentioned the two traditional treatments namely fomenting the inflamed portion with hot white pebbles (65%) and brauding with hot iron rods (12.5%) for giving some relief in Haemorrhagic Septicaemia which were opined unscientific by all the experts (100%).

The traditional treatments for Pneumonia were like drenching local liquor, mixture of garlic, turmeric and jaggery, powdered fenugreek seeds in oil etc. as reported by 72 to 76 per cent respondents. From these, drenching mixture of garlic, turmeric and jaggery and feeding powdered fenugreek seeds in oil or in concentrated ration were judged scientific by nearly half of the experts (50 to 60%). Rest of the practices were mainly ranked under uncertain category while few as unscientific.

Majority of the respondents (85 to 90%) fed either pure ghee, dhan or jyo dalia for treatment of Brucellosis with the logic that these things are cold in tasser (nature) whereas abortions mainly occur

due to excess heat in body. The experts were mainly uncertain about these or kept them in unscientific category. None of them judged these as scientific treatment.

Anthrax diseases was one for which very few respondents (7.5%) mentioned the traditional treatment of drenching onion, turmeric and lime water which was judged as uncertain by all the experts (100%). Rest of the respondents (92.5%) consulted veterinary doctors to get relief from it.

A glance at Table 3 highlights that majority of the respondents (80 to 95%) fed grinded neem leaves, butter milk and salt, grinded karangaj leaves for treatment of internal parasites. Out of which feeding grinded neem leaves was judged as scientific by all experts (100%) while feeding butter milk and salt, ground karangaj leaves and bakaan tree leaves were ranked uncertain by most of the experts (70 to 100%) and feeding slightly warm mustard oil was opined as unscientific by them.

Table 4 depicts that a majority of the respondents (98.75 to 100%) gave omum, turmeric, asafetida, garlic, onion etc. for treatment of

Table 6. Traditional treatments of other ailments and their scientific validation

Reproductive Disorders	Traditional Treatment	n=80	Expert Opinion (n=20)			
			Scientific	Unscientific	Uncertain	
1. Dry cough	Drench	Local liquour	78 (97.5)	-	10 (50)	10 (50)
	Offer	Turmeric + salt + oil	40 (50.00)	-	-	20 (100)
2. Skin disease (Mange)	Apply	B.H.C. powder	72 (90.00)	-	-	20 (100)
		<i>Kanjadi + Neem</i> oil	47 (58.75)	5 (25)	-	15 (75)
		<i>Ratanjoat</i> Milk	26 (32.50)	-	10 (50)	10 (50)
		Burnt engine oil	15 (18.75)	-	18 (90)	2 (10)
3. Wounds	Apply	Ground <i>neem</i> leaves	76 (95.00)	20 (100)	-	-
		<i>Kanjadi</i> oil	47 (58.75)	20 (100)	-	-
		Tincture or petrol	42 (52.50)	8 (40)	12 (60)	-
		Ground <i>Adoosa</i> bark	40 (50.00)	6 (30)	2 (10)	12 (60)
		Turmeric + oil	40 (50.00)	20 (100)	-	-
		<i>Kapoor</i> (camphor) balls	15 (18.75)	10 (50)	10 (50)	-
		Kerosene	5 (6.25)	7 (35)	13 (65)	-
		Enable animal to inhale smoke of <i>Googal</i>	24 (30.00)	-	2 (10)	18 (90)

Figures in parenthesis denote percentage.

impaction which was judged as scientific by all the experts. Diarrhea was treated by offering more water (100%) incorporating green and dry fodder alternatively (68.75%) followed by ground sheesham, jyo dalia, bail patra (21.25%) in that order. The use of bail patra only was found to be correct while remaining were either thought to be unscientific or uncertain.

Perusal of Table 5 shows that the disorders like Prolapse of uterus, vagina and cervix were treated mainly (100%) by tying idooni (a round spiral structure madeup of cotton thread) and was also judged as scientific by all the experts, while for rest of the practices like, applying paste of beri, bamboo etc. there was uncertainty among experts.

To treat Anaestrus, majority of respondents (61.25 to 90%) fed steamed jaggery and yellow maize, kemaj beans etc. One third of them (31.25%) also reported to feed brinjal. Out of these, feeding of sprouted whole wheat for 10 to 15 days continuously was judged as scientific by all experts (100%), while remaining practices were judged scientific by nearly half of the experts (45 to 50%).

Table 6 lists the traditional treatment of other ailments and their scientific validation. It is interesting to note that the ailment like dry cough was mainly treated through drenching local liquor (97.5%) and feeding turmeric, salt and oil (50%). From these, use of liquor was termed as unscientific (50%) while turmeric as uncertain by all the experts

(100%).

A majority of the respondents used several alternates to get rid off mange like B.H.C. powder (90%), kanjadi and neem oil, ratanjoat milk (32.5 to 58.75%) etc. Of these, only one practice i.e. kanjadi and neem oil was judged as scientific by one-fourth experts and rest of the practice were judged either unscientific or uncertain by remaining experts.

A majority of the respondents used grinded neem leaves (95%) for the treatment of wounds and was also judged as scientific by all the experts, while other practices like Kanjadi oil, tincture or oil, adoosa bark, turmeric etc. were used by 50 percent respondents, from which kanjadi oil and turmeric were judged scientific by all the experts and rest to be either uncertain or unscientific.

For the treatment of fever by traditional method, only one-third of the respondents (30%) treated it through enabling animal to inhale the smoke of googal about which judges also expressed their uncertainty. Rest of the respondents (70%) consulted veterinary doctors for its treatment.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study led to the

conclusion that most of the ailments among animals were treated by the respondents using their age old practices and were judged as uncertain by experts because the treatments used by the respondents were by use of locally available plants, trees, leaves of various kinds etc. These are not common practice and have never been proved or tested in formal way. But the experts too were of the opinion that the use of all these methods by villagers might be effective, basically as they have been observing their effects in cure and these cannot be denied totally.

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