

Involvement of women in livestock husbandry in urban and peri-urban of Khartoum North Province (KNP) of Sudan

Elniema Mustafa

Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, P. O. Box 52150, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Abstract

A total of 110 livestock producers of which 37 large commercial, 53 small commercial and 20 subsistence households (HHs) distributed in Silate, Kadaro, Halfaya and Bahri city divisions of the Khartoum North Province (KNP), Sudan were randomly selected and interviewed using structured questionnaires. The objectives set for this study is to investigate intra- household division of labour in urban and peri-urban systems. As a general rule women are not involved in large commercial activities such as dairy farms. Although most of the farm job in small commercial farms was done by males, 5.6% of HHs had wives taking role in feeding and only 3.3% HHs had adult females (other than wives) taking role in feeding (cut and carry) and managing young stock, respectively. With regards to decision taking though dominated by males, female members were also involved. The information obtained from the study area demonstrated that there were also gender differences in residential livestock keeping in all the divisions. Males in Silate and Kadaro (peri-urban) divisions were responsible for grazing and cut and carry feed. Females in Bahri city who constituted 75% of the female headed HHs in the study area, were also responsible for cut and carry feed. They also had the same role as males in feeding and milking animals. Males seemed to dominate decision-taking processes in terms of economic activities like buying and selling livestock and products in the subsistence livestock keeping. It appeared that women's labour supply in urban and peri-urban livestock husbandry in KNP can not be underestimated.

Key words: Women Involvement, Urban and Peri-Urban Livestock Systems, Small Commercial, Subsistence.

Introduction

With regard to women economic activities in peri-urban areas discussed by Beneria (1992) and Chant (1994) the two main features of interest are participation in informal sector activities and involvement in urban agriculture. This is because informal activities do not require high levels of education and allow women to combine household responsibilities with income-generation. Gender divisions within urban agriculture can vary from region to another. For example, in Harare, urban agriculture is characterized by a division of labour in which house gardens, where green vegetables are cultivated, are the responsibility of women. Women are also responsible for selling any surplus from the home. Men, on the other hand often look after maize cultivation for household consumption. In West Africa, however, women usually undertake all tasks. By contrast, Salih (1985) reported that the pastoralists, formerly from displaced families, around Omdurman and Khartoum, raise goats and cattle. In this regard, the responsibility of women is to care, water

and milk animals, while men purchase or search for feed and veterinary drugs. While, women sell processed dairy products, fresh milk has been dealt with by men and the income from sales is taken over by men. Women retain control only over poultry production and sale. On the marketing side, Somda et al. (2004) reported that in Gambia, dairy products are sold by households at the farm gate, along the main roads or in the market places.

Materials and Methods

Under the current administrative set up KNR consists of 4 units with several divisions. Of these, city division resembles the urban area. While Halfaya and Kadaro divisions are secondary cities with an urban-peri-urban interface, Silate division is characterized with peri-urban characteristics. For the small and large commercial HHs Halfaya, Kadaro and Silate divisions were chosen. As women are not involved in large commercial activities, the distribution of the 53 small commercial HHs between the three divisions was as

follow: 32 were in Silate, 9 in Kadaro and 12 in Halfaya divisions. The geographical characteristics of the study area were described by (ElNiema, 2008). The sampling frame within the residential study area was designed to include only animal keeping families in the different classes. A total of 20 HHs were randomly chosen from sixteen sample areas resembling the above mentioned divisions. For the purpose of this study, three questionnaires were reproduced. A general questionnaire that assessed the basic information at household level for both small and large commercial HHs while the second one covered the relative profitability and income contribution in small commercial HHs. The third one covered the livestock keeping practices in residential areas. The general questionnaire was pre-tested in the above mentioned divisions. The Single-visit, multiple-subject approach to data gathering as described by (Gilbert et al., 1980) were used in this study e.g. taking notes (questionnaires), as well as taking photographs and the help of some key informants in the area complemented by secondary data. The collected survey data were coded and analyzed using Statistical Packaging for the Social Sciences (SPSS/PC version 11.5) for windows. Frequency and descriptive statistics were used in preliminary analysis to characterize farm households involved in livestock and poultry production in the different study areas, and where ratio measurements had been obtained, T-Tests were employed.

Results and discussion

Gender differences with regard to the different livestock activities varied according to region and intensity of production. In this study although most of the farm job in small commercial farms was done by males, 5.6% of HHs had wives taking role in feeding and only 3.3% HHs had adult females (other than wives) taking role in feeding (cut and carry) and managing young stock, respectively (Figure 1). With regards to decision taking, purchasing of feeds and veterinary drugs and selling of livestock products were mainly activities done by household family. The household owners who were mainly males in 83.3% HHs were responsible for purchasing feed and veterinary drugs, while 63.3% did the marketing of livestock products. A similar finding was also reported by Salih (1985) who indicated that there were also gender differences in the area around Omdurman and Khartoum where pastoralists, formerly from displaced families live. Adult males (other than household owner), wives and adult females were also involved in purchasing or selling products (Figure 1).

The information obtained from the study area demonstrated that there were also gender differences in residential livestock keeping in the KNP divisions.

Males in Silate and Kadaro (peri-urban) divisions were responsible for grazing and cut and carry feed (Table 1 and table 2). Females in Bahri city division, who constituted 75% of the female headed HHs in the study area, were also responsible for cut and carry feed (Table 2). They also had the same role as males in feeding and milking animals (Table 3 and Table 4). This finding is similar to that reported by Richardson and Whitney (1995) who observed gender differences in subsistence livestock keeping in Khartoum State in favour of women being responsible for most of the household activities. Males seemed to dominate decision taking processes in terms of economic activities like buying and selling livestock and products in the subsistence livestock keeping. Table 5 and Table 6 show that purchase or search of feed and veterinary drugs and selling milk and other products were men activities. This might be attributed to the fact that in peri-urban areas men who are already involved in other off farm activities have easy access to urban markets.

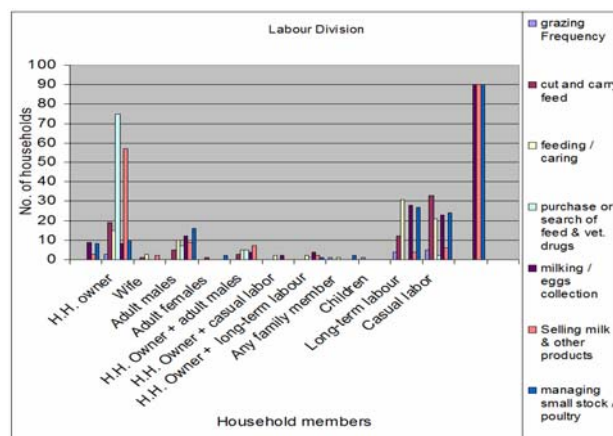


Fig. 1: Family members and labours involvement in different small and large commercial HHs' activities

Table 1: Responsibility of household head for grazing (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Adult males	Silate	5	0	5
Household head	Kadaro	10	0	10

Source: Survey data, 2008

Conclusion and Recommendations

It appeared that women's labour supply in urban and peri-urban livestock husbandry in KNP cannot be underestimated. Although subsistence livestock keepers in residential areas do not keep livestock as a purely commercial activity, still a few households have some products to sell. There is a need to investigate the

minimum hygienic standards required for urban livestock keeping to take place.

Table 2: Responsibility of household members for cut and carry feed (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Household head Adult males	Silate	5	0	5
	Kadaro	5	0	5
	Halfaya	20	0	20
	City	0	5	5

Source: Survey data, 2008

Table 3: Responsibility of household members for feeding animals (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Household head	Silate	15	5	20
Adult males		5	0	5
Household head	Kadaro	25	0	25
Household head	Halfaya	20	0	20
Adult males		5	0	5
Household head	City	10	15	25

Source: Survey data, 2008

Table 4: Responsibility of Household head for milking (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Household head	Silate	15	0	15
Adult females		0	5	5
Household head	Kadaro	15	0	15
Adult males		10	0	10
Household head	Halfaya	20	0	20
Household head	City	5	10	15

Source: Survey data, 2008

Table 5: Responsibility of Household head for purchase or search of feed & veterinary drugs (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Household head	Silate	15	0	15
Adult males		5	0	5
Adult females		0	5	5
Household head	Kadaro	20	0	20
Household head	Halfaya	25	0	25
Household head	City	10	10	20
Adult males		5	0	5

Source: Survey data, 2008

Table 6: Responsibility of Household head for selling milk & other products (% of HHs)

	Area	Gender of household head		Total
		Male	Female	
Household head	Kadaro	5	0	5
Adult males		5	0	5
Household head	Halfaya	20	0	20
Household head	City	5	0	5

Source: Survey data, 2008

References

- Beneria, L. 1992. The Mexican debt crisis: restructuring the economy and the household. In: BENERIA, L. and FELDMAN, S. (eds.) *Unequal Burden: Economic Crises, Persistent Poverty and Women's Work*. Oxford: West view Press. Pp: 83-104.
- Chant, S. 1994. Women's work and household survival strategies in Mexico, 1982-1992: Past trends, current tendencies and future research. *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 13(2): 203-233.
- Elniema, A.M. 2008. Surveys on some livestock keeping practices in urban and peri-urban parts of Khartoum North Province, Sudan. PhD thesis, University of Khartoum.
- Gilbert, E.H., Norman, D.W. and Winch F.E. 1980. Farming system research: A Critical Appraisal. MSU Rural Development Papers 6. Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan University, east Lansing, Michigan, USA. Pp: 135 + xiii.
- Richardson, G.M. and Whitney, J.B.R. 1995. Goats and garbage in Khartoum, Sudan: a study of the urban ecology of animal keeping. *Human Ecology*, 23(4): 455-475.
- Salih, M.A. 1985. Pastoralists in town: Some recent trends of pastoralism in northwest Omdurman District. Pastoral Development Network. Paper 21b. London: ODI.
- Somda, J., Kamuanga, M., Münstermann, S., Keita, K. and Mendes, A. 2004. Characteristics of the smallholder dairying farmers in West African countries: Economic viability and paths for improvement. Socio- economic research Working Paper No 2. ITC (International Trypanotolerance Centre), Banjul, the Gambia, Pp: 55
- SPSS, 2002. Advanced Models 11.5. SPSS Inc. Chicago USA. P: 129.