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**Abstract:** Animal welfare is the application of sensible and sensitive animal husbandry practices to the livestock on the farm. It is strongly linked to animal health, which similarly depends on good animal husbandry. In dairy production systems this will include not only animals producing milk, but also the newborn, young female animals to be used as replacements and males in rearing units. Good animal welfare has a positive effect on production. Good dairying practice of animal welfare is underpinned by the framework provided in The Five Freedoms that describe an animal's fundamental needs formulated by Roger Brambell (U.K.) in 1965 is accepted world wide as cited by Varma (2007). Animal management practices should aim at keeping animals:- • Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition • Freedom from discomfort • Freedom from pain, injury and disease • Freedom from fear and distress, and also • Freedom to express normal behavior OBJECTIVES Welfare is directly related to health, production and productivity of animals. It is also related to consumer, farmer and trade point of view. So, keeping in view the above animal welfare situations, present study is undertaken with the following objectives. 1. To study the socio-economic profile of livestock owners 2. To ascertain the awareness regarding the dairy animal welfare measures among the respondents. 3. To delineate the dairy animal welfare practices followed by livestock owners. 4. To assess the constraints perceived by the dairy farmers regarding animal welfare practices. 5. To study the use of information media for awareness

regarding animal welfare practices. 6. To find out the perception of veterinary officers regarding the dairy animal welfare practices followed in their locale. Present study was carried out in purposively selected Jamtara district of Jharkhand. Jamtara district of Jharkhand was selected due to high population density of dairy animals with respect to land also it had peculiarity that it having highest male cattle density (ILRI, 2010) which are more neglected in following welfare practice. . To have a complete study of whole district, all the 6 blocks were selected. From the selected blocks two villages (one Peri urban and one rural village) were selected randomly. From each village ten livestock owners who had two or more than two dairy animals like cattle and buffalo was selected randomly. Therefore total sample size of the study was 120 respondents. Similarly all the veterinary officers of the locale of study were interviewed for the study. SALIENT FINDINGS OF THE STUDY: 1. Majority of the respondents in both areas were belonged to middle age group 66.66 per cent in Rural and 48.33 per cent in Peri urban. 2. Regarding education level, majority of the respondents in rural areas were only able to read & write (28.33%) whereas in case of peri urban areas majority (25%) were educated up to primary level. 3. Majority of the respondents in rural areas belonged to joint family (53.33%) with large family size (40%) where as in peri urban, nuclear family (70%) & of medium (58.34%) size of family. 4. Majority of the respondents of both areas were belonged to low socio-economic status, 75 per cent & 56.67 per cent, in rural & peri urban respectively with marginal land holding 51.68 per cent & 46.66 per cent rural & peri urban respectively. 5. Majority of the respondents in both areas belonged to agriculture + dairy as the occupation for 60 per cent & 55 per cent with medium gross family income 48.33 per cent & 51.67 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively. 6. Majority of the respondents of both the areas belonged to medium herd size, 38.34 per cent & 41.66 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively, with low annual income from livestock (76.66%) in rural & (60%) in peri urban. Milk production was low (68.34%) in rural where as in periurban production was medium for majority (45%) of respondents. 7. Majority of respondents above 75 per cent are aware regarding all the basic freedoms of the animals in both areas and more than 75 per cent believe that they are responsible for animal welfare on their own. 8. All (100%) respondents were taking care at the time of calving, in which majority of them as 65 per cent & 50 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively fed colostrum to the calf, when the calfs were able to stand, and majority of them left some milk for calf in all 4 quarters, as 53.33 per cent & 50 per cent in rural & peri urban respectively. 9. Only 21.66 per cent & 25 per cent respondents in rural & peri urban areas respectively used antiseptic while cutting naval cord and after calving 91.66 per cent in rural & 93.33 per cent in peri urban were involved in cleaning of calf & hooves. 10. All respondents of both the areas (100%) performed castration of calf after 3 months of age, mainly 66.66 per cent & 92.31 per cent through the machine method in rural & peri urban respectively. 11. Feeding of green fodder by majority of respondents were found for pregnant animals, 16.66 per cent in rural areas and 18.18 per cent in peri urban. 12. Feeding of concentrate by majority of respondents were found for milch animals 13.33 per cent in rural areas and in peri urban for pregnant animals 31.81 per cent. 13. Majority of respondents according to feeding of mineral mixture to pregnant animals in rural areas as 22.22 per cent where as in peri urban 31.81 per cent respectively. 14. Feeding of salt for majority of respondents were found for pregnant animals 22.22 per cent respondents of rural areas and for peri urban majority were 18.33 per cent for milch animal. 15. 100 per cent respondents of rural area preferred grazing practice to milch, dry, pregnant & draught animals, where as in peri urban 100 per cent for dry cattle only. 16. According to frequency of feeding of green fodder & mineral mixture in rural areas, found occasionally for 100 per cent of respondents, in case of concentrate all dairy farmers fed twice daily & in salt feeding majority (84.61%) fed once daily. Where as in peri urban all respondents (100%) were fed green fodder occasionally, concentrate twice daily, for mineral mixture frequency was occasional for majority (78.95%) and salt feeding was found once daily for majority (71.42%) of respondents. 17. Majority of the respondents, according to type of houses, in both areas belonged to separate house for animals 78.34 per cent & 85 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively, with E-W direction (66.67%) in rural and with N-S direction (55%) in peri urban. 18. For majority of respondents, floor space of covered area was found not optimum for 68.33 per cent & 65 per cent, in rural & peri urban respectively, where as floor space of open area was optimum for 80 per cent respondents of rural & 75 per cent respondents of the peri urban areas. 19. For the majority of respondents height of house in both the areas were found not optimum as 66.67 per cent & 60 per cent in rural & peri urban respectively and with poor light and ventilation facility for 66.67 per cent & 61.67 per cent houses in rural & peri urban respectively. 20. Cleanliness of house was found dirty for majority of respondents 68.33 per cent & 55 per cent with 'sometime use of disinfectant

was only 13.34 per cent & 21.67 per cent for rural & peri urban respectively and location of manure disposal / pits was adjacent to house in 95 per cent in rural & 90 per cent in peri urban areas. 21. Drainage of disposals were found not proper for majority 76.66 per cent & 55 per cent houses in rural & peri urban respectively, since they had mainly kuchcha type of floor in 80 per cent & 60 per cent houses in rural & peri urban respectively. 22. Majority of respondents were using pucca type of manger in rural (55%) & peri urban (60%) and the size of manger was found not proper in 63.34 per cent & 53.34 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively. 23. For the summer management, 100 per cent respondents of both the areas provide shadow to the animals in which 100 per cent of rural & 91.66 per cent of peri urban gave bathe to animal and thatched roof were provided by 48.33 per cent & 40 per cent in rural & peri urban respectively. 24. For the winter management, 100 per cent respondents of both areas provide warm clothes to the animals in which 73.33 per cent & 61.66 per cent provide bedding material in rural & peri urban respectively. Moreover, use of fire to provide heat inside house were found 85 per cent & 93.33 per cent, in rural & peri urban respectively. 25. In breeding practices, majority of respondents in rural areas (71.66%) were providing natural service where as, in peri urban areas majority (55%) were practicing artificial insemination. And 100 per cent respondents of both areas were aware to the symptoms of heat so that they could maintain proper timing at the time of breeding. 26. In case of reproductive problems, 58.33 per cent in rural areas and 66.66 per cent in peri urban area provide treatment to the dairy animals. 27. For the source of veterinary advice in rural areas, majority (48.33%) concerned with quacks & in peri urban areas majority (53.34%) concerned was Veterinary Doctor. 28. For the treatment of animals, majority of respondents in both the areas were using allopathic drugs 58.34 per cent & 68.34 per cent in rural & peri urban respectively. 29. Practice of deworming was found seldom for 40 per cent and majority 60 per cent never gave dewormer to the animals in rural areas where as in peri urban areas majority (60%) seldom in practice of deworming. 30. Vaccination of animals were only 20 per cent in rural and 40 per cent in peri urban areas. Ectoparasite eradication were practiced by majority of respondents in both areas 71.66 per cent & 80 per cent, rural & peri urban respectively. And isolation of sick animals were done by only 13.33 per cent in rural & 20 per cent in peri urban areas. 31. Burial for the disposal of carcass was the main practice for majority of respondents in both the areas, 73.33 per cent & 63.34 per cent in rural & peri urban respectively. 32. Duration of work with animal was found less than five hours for the majority of respondents, in rural (86.66%) & peri urban (85%), and the working time of majority of respondents was morning time, 93.33 per cent & 85 per cent for rural & peri urban respectively. 33. Working with the injured animal was found for 3.33 per cent of respondents in rural and 5 per cent in peri urban areas. 34. In the process of milking, 100 per cent respondents of rural areas & 93.34 per cent of peri urban allowed calf to suckle both before and after milking. 35. Stripping was the method of milking for majority 63.34 per cent & 58.33 per cent in rural & peri urban area respectively. And generally they did not practice beating during milking in rural (100%) & in peri urban (93.34%). 36. Mostly information media contact for the awareness was found low for the 86.67 per cent respondents of rural & 73.34 per cent respondents of peri urban. 37. Lack of money, information, availability of Veterinary Doctors, and feed was major constraints in following animal welfare practice and is faced by more than 80 per cent of respondents. 38. Perception of Veterinary officers were poor to satisfactory for most of the dairy animal welfare practices. CONCLUSIONS On the basis of findings of the present investigation entitled "Dairy Animal Welfare Practices in Jamtara District of Jharkhand", the following conclusion has been drawn: 1. Generally dairy farmers were aware about some basic aspect of animal welfare like different component of "Five Freedoms" viz. freedom from pain, injury, disease; freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from fear and distress and freedom to express normal behaviour. Dairy farmers knew these freedom on ethical ground. But the mass media exposure still had the lower penetration in the study area, due to which they had poor knowledge about the modern dairy farming techniques, so it is important to develop information centers in their locality. 2. Major managerial practices in the study area were found to be unsatisfactory on the aspect of dairy animal welfare. On the basis of the findings it can be concluded that dairy farmers should be educated regarding significance of colostrums feeding within one hour of birth and its advantages in building immunity, cutting and disinfection of naval cord, age & method of castration, feeding of nutritious feed (containing green fodder, concentrate, mineral mixture and salt), maintaining comfortable housing condition with clean & hygienic condition, providing good health care by consulting Veterinarians, including vaccination and deworming practices for maintaining the good welfare practices for the dairy animals. 3. Lack of money, proper scientific knowledge of different managerial practices and lack of

availability of veterinary facilities in the hospitals were the major constraints in following proper animal welfare practices.

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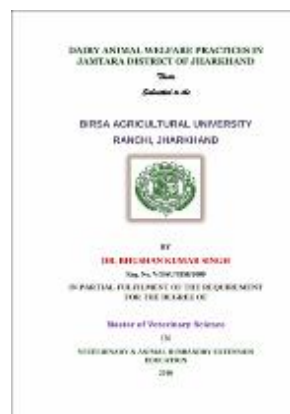
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