CHANGES IN THE LIVELIHOOD OF LOCAL PEOPLE THROUGH LIVESTOCK FARMING IN SOLUKHUMBU DISTRICT IN THE CONTEXT OF JUNBESI VILLAGE

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ABSTRACT

In Solukhumbu, especially in the setting of Junbesi village, livestock farming has long been a vital component of the local economic and cultural legacy. With an emphasis on Junbesi hamlet, this study intends to investigate how livestock farming techniques in Solukhumbu have affected locals' quality of life. To evaluate the effects of cattle farming on the economy, society, and environment, data was gathered using a mixed-method approach that combined quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. The results show that cattle farming has had a substantial impact on the local population's economic circumstances by generating cash, opening up job opportunities, and lowering poverty. Additionally, the technique has increased social capital and decision-making authority by socially and economically empowering individuals and communities. Despite the advantages, there are still issues including poor infrastructure and restricted market access.

INTRODUCTION

Since prehistoric times, when nomadic people relied on animals for milk, meat, and hides, livestock farming—an age-old agricultural activity that involves rearing animals like cattle, chickens, pigs, and sheep for diverse purposes—has been an integral part of human civilization. Solukhumbu, a mountain range in northeastern Nepal, is well-known for its breathtaking scenery and extensive cultural legacy.

Livestock farming is a major economic driver in this district, providing for the livelihoods of multiple people. Cattle, yaks, sheep, and goats are the main domestic animals raised in Solukhumbu. These animals are well-suited to the region's difficult topography and severe climate. Local communities are able to flourish in this environment because of the traditional knowledge and farming methods that have been passed down through the years. In addition to dairy, and draught animals are reared; dairy farming supplies an essential supply of milk for human use and commercial purposes, while draught animals help with transportation and other agricultural tasks like plowing. Their health and the quality of their produce are enhanced by their freedom to graze in the many open meadows. Yaks are important in Solukhumbu because they provide milk, meat, wool, and transportation services. They are also noted for their strength and perseverance. Goats and sheep are also important members of the livestock farming industry; they are bred mainly for meat production and do well in the rough terrain. In Solukhumbu, livestock farming is frequently combined with conventional agricultural methods. Manure, which animals produce and use as organic fertilizer for crops, is one way that animals support the sustainability of farming systems.

Local people exhibit a profound comprehension of natural resources and the significance of sustainable methods, using customary grazing patterns and herding tactics to guarantee long-term sustainability. In order to improve welfare and productivity, government programs and community-based organizations also offer assistance, instruction, and veterinary care. Livestock husbandry in Solukhumbu is important culturally because it preserves a way of life that is intricately entwined with the region's rocky landscape, in addition to being a source of income and nourishment. It continues to be an essential part of the local economy, supporting livelihoods, food security, and the general resilience of the Solukhumbu population.

OBJECTIVES

- Assessing the impact of livestock husbandry on the financial circumstances of the local population in Solukhumbu.
- To look into how raising livestock has helped people in Solukhumbu become more economically and socially empowered as individuals and as communities.

Rational of the Study

The goal of this research is to better understand the opportunities and problems that farmers confront in this sector of the economy, as well as to identify areas where present methods could be improved. In the Solukhumbu district, raising cattle is a common way for families to make ends meet. Even if they get a lot of other necessities, milk and meat are necessary for them to be able to maintain a healthy,

balanced diet.Farm animal raising is a technique that can support jobs and offer revenue streams. However, there are a number of issues with raising cattle, including poor infrastructure, restricted market access, and the consequences of climate change.

With this study, we hope to better understand the opportunities and problems faced by those who farm animals in the Solukhumbu district's borders. The significance of the research lies in its potential to enhance the quality of life for the indigenous population in the Solukhumbu district.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design:

In this study, we will apply a mixed-method approach. This will involve the use of both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.

The quantitative data will be collected through a survey of livestock farmers in Solukhumbu district. The survey will collect data on the following:

1. The types of livestock raised
2. The number of livestock owned
3. The income generated from livestock farming
4. The challenges and opportunities facing livestock farmers

The qualitative data will be collected through surveys with livestock farmers and focus group discussions with local people.

1. The impact of livestock farming on the livelihood of local people
2. The perceptions of livestock farmers and local people about the challenges and opportunities facing livestock farming

SAMPLING

In this study, I am using a purposive sampling method to select a diverse sample of livestock farming in Junbesi. The sample size would be determined based on the resources available for the study.

Data Collection:

Data is collected using both primary and secondary sources. The questionnaires would be provided to livestock farmers, while also using the internet for the gathering the knowledge on the topic.

Data Analysis:

The research findings will be analyzed using a variety of methods, including descriptive statistics, thematic analysis, and content analysis.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Since the research is conducted in qualitative design by collecting views of locals of Junbesi village through questionnaires, the results have been explained and analyzed in a thematic data analysis technique. Findings of the study and recommendations for better condition of livestock farming have also been listed in this section.

Presentation of Data

In our study we used various variables for the interpretation of the data collected. But since this is quantitative research and the data collected directs to thematic analysis, the quantitative data are limited to only livestock farming experience, livestock farming practices, economic changes, social changes, environmental changes, livelihood support future outlook.

Data analysis

1. **Distribution of respondents on gender basis:**

The survey was conducted in the sample size of 50 respondents.

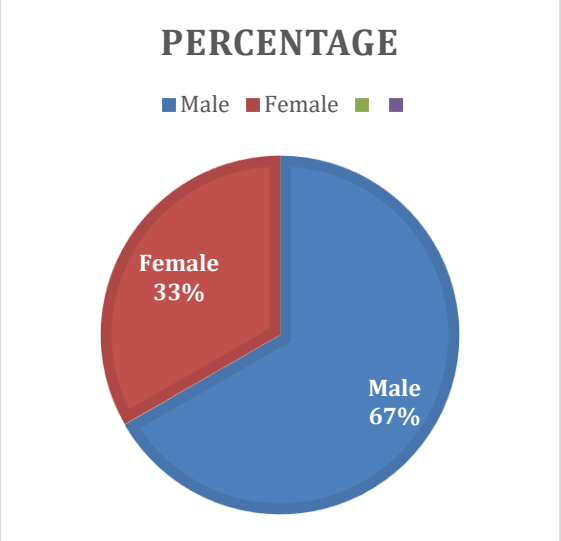

Figure1 **Distribution of respondents on gender basis**

This figure shows the gender distribution of the respondents. They show that the ownership of male is higher than that of female respondents in the sample size of 50. The ratio of male to female ownership is 2:1 which means the male owners is double the female in Junbesi

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents on age basis, years of involvement in livestock farming to number of livestock animal

Gender	Age Group	Years of Involvement in Livestock Farming	Number of Livestock Animal
Male	25-30	3	20
	30-35	6	30
	35-40	10	50
	40-45	10	30
	45-50	10	50
	50-55	5	50
Female	25-30	3	30
	30-35	6	50
	35-40	5	50
	40-45	10	50
	45-50	10	50

The above table shows highest number of males of age group 35-50 are engaged in livestock farming while females of age group 40-50 are engaged in high numbers livestock farming. The highest number of livestock farming was found to be among age group 35-40, 45-50, 50-55 in males while females of age group 30-35, 35-40, 40-45 and 45-50 reared 50 livestocks in Junbesi. . The information shows that a sizable portion of men in the 35–50 age range are involved in cattle farming, and women between the ages of 40 and 50 also actively participate. This implies that the majority of people involved in livestock husbandry in Junbesi village are middle-aged men and women. The data also shows that certain age groups are more involved in raising livestock animals than others, with men in the 35–40 and 45–50 age groups in particular showing higher levels of involvement. This might be a sign of the knowledge and skills farmers have amassed throughout time, which has led to bigger herds of cattle.

DISCUSSION

The information gathered from the study carried out in Junbesi village offers important insights on the local population's characteristics and livestock raising methods.
First, there is a clear gender gap in the distribution of respondents, with a higher percentage of male respondents than female respondents. This implies that in Junbesi village, men are more likely to own cattle and be involved in its farming. Numerous sociocultural factors, such as access to resources and traditional gender roles, may have an impact on this gender imbalance.

Furthermore, an examination of the age groups of the respondents and their involvement in livestock farming provides insight into the characteristics of farmers and their degree of expertise in the industry. The information shows that a sizable portion of men in the 35–50 age range are involved in cattle farming, and women between the ages of 40 and 50 also actively participate. This implies that the majority of people involved in livestock husbandry in Junbesi village are middle-aged men and women. The data also shows that certain age groups are more involved in raising livestock animals than others, with men in the 35–40 and 45–50 age groups in particular showing higher levels of involvement. This might be a sign of the knowledge and skills farmers have amassed throughout time, which has led to bigger herds of cattle.

All things considered, these results highlight how critical it is to comprehend the population makeup and livestock farming methods of Junbesi village. Understanding age- and gender-related trends can

help develop focused interventions and support systems that encourage inclusivity and improve the sustainability in the methods used in animal production. Initiatives aimed at enhancing the abilities and skills of younger people and female farmers in particular could contribute to the diversification and fortification of the livestock agricultural industry in Junbesi village.

CONCLUSION

Livestock farming in Solukhumbu has undergone significant changes driven by increasing demand from the tourism industry, the adoption of improved breeds, and the implementation of new management practices. The tourism sector's appetite for local meat and dairy products has opened up lucrative opportunities for farmers, raising prices and incomes. Furthermore, the introduction of superior livestock breeds has bolstered productivity and resilience to diseases, reducing risks for farmers. Innovative management techniques such as rotational grazing have also enhanced land usability and environmental sustainability. However, challenges persist, notably limited market access and inadequate farmer training. Addressing these obstacles through infrastructure development and educational initiatives could further boost the sector's growth and sustainability. Despite these challenges, the future of livestock farming in Solukhumbu appears promising, with sustained demand and ongoing advancements in sustainable practices driving positive outcomes for local livelihoods.

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