

## Impact of Correspondence Course on Animal Husbandry Organised by GAU

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to know impact of correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU for field assistants of Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation to improve their knowledge through teachers' made questionnaire in the year 2000-2001. The results of the research revealed that respondents of middle age group having SSC and above education took advantage of this correspondence course. Majority of respondents perceived that this correspondence course is most useful and they acquired additional knowledge in various subjects/areas of animal husbandry. It is also reflected that majority (76.25%) respondent had highly favourable to favourable attitude towards this correspondence on animal husbandry and they had not faced any constraint during the said correspondence course.

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### INTRODUCTION

A correspondence course on Animal Husbandry was conducted by the university for field assistants of Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation to improve their knowledge. The field assistants were involved in extension activities as well as first aid of sheep diseases and marketing of wool. They do not have any formal education in the field of animal husbandry earlier. Therefore, to improve scientific knowledge in the field, the course was designed in form of 34 lessons, self-study and evaluation apart from field training.

It was discussed in the coordination committee for extension activities that it is necessary to evaluation / study impact of different extension programmes organised by GAU. In this context, the research study was carried out in the year 2000-2001 with additional intension to know the difficulties faced by the participants along with

their opinions and suggestions regarding the correspondence course. So that in future, the necessary planning and modifications may be made on the basis of the studies.

### Objectives

1. To know personal characteristics of the participants.
2. To determine the utility of correspondence course on Animal Husbandry organised by GAU.
3. To study the knowledge acquired by participant after completion of the correspondence course on Animal Husbandry.
4. To know the perception of trainees to various lessons.
5. To determine the attitude of the participants towards the correspondence course on

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6. To find out the constraints faced by participants with regard to the correspondence course on Animal Husbandry.
7. To seek the suggestions of the participants for improvement of the course.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Gujarat State. The participants who joined the correspondence course on Animal Husbandry organised by GAU during the year 1996-97, were the respondents in the present study i.e. 80 out of 112 participants. Appropriate teachers made questionnaire was developed for the purpose. The data were collected through mailing the preset questionnaires.

Utility of different subjects included in correspondence course on animal husbandry.

The utility of various subjects included in correspondence course on Animal Husbandry organised by Gujarat Agricultural University was measured with the help of '3 points rating scale' Most useful, Useful and Least Useful with the score value of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. To assign the rank, the mean score for each item was calculated.

### Attitude towards correspondence course on animal husbandry

Attitude of the respondent towards correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU was measured by teachers made attitude scale. The selected six statements for final format of the attitude scale were randomly arranged. There were five response columns representing a 5 point agree disagree continuum

as followed by Likert (1932) in his summated rating technique. The points on the continuum were strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree with score weightage of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively for positive and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively for negative statement. Based on the mean and standard deviation, the respondents were classified into three groups with less favourable ( $< \text{Mean} - \text{S.D.}$ ), favourable ( $> \text{Mean} - \text{S.D.}$  and  $< \text{Mean} + \text{S.D.}$ ) and highly favourable ( $> \text{Mean} + \text{S.D.}$ ) attitude towards the course.

### Constraints faced by respondents

Constraints faced by the respondents during the correspondence course on Animal Husbandry organised by GAU were elicited through simple open-ended questions of different categories viz., (a) regarding correspondence (b) receipt of volume in time (c) examination (d) preparation of exercise and (e) others. Number of respondents facing the same constraints were counted in frequency and percentage.

### Suggestion of respondents for improvement of the course in future

An attempt was also made to know suggestions of the respondents for improvement of the correspondence course in future.

The respondents' suggestions were elicited through a simple open ended question. They were asked to give their suggestions for improvement of the such course in future. Number of respondent making the similar suggestions were counted in frequency and percentage.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Personal characteristics

Profile of age and previous education of the respondents is given in Table-1.

TABLE 1  
Distribution of respondents according to their age and previous education.

| Sr. No. | Character | Group                 | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1.      | Age       | Upto 30 years         | 0                     | 0.00       |
|         |           | 31 to 50 years        | 79                    | 98.75      |
|         |           | Above 50 years        | 1                     | 1.25       |
| 2.      | Education | Upto SSC              | 0                     | 0.00       |
|         |           | SSC Pass              | 53                    | 66.25      |
|         |           | Above SSC to graduate | 19                    | 23.75      |
|         |           | Graduate              | 8                     | 10.00      |

Data presented in Table-1 revealed that nearly 98.75 per cent of respondents were of middle age group i.e. 31 to 50 years indicating that youth and old respondents could not get the advantage of the correspondence course on animal husbandry. It is also revealed that all the respondents were having SSC and above education.

## B. Utility of various subjects/areas included in correspondence course on animal husbandry

Mean scores worked out on perception of respondents for usefulness of various subjects/ areas included in correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU are given in Table-2.

TABLE 2

Mean utility scores of various subjects/ areas included in the correspondence course on animal husbandry.

| Sr. No. | Subject/area                                    | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|------------|------|
| 1.      | Preliminary information on anatomy & function.  | 2.81       | V    |
| 2.      | Digestive system of animal and its function.    | 2.82       | IV   |
| 3.      | Reproductive system of animal and its function. | 2.87       | III  |
| 4.      | Animal Breeds                                   | 2.55       | XI   |
| 5.      | Animal Housing & Equipments                     | 2.51       | XII  |
| 6.      | Calf raising                                    | 2.66       | VII  |
| 7.      | Management of milking animals                   | 2.88       | II   |
| 8.      | Feed requirements of various classes of animals | 2.65       | VIII |
| 9.      | Fodder production and storage                   | 2.45       | XIV  |
| 10.     | Pasture                                         | 2.56       | X    |
| 11.     | Breeding and Management of sheep & goats        | 2.64       | IX   |
| 12.     | Poultry production                              | 2.43       | XV   |
| 13.     | Animal Health & Disease Control                 | 2.93       | I    |
| 14.     | Animal Products & Marketing                     | 2.48       | XIII |
| 15.     | Artificial Insemination                         | 2.71       | VI   |

It can be seen from the Table - 2 that among fifteen subject/areas, animal health and disease control got highest mean utility score (2.93) and secured first rank followed by management of milking animals with second rank and reproductive system of animal and its function with third rank. Majority of the respondents opined that all the subjects/areas included in correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU were found useful.

## C. Utility of Field Training organised under the correspondence course on animal husbandry :

Frequencies and percentage were calculated regarding utility of field training organised under

the correspondence course on animal husbandry perceived by respondents are given in Table -3.

TABLE 3

Distribution of respondents according to utility of field training organised under the correspondence course on animal husbandry.

| Extent of usefulness | Number | Per cent |
|----------------------|--------|----------|
| Most useful          | 65     | 81.25    |
| Useful               | 04     | 5.00     |
| Less Useful          | 0      | 0.00     |
| Not useful           | 0      | 0.00     |
| Opinion not given    | 11     | 13.75    |
| Total                | 80     | 100.00   |

It is revealed from Table-3 that more than 80.00 per cent respondents believed this correspondence course is most useful.

#### **D. Knowledge acquired by respondent of the correspondence course on animal husbandry**

The objective of the correspondence course

was to increase the knowledge of respondents on the various subjects/ areas of animal husbandry. Information regarding perception of respondents on knowledge acquired after correspondence course on various subjects/areas of animal husbandry is given in Table-4.

**TABLE 4**

**Distribution of the respondents according their perception on the knowledge acquired after the correspondence course on animal husbandry.**

| Sr. No. | Subject/Areas                                           | Number | Percentage |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1.      | Anatomy of animals                                      | 74     | 92.50      |
| 2.      | Function of digestive system                            | 73     | 91.25      |
| 3.      | Function of reproductive system                         | 74     | 92.50      |
| 4.      | Characteristics of cattle and buffalo breeds of Gujarat | 68     | 85.00      |
| 5.      | Various methods of calf raising                         | 74     | 92.50      |
| 6.      | Care and management of milking animals                  | 75     | 93.75      |
| 7.      | Care & management of breeding bulls                     | 78     | 97.50      |
| 8.      | Feeds and feeding of various classes of animals         | 80     | 100.00     |
| 9.      | Silage making                                           | 73     | 91.25      |
| 10.     | Urea treatment of wheat straw                           | 70     | 98.75      |
| 11.     | Disease of animals and their control measures           | 76     | 95.00      |
| 12.     | Poultry feeds                                           | 78     | 97.50      |
| 13.     | Marketing of milk                                       | 73     | 91.25      |
| 14.     | Artificial Insemination                                 | 73     | 91.25      |
| 15.     | Housing of animals                                      | 75     | 93.75      |

The Table-4 indicates that in general majority of the respondents perceived that they have acquired additional knowledge in various subjects/ areas of animal husbandry viz. (i) feed and feeding of various classes of animals (ii) urea treatment of wheat straw (iii) cares and management of breeding bulls (iv) diseases of animals and their control measures (v) poultry feed, etc. after the correspondence course on animal husbandry.

#### **E. Presentation and publication of various volumes of correspondence course on animal husbandry**

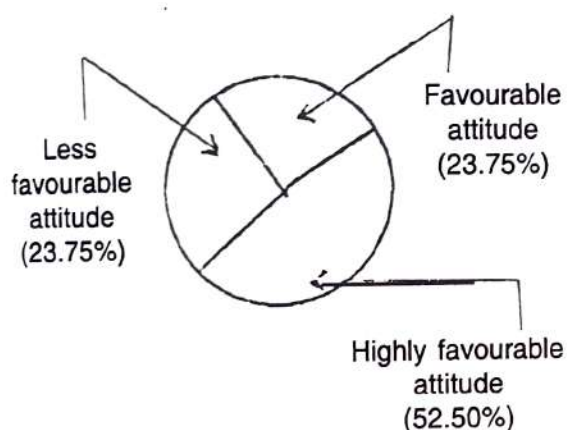
Cent per cent respondents gave following responses regarding presentation and publication of various volumes of correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU :

- (i) Volumes are attractive
- (ii) Figures and photographs included in different lessons of course are useful
- (iii) Presentation of information is interesting
- (iv) Volumes of this course are worth to be stored for future use.
- (v) All of them have stored all the volumes

of this course as they will be useful to them in future.

#### F. Attitude of respondents towards correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU

The distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards the correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU is depicted in figure-1. Majority (76.25%) of them had highly favourable attitude towards the correspondence course on animal husbandry.



The attitude score obtained by respondents varied from 22 to 30 with average value of 27.95 having standard deviation 2.65 and co-efficient of variance of 9.41% suggesting that the group was homogenous in this respect.

#### G. Constraints faced by respondents during the correspondence course on animal husbandry

Most of the respondents had not faced any constraint during the correspondence course. However, some of them are given below :

##### a. During field training:

- (1) Ten per cent respondents faced the problem of inadequate lodging and boarding facilities.
- (2) Five per cent respondents faced the problem of faulty transportation facility.

(3) One respondent faced the problems of shortage of time, equipments and training.

b. One respondent faced the problem regarding receipt of volume in time.

c. Others

(1) Few respondents have not received certificates.

(2) Few respondents could not give due attention to the correspondence course as they were engaged in their official duties like purchasing of wool.

#### H. Suggestions of respondents for improvement in future

To an open question there were suggestions that detail information of following topics should be included in the correspondence course on animal husbandry in future :

1. Diagnosis and control measures of emerging diseases of animals.
2. New medicines and equipment of surgery in animals.
3. New recommendations.
4. Postmortem of large animal.

While giving their suggestions they opined that the duration of the field training may be extended and more time may be allotted to practical or work experience. The certificate for the successfully completing the training should be given at the earliest.

Moreover, they also opined that this type course should be organised interval of every five year.

#### Conclusion :

From the study it can be concluded that the correspondence course on animal husbandry organised by GAU is very useful and well oriented. However, the suggestions for improvement in such course are given below:

**A. Following courses should be included in the course :**

1. Diagnosis and control measures of emerging diseases of animals.
2. New medicines and equipment of surgery in animals.

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3. New recommendations.

4. Postmortem of large animal.

**B. Figures and photographs may be published in four colours.**

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