

Original Research Article

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Ethno-Veterinary Practices for the Management of Common Diseases in Dairy Animals in Rural Punjab

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted for documentation of various ethno-veterinary practices (EVPs) followed in common diseases like mastitis, foot and mouth disease, ectoparasite infestation and diarrhoea in dairy animals of rural Punjab. Total 300 respondents were selected randomly from the villages of Punjab. Data was collected through a well-structured schedule through personal visits to the respective farmers. After analysis of the data, the farmers of Punjab were found to be using more than 20 number of EVPs practices. The EVPs employed at the time of mastitis included *Azadirachta indica*, *Citrus limon*, *Piper nigrum*, ammonium chloride, and *Allium sativum*. For foot and mouth disease, most important EVP is Whiskey spray around the shed and the animal, Lal dawai (KMnO₄), *Acacia arabica* etc. The remedies for ectoparasites of animals included application of Kerosine oil, *Eruca sativa*, black oil and manual removal. The remedies for diarrhea include use of *Punica granatum*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Nicotiana tabacum* etc. These remedies were mostly prepared by pulverization, soaking/boiling in water and decoctions and administered *per os*. As per farmers' viewpoint, these EVPs proved to be very effective. Scientific documentations also proved their validation.

Keywords

Ethno-Veterinary Practices, common diseases, Cattle, Buffalo, Punjab

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Introduction

Ethno-veterinary practice (EVP) is based on folk beliefs, traditional knowledge, skills, methods and practices to cure diseases and maintain health of animals (Mathias-Mundy and McCorkle, 1989; Tabuti *et al.*, 2003). Affordability is one of the most important virtues of the ethno-veterinary system. Drawbacks to modern veterinary practice include questionable quality of allopathic drugs, development of chemo-resistance in

livestock and user unfriendly effects such as high antibiotic and hormone residues in the milk and other animal products (Fielding, 1998; Monteiro *et al.*, 1998; Mathias, 2004).

Traditional veterinary medical knowledge systems is handed down orally from generation to generation which is disappearing because of rapid technological, socioeconomic, environmental, changes and as a result of loss of cultural heritage losses under the guise of civilization (Mathias-

Mundy and McCorkle, 1989, Nfi *et al.*, 2001). EVP is used for the maintenance of good animal health in developing countries (Kudi, 2003). The present study was undertaken to collect information on EVPs being used by the dairy farmers in the rural areas of Punjab over a one-year span of time for the management of common diseases in their dairy animals.

Materials and Methods

Data was collected randomly from 300 dairy farmers of rural Punjab through a well structured pre-tested schedule through personal visits to the respective farmers. For better representation of different regions of Punjab, the geographical area was divided into three zones- Sub-mountainous region, Central Planes and South-Western Plains. Information regarding use of any EVP at the time of various common diseases like mastitis, foot and mouth disease, ectoparasites and diarrhoea were collected. Efficacy of the particular EVP was judged from the outcome of that remedy as reported by the farmer. Later on its validity was confirmed by reviewing already published scientific reports.

Results and Discussion

Majority of the respondents were aged between 30-50 years (57.6%). Most of them (54.6 % respondents) had been rearing 1-5 animals for 10-15 years (39.3% respondents). They had a monthly income between 1000-5000 rupees (57% respondents). Similar findings had been reported earlier (Sharma, 2004).

During Mastitis a total of 7 EVPs comprising 4 based on plants and 3 based on combination of plants and chemicals were notified by 140 cattle owners. *Azadirachta indica* (neem) was the most frequently (n=40), used plant followed by *Citrus limon* (lemon) (n=24). The

use of *Piper nigrum* (black paper) has been reported by 13 respondents, ammonium chloride by 8 and *Allium sativum* (garlic) by 14 respondents. Materials other than plants were also used alone or in combination with plants (e.g., common salt+lemon) by other respondents. A number of EVPs were reported by the respondents for prevention and treatment of mastitis. In the present study *Allium sativum* (garlic) was one of the most effective plant for the treatment of mastitis in bovine. This plant has been reported in literature to be used for its antiseptic and vermifuge properties (Bullitta *et al.*, 2007). Other treatment include lemon juice (antibacterial, antioxidant and acidifier property which decreases the milk p^h) mentioned in literature (Abbas *et al.*, 2002), neem water has antiseptic property which is reported in literature (Uncini-Manganelli *et al.*, 2001), NH₄Cl which have the property of acidifier which remove alkalosis is also reported (Pieroni *et al.*, 2004), *Piper nigrum* have immunostimulatory, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial property (Uncini-Manganelli *et al.*, 2001) and combination of these (e.g. neem water + lemon juice) are also being largely used in treatment of bovine mastitis. Plants were used for fomentation purpose to decrease udder inflammation. Similar type of practice with different species of plants has been reported in case of mastitis in camels in Saudi Arabia (Abbas *et al.*, 2002).

In Foot and mouth disease a total of 7 EVPs were notified by 105 cattle owners. Most of the respondents are using combination of EVP and allopathic treatment because they believe EVP alone is not so effective in FMD. Whiskey spray around the shed and the animal was the most frequently (n=27) used. Lal dawai (KMnO₄) has been used by 21 respondents (n=21). The use of *Acacia arabica* (Indian gum) has been reported by 16 respondents, *Allium sativum* by 13 respondents, meat meal by 15 respondents,

Whiskey spray+lal dawai has been used by 8 respondents and miscellaneous EVP (e.g. fish meal) used by 5 respondents. Most of these EVP practices are used in combination with allopathic treatment. In the present study EVP's used by the respondents includes whiskey spray (antiseptic) around the animal and the shed, lal dawai (KMnO₄) which is antiseptic in nature (Uncini-Manganelli *et al.*, 2001), *acacia arabica* (Indian gum) which have antiseptic, anodyne, anti-inflammatory and astringent property (Perveen and Bibi, 2008), *Allium sativum* (garlic) paste which has been reported in literature to be used for its antiseptic and vermifuge properties (Bullitta *et al.*, 2007), meat meal and fish meal are used as protein supplement.

In the present study there was a strong agreement among some of the dairy owners that these types of infections do not find sole solution in EVM. They have to integrate the ethno-veterinary and allopathic treatment to cure the ailments. This is in close agreement with the statement made by dairy owners in other studies that EVM is not effective against acute infections e.g. foot-and-mouth disease (Kudi, 2003).

In ectoparasite infestation a total of 5 EVPs were notified by 217 cattle owners. Among the EVP followed Kerosine oil was the most frequently (n=75) used. *Eruca sativa* (taramira) has been used by 55 respondents (n=55). The use of black oil (used engine oil) has been reported by 6 respondents, manual removal by 61 respondents, and miscellaneous EVP (e.g. combination of above mentioned practices e.g. kerosene+manual, black oil+kerosine) used by 20 respondents. One of the most frequently used EVP for external parasites were *Eruca sativa* (Tara mira) contains erucic acid which is effective against ectoparasite especially ticks (Bianco *et al.*, 1997). In the present study kerosene oil was most frequently used

by the respondents is having insecticide and antiseptic property (Nfi *et al.*, 2001). Black oil (old engine oil) containing sulphur has been used in Africa as treatment of various skin conditions (Mathias-mundy and McCorkle, 1989). Other practice in the study includes manual removal. Use of copper sulphate in livestock for liver flukes is also reported¹⁵. Use of cow butter oil, local soap, spent engine oil for ectoparasites and skin infections is also reported (Kudi, 2003).

In diarrhea a total of 6 EVPs were notified by 100 cattle owners. Among the EVP followed *Punica granatum* (anar) was the most frequently (n=23) used. *Syzygium cumini* (jamun) has been used by 11 respondents (n=11). The use of *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco leaf) has been reported by 22 respondents, kortumba seeds by 15 respondents, *Sesamum indicum* (dried sesame leaves) by 13 respondents and miscellaneous EVP (dried tea leaves) used by 16 respondents. The common EVP's used by the respondents in diarrhea are- *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco leaf) has been reported in many studies. *Nicotiana tabacum* contains nicotine, anataline, nicotianin, minor alkaloids nornicotine, anabasine, coumarin scopoletin and polyphenoloxidase, (Wirtu *et al.*, 1997; Guarrera, 1999; Lans *et al.*, 2000; Nfi *et al.*, 2001; Kudi, 2003; Muhammad *et al.*, 2005) dry tea leaves (antioxidant) is also mentioned (Viegi *et al.*, 2003), sesame leaves contains sesamol which is an antioxidant (Muhammad *et al.*, 2005), *Syzygium cumini* is an astringent and antioxidant which is rich in vitamins and minerals are widely used in digestive disorders (Islam and Kashem, 1999), *Punica granatum* is also said to be an astringent and antioxidant which is effective in diarrhea and dysentery (Muhammad *et al.*, 2005), seeds of kortumba etc. are found effective. The antidiarrheal activity is said to be due to its inhibition of the increased watery secretions that occur in diarrhea (Lans *et al.*, 2000).

Table.1 EVPs used during treatment of mastitis

SI No	EVP used	Dosages	Administration	Positive response as cited by the respondents
1	<i>Piper nigrum</i> (pepper) (n=13)	corn 30-50g+Jaggery 150g	pulverized, given PO for 3-4 days	n=10 (77%)
2	<i>Allium sativum</i> (n=14)	L. bulb 250 g+ Milk 2L	Decoction drenched for 5 days	n=11 (78%)
3	Ammonium chloride (n=8)	100 g + Water 2L	given PO for 3 days	n=5 (62%)
4	<i>Citrus limon</i> (n=24)	fruit extract 50-100g	raw juice given PO for 3 days	n=21 (87.5%)
5	<i>Azadirachta indica leaves</i> (n=40)	-	boiled in water and applied on the infected teat	n=34 (85%)
6	ammonium chloride (n=9)	50-100 g+ citrus limon 30gm+Water 1L	given PO for 3-5 days	n=6 (67%)
7	<i>Citrus limon</i> + <i>Azadirachta indica leaves</i> (n=22)	50gm+Azadirachta indica leaves	boiled and applied topically on the swollen udder	n=20 (91%)

Table.2 EVPs used during treatment of foot and mouth disease

SI No	EVP used	Dosages	Administration	Positive response as cited by the respondents
1	<i>Acacia arabica</i> bark (n=16)	125g	Boiled in water applied days topically on vesicles for 5-6	n=13 (81%)
2	Meat meal (n=15)	250-500g	Cooked and given PO for 2 days	n=9 (60%)
3	<i>Allium sativum</i> (n=13)	100-150gm	crushed and the paste applied in the vesicles foe 3 days	n=10 (77%)
4	Whiskey spray+ Lal dawai (n=8)	- few crystals of Lal dawai	Whiskey spray around the shed and the animal and lal dawai is applied in the vesicles	n=6 (75%)
5	Lal dawai (n=21)	few crystalls	Mixed in warm water and applied in the vesicles	n=18 (86%)
6	Fish meal (n=5)	250gm	Cooked and given PO for 2 days	n=3 (60%)

Table.3 EVPs used during treatment of ectoparasite infestation

SI No	EVP used	Dosages	Administration	Positive response as cited by the respondents
1	Kerosine oil (n=75)	-	Applied topically	n=64 (85%)
2	<i>Eruca sativa</i> (n=55)	500 gm	Given PO for 3 days	n=51 (92%)
3	Black oil (n=6)	-	Applied topically	n=5 (83%)
4	Manual removal (n=61)	-	-	n=49 (80%)
5	Miscellaneous EVP (n=20)	-	-	N=15 (75%)

Table.4 EVPs used during treatment of diarrhea

Sl No	EVP used	Dosages	Administration	Positive response as cited by the respondents
1	<i>Punica granatum</i> (n=23)	dried seed 250g	Given PO for 2-3 days	n=18 (78%)
2	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (n=11)	Dried seed 125g+ Jaggery 125 g	Pulverized, given PO for 2-3 days	n=8 (73%)
3	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> (n=22)	dried leaf 30-50g	Pulverized, given PO for 2-3 days	n=17 (77%)
4	kortumba seeds (n=15)	dried seed 30-50g	Pulverized, given PO for 2-3 days	n=11 (73%)
5	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> (n=13)	50-60gm dried leaves	Pulverized, given PO for 2-3 days	n=10 (77%)
6	Dried tea leaves (n=16) (miscellaneous EVP)	dried leaf 30-50g	Pulverized, given PO for 2-3 days	n=11 (69%)

Farmers still rely on ethno veterinary medicines for reproductive management of their animals. However these practices should be documented by the institutes for their scientific basis and can then be popularized for production of organic livestock produce. Exclusive awareness campaigns will be needed in a comprehensive way for promoting valid ethno-veterinary practices in the livestock farmers.

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