

# A STUDY ON OVINE REARING IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT WITH SPEICAL REFERENCE TO KALAPANUR VILLAGE

**Dr. T. SUDAKAR**

Assistant Professor of Economics  
PG.Research Dept of Economics,  
H.H.The Rajah's College (Au)  
Pudukkottai-622 001.

**R. ANBALAGAN**

Ph.D Research Scholar  
PG.Research Dept of Economics ,  
H.H.The Rajah's College (Au),  
Pudukkottai-622 001.

## INTRODUCTION

Livestock plays a vital role in rural life and economy even today. In fact, animal husbandry and agriculture are twin occupations, which are practiced by the rural households since ancient times. Livestock rearing being 'a way of life' in rural areas and with more than 70 per cent of the people relying on the above activities, it forms the backbone of the rural economy. In fact, combination of livestock rearing and crop production enables fuller utilization of farm by-products, conserves soil fertility and increase the household income. It provides employment especially self employment and the most valuable supplementary income to the vast majority of rural households, majority of who are small marginal farmers and landless laborers. Their economy, culture, and society are entirely intertwined with ovine rearing. The following objectives are framed i) to examine the economic importance of Ovine rearers in study area, ii) to identify factors are determining to increase the Ovine productivity, and iii) to find out various constraints and outline the prospects for increasing Ovine Production in Pudukkottai district.

## NEED FOR THE STUDY

In Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu also ovine farming has a pretty long tradition, particularly in rural areas among specific section of rural people viz, shepherds and nomads. They have been good sources of income to the ovine rearers. The export of ovine skins, live animals, and carpets fetch considerable foreign exchange to the country. The Ovine rearing activities will enable the rural weaker section especially landless labours to maintain their livelihood.

## MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

India has the second largest number of goats and third largest number of ovine in the world. It has the world's largest cattle wealth. Animal husbandry provides employment for about 20 millions directly. But our livestock quality has deteriorated. According to 2011 statistics there are about 51 million goats in the country. About 5 million households in the country are engaged in the rearing of small ruminants (ovine and goats, and

rabbits) and other allied activities. Though livestock, more especially Ovine contributes sizable revenue to the economy and create employment opportunities in the rural sector directly or indirectly it receives less attention in terms of infrastructural development in the country. Therefore the researcher has undertaken the present study.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The significant point is its employment potentiality for illiterate rural poor especially women. Animal husbandry does not demand for complex skill and is well suited to our landless rural agricultural labourers. The employment opportunity in crop cultivation is increasingly low due to unexpected fluctuations in the vagaries of nature and pressure on land. The alternative source to provide employment in rural area is animal husbandry for which the base resource is already available with people. The small-marginal farmers and agricultural labourers can make high income per unit of their animals; hold in through proper use of the surplus family labour. It is the best source of employment for women folk who are involved in the Ovine rearing.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

During the last five decades, the Indian livestock sector has experienced phenomenal growth in outputs of some of its components like milk and poultry. It is true that positive and significant changes have occurred under autarky and regulated domestic markets. India has been following imports substitution strategy to safeguard the sector from external markets through quantitative restrictions on imports. But in the era of globalization significant changes in the structure and performance of Ovine industries are likely to occur. These changes will provide opportunities as well as threats. Stated differently, Indian livestock production systems are likely to be vulnerable to trade liberalization. The smallholder production system suffering from poor quality of livestock services, shortage of feeds and fodder and lack of improved technologies now needs to be strengthened to utilize the opportunities and bear the shocks. In these contexts an attempt has been made in the study to examine the possibilities of increasing Ovine income in the study area. An attempt has also been made to study the characteristics of ovine rearing in Kalapanur Village.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- ❖ To study the economic characteristics of Ovine rearers in the study area.
- ❖ To identify the constraints experienced by Ovine rearers and offer suitable policy implications.

**METHODS AND MATERIALS:****STATISTICAL TOOLS AND METHODS:**

The study aimed at analysing the ovine economy in Pudukkotai District with special reference to Kalapanur Village. The sample unit is purposively selected in view of the familiarity and availability of data to the researcher.

**OVINE REARERS INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:**

The ovine rearers questionnaire was constructed for collecting the data from the selected respondents. It dealt with the nature and extent of economic conditions and characteristics like their age, gender, religions, community, educational status, income and expenditure values of their assets etc.

**SAMPLING PROCEDURE:**

The investigator used the stratified Randoms Sampling procedure. The investigator collected the data to the extent of 30 respondents of the total population by using Random Sampling Procedures.

**DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS:**

The data collected from the field were scrutinized and edited before the actual commencement of the processing work. Then the data on various aspects of the problem were transcribed. The transcribed data were tabulated subsequently.

**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

Data pertaining to the socio economic background of the ovine rearers were considered in the analysis. The researcher also attempts to find out the economics of ovine rearing and the common constraints faced by the rearers of the present study.

**TABLE NO.1**  
**AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

S.NO	AGE OF RESPONDENTS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 30	3	10
2	31-45	12	40
3	46-60	9	30
4	Above 60	6	20
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table 1 Shows the Age of Respondents, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents (12) are in the age between 31-45. 30 Percent of respondents are ages between 46-60. 20 Percent of respondents are belong to age group above 60. Only 10 Percent of respondents are below 30 years of age. 40 Percent of the respondents are in the age between 31-45Years old.

**TABLE NO .2**  
**LAND HOLDINGS PARTICULARS OF RESPONDENTS**

S.NO	LAND HOLDINGS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Landless	8	26.7
2	Less than 1 acre	10	33.3
3	1 to 5 acers	9	30
4	More than 5 acres	3	10
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table .2 indicates land particulars of Respondents, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents (10) states that they got land less than 1 acre. 30 Percent of respondents have 1 to 5 acres of land in their possession. 10 Percent of the respondents got More than 5 acres of a land and 26.7 percent of respondents are landless. It concludes that 33.3 percent of respondents have less than one acre of land with their possession.

**TABLE NO .3**  
**NATURE OF DWELLINGS OF RESPONDENTS**

S.NO	NATURE OF DWELLINGS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Pacca	6	20
2	Terraced	15	50
3	Thatched	9	30
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table .3 shows Nature of Dwellings of Respondents, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents (15) states that they got Terraced dwellings. 30 Percent of respondents are having Thatched house. 20 Respondents are having Pacca house. It states that 60 Percent of respondents have Terraced house.

**TABLE NO .4  
METHOD OF SALE**

S.NO	SALE METHOD	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Doorstep Sales	6	20
2	Sales in weekly market	18	60
3	Own Shop	6	20
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table .4 Shows the Method of Sale, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents (18) are selling sheep weekly in the market . 20 Percent of respondents selling in doorstep vendors and also 20 Percent of respondents are selling sheep in their own shop. 60 Percent of respondents are selling sheep in weekly market.

**TABLE NO .5  
MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS**

S.NO	MONTHLY INCOME	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Upto 5000	12	40
2	5001 to 10000	15	50
3	10001 to 20000	3	10
4	More than 20001	0	0
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary Data

The Table .5 Shows the Income status of Respondents per month, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents (15) are earning 5000 to 10000 per month. 40 Percent of respondents are earning upto 5000. 10 Percent of respondents earns 10001 to 20000 per month. 50 percent of respondents are earning 5001 to 10000 per month.

**TABLE NO .6**  
**EXPENSE FOR FODDER FOR OVINE**

S.NO	FODDER EXPENSE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Upto 100	12	40
2	101 to 300	9	30
3	301 to 500	9	30
4	501 and above	0	0
	Total	30	100

**Source: Primary Data**

The Table .6 States fodder expense for ovine, According to the analysis from 30 samples. Most of the respondents are spend upto 100 for fodder to ovine. 30 Percent of respondents are spend 101 to 300 for fodder and also 30 Percent of respondents are spend 301 to 500 for fodder. None of the respondents spends above 501 for fodder to ovine. Majority of respondents spends upto 100 for fodder.

**TABLE NO.7**

**Overall rank order of the constraints experienced by the ovine rearing in descending order of importance**

S. No.	Constraints	Percentage of Respondents	Rank
1	Land	89	1
2	ovine health and disease problems	88	2
3	Capital	86	3
4	High cost of feed	84	4
5	Grazing facilities	74	5
6	Breeding problems	73	6
7	Insufficient price	70	7
8	Veterinary aid	69	8
9	Marketing facilities	68	9
10	Vaccination facilities	65	10
11	Feeding practices	65	10

12	Training facilities	65	10
13	Feeding knowledge	54	13
15	Growing fodder	50	14
16	Lack of knowledge about AI	46	17
17	Non-availability of feed	46	17
18	Adoption of new technology	46	17
19	Transport constraints	42	19
20	Knowledge of disease	38	20
21	Lack of AI facilities	35	21
22	Labour	27	22

**Source:** Primary Data.

The problems or constraints faced by landless and marginal farmers in the study area are ranked in Table .7 in the descending order of importance. It is seen that 89 per cent of the respondents are facing problems related to land constraints, which occupies first rank. The next order of ranking shows the problems associated with ovine health and diseases met by 88 per cent of the ovine rearers.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Ovine rearing plays an important role in generating income and employment, augmenting income of landless labourers and marginal farmers and in meeting their livelihood. An economic study of Ovine rearing population at district level is of utmost important in the present day. In the present study the researcher made an in-depth analysis about the Ovine rearers in Kalapanur village of Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu.

## FINDINGS:

- The study identified that the uneducated rearers are more in both ovine rearing i.e. 60 percent of respondents are Illiterate.
- The study found that due to high level of illiteracy in the study area, ovine rearers are unaware of the facilities provided by the Government and the NGOs for the development of their business and hence they remains poor and unskilled without required credit.
- In the study area 60 percent of ovine rearing belong to Hindu religion, and the majority of community is involved sheep rearers are Backward class community and SC/ST community, i.e almost 40 percent of both communities involved in the Sheep rearing business.
- The Study found that among 10 respondents 60 Percent of respondents have less than one acre of land with their possession.

- Rearers of the study area maintained their animals with the help of freely and locally available fodder like tree leaves, residues, grasses and weeds. Hence their expense on fodder was found very low i.e., 40 percent of respondents spend less than 100 rupees.
- The analysis revealed that constraints faced by the ovine rearers. Most of the respondents faced the problem of animal theft. 20 percent of the states constraints faced by them in sheltering and grazing.
- The selected rearers are very much interested in selling their animals in weekly market. They reaps good price in weekly markets. i.e., 60 Percent of respondents sell their animals in weekly market.
- It is found that on an average each rearer earned a net income of 5001 to 10000.

## SUGGESTIONS

Based on the field survey, analysis of the data and obtained findings of the present study the researcher offers the following suggestions and measures for the future development

- The present study found that the majority of the selected respondents are illiterate. Hence it is suggested that a suitable system of education is to be arranged.
- The Government should take necessary steps for the establishment of cooperative societies for marketing sheep with emphasis on proportionate benefit to small farmers.
- The returns earned by the rearers should only improve through sale of meat but also through selling skin and other parts of meat.
- To improve health cover of sheep extension education by Animal Husbandry department to all rearers financed by banks.
- Since the ovine rearers are mostly raised by poor and illiterate farmers there is need to organise them into groups so as to practice group farming. Wherever there is scope, cooperatives can also be formed.
- It is observed from the field survey that the rearers do not have the house for their animals. There is need to convince the farmers to have a proper shelter and proper housing facilities. The needed finance is to be provided either on loan basis or loan cum subsidy basis.
- It is suggested that the necessary steps should be made by both research and development institutions to link up rural poor/women with funding agencies.
- The system of insurance should be introduced, to reduce the losses which occur to the lambs either because of accidents and natural calamities like lightning and death and also by the disease like blue-tongue, foot and mouth disease, goat-pox etc.



## CONCLUSION

Ovine rearing is a highly attractive asset for the poor landless labourers particularly poor in India as also in the area under study. Rearing of ovine requires less capital and is more appropriate to our economy where capital is dear. Considering the importance of ovine rearing to our economy, developmental schemes have been launched under intensive rural development programmes to help rearing of ovine by rural poor.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Ajit Kumar Singh (1997)**, “Livestock Resources and Fisheries, Land use”, *Environment and Economic Growth in India*, MD Publications PVT Ltd, MD House, 11, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110 002.
- **Vaidyanathan, A. (1988)**, “*Bovine Economy in India*”; Oxford and I.B.H Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, and Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum.
- **George, P.S and K.N. Nair**, *Livestock Economy of Kerala*, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala.
- **Agnihotri, M.K. and Dr. V. Babji (1998)**, “Transportation And Marketing of Goat And Sheep in India”, *Agro India-The Country’s Ultimate Agri Business Magazine* October / November.
- **Aravida Ghose, (2002)**, “Livestock Maintenance: Over View”, *Thitam*, Vol.33, No.5, Jan 2002.
- **Arunachalam, S. and M. Thiagarajan (2000)**, “Constraints in Rural Livestock Farming In Parts of Tamil Nadu”, *Livestock International*, Vol. 4 Issue 3, April: Pp.4 - 8.
- **Arya, H.P.S. and Mahesh Chander (1999)**, “Goat Production by Landless and Small Scale Farmers in North Indian Plains, Division of Extension Education”, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- **Beohar, B.B., P.K. Mishra and S.B. Nahatkar (2004)**, “Problems, Prospects and Policy Reforms of Livestock Marketing in Madhya Pradesh”, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol.59 (3), July – September P.626.
- **Bhanja, S.K. (1989)**, “Livestock Development for Rural Poor”, *Kurekshetra*, Vol. 37(4), January: Pp.13, 14 & 18.