



Retrospective Study of Reproductive Diseases of Small Ruminants in Northern Barind Tract in Bangladesh

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Abstract: Context: The information of diseases prevalence give useful information on disease pattern and thus can be used in preventing diseases as well as formulating policies for future management to prevent diseases. Aim: This study is therefore aimed at determining the pattern of reproductive diseases encountered at the Barind tract in Bangladesh. Materials and Method: The primary data were collected by randomly selected location in each district of retrospective survey from the veterinary and vaccination camp of the study area. Records of 2667 clinical cases of small ruminants (2394 goats, 273 sheep) questionnaires report under this study, from July 2012 to June 2013 were analyzed to assess the importance of existing diseases. The computer program SPSS were analyzed the study and Chi-square and F test were used for significance test. Results: The small ruminants were significantly suffering from various diseases and disorders. The maximum 816 (30.6%) was affected by infectious diseases and lowest 18 (0.7%) was affected with poisonous diseases in small ruminants. The others diseases highest to lowest rate were 444 (16.6%), 354(13.3%), 345 (12.9%), 231 (8.7%), 162 (6.1%),102 (3.8%), 84 (3.1%),72 (2.7%) and 39 (1.5%) affected with gastrointestinal, respiratory, surgical, female reproductive disorder, deficiency syndrome, Integumentary involvement, diseases of sense organ, musculoskeletal system and disease of male sex organ respectively in small . The highest disease prevalence (89.8%) was observed in goat than in sheep (10.2%) and the total reproductive disease prevalence was 10.2%. The highest & lowest incidence rates of reproductive disorders in relation to sex were 32.5% & 1.9% in anoestrus and postitis. Similarly, the age had significant effect ($P<0.05$) and highest value were 20.4%, 7.9% & 4.5% observed in anoestrus of young, adult and old ages respectively. The season had significant effect and the overall disease prevalence was higher rainy season 40.4%, but the individual highest value observed in anoestrus 14.7% in winter season. Conclusion: The one tenth portion of disease prevalence got in reproductive related case, but most frequent reproductive diseases and disorder were in found in goat, female animal, young age, rainy season and particularly in anoestrus condition of small ruminants at northern Barind tract in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Reproductive Diseases, Prevalence, Age, Sex, Seasons

1. Introduction

The magnitude of contribution of the livestock sector to the GDP is 2.6 % in Bangladesh and 80% rural people rear indigenous animals. The present population of goat and, sheep are 22400000 and 2870000 respectively [1] (DLS, 2010). The Barind tract is situated in the Northern belt of Bangladesh. The area of Barind area in particular is known to tilt a farther 15M upwards in the west. On the other hand Barind Tract has a different geographic character than other parts of Bangladesh.

Its soil formation is also different from others parts of Bangladesh. This northern part is 37 meter above sea level. People in this area used to cultivate rice once a year, but now produce various crops such as rice, white and pulses round the year. The other time of the year left that is suitable for grazing of animal especially small ruminants [2](Alice Mbugua 2011). Livestock sector provides full time employment to approximately 20% and part time employment to

approximately 50% of the rural population of Bangladesh. It also generates an adequate amount of foreign currency every year by exporting hides and skin and their products. Besides, per capita income of Bangladesh is 750 US dollar and 49% of the total population of Bangladesh is malnourished. Per capita requirement of protein cannot be fulfilled by our protein sources. So, continuous protein deficiency causes various nutritional deficiency diseases followed by infectious diseases and reproductive disturbances. If the livestock sector develops, it will be able to fulfill the existing requirement of protein for the country. Disease is defined as inability to perform physiological functions at normal levels even though nutrition and other environmental requirements are provided at adequate levels [3] (Radositis *et al.*, 2007). Disease conditions always impair livestock production [4-5] (Akerejola *et al.*, 1979; Lamorde, 1996). Apart from this, several other factors such as environment and nutrition, especially inadequate protein intake [6-7] (Kumidiak *et al.*, 1981; Smith and Somade, 1994) decrease reproductive performance. However, technological difficulties in these countries hinder extensive use of modern diagnostic techniques in disease surveillance [8] (Nwanta *et al.*, 2000). Diseases and climatic problems have been blamed as the main limitation to modern animal husbandry in tropical areas [9] (Loosli *et al.*, 1974). It is therefore important to understand not only the interactions between different diseases occurring in the same environment, but also the modulating influence of the climatic factors driving the seasonal variations usually observed [10] (Onwuliri *et al.* 1993). Such knowledge is essential in planning control strategies against reproductive diseases. Approximately 36% protein requirement is fulfilled by livestock sector. In the rural area of Plain land of Bangladesh livestock rearing such as beef fattening, goat rearing, buck rearing and sheep rearing are gradually increasing day by day. Small ruminants are allowed to roam throughout the seasons, thriving on indigenous browses growing in compound bushes and farm fallows with additional supplementation from kitchen wastes [11] (Okoli *et al.* 2003). The goat is called the “Poor man’s cow” is the second important livestock in Bangladesh which plays an important role in the rural economy and earn substantial amount of foreign currency by exporting skin and others by products [12] (Kamaruddin, 2003). Each year goat production provides 127,000 MT meats, which accounts for 25% of total red meat in Bangladesh [13] (FAO, 2007). Even in urban area goats and sheep are being raised under an intensive system of management by stall feeding with bran, fodder and tree leaves. So there is a lot of prospect to rear small ruminants in that area and Several reports have been written on livestock diseases in the country, but with very little attention to small ruminant’s diseases especially reproductive diseases. These studies are usually emphasis to analysis the prevalence rate and evaluation of sex, age and seasonal influence on reproductive disease trends in small ruminants.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Sources of Information

The primary data were collected by randomly selected location in each district of retrospective survey from the veterinary and vaccination camp of the study area. The Health and Vaccination awareness camp was taken by primary questionnaire were filled up. The vaccination camps were in Nachal Upazilla Livestock office Chapainowabjong; Youth training centre, Noagoan; Moukhara High school field, Natore and Parila Primary School field, Paba, Rajshahi. The other data were collected from data record book of Veterinary Clinic and Artificial Insemination Center in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, University of Rajshahi. Records of 2667 clinical cases of small ruminant (2394 goats, 273 sheep) questionnaires report under this study, from July 2012 to June 2013 were analyzed to assess the importance of existing diseases. The results were analyzed into eleven major diagnostic groups in small ruminants. The age of each animal was determined by asking the owner and by dentition. Diagnosis of these cases was made on the basis of signalment (age, sex and breed), clinical history and clinical examinations. To avoid overlapping of these diseases, certain adjustments were made so that each disease was counted under only one group. The data on the occurrence of clinical diseases and disorders were analyzed into eleven major diagnostic groups.

2.2. Data Processing

These groups were: (1) Gastro intestinal system involvement, (2) Respiratory system involvement (3) Musculoskeletal system involvement, (4) Integumentary involvement, (5) Diseases of senses organ, (6) Infectious diseases (includes PPR, rabies, tetanus Naval ill, pregnancy toxemia, worm infestation and coccidiosis) (7) Deficiency and metabolic diseases, (8) Poisonous diseases, (9) Common Surgery, (10) Female reproductive diseases and (11) Male sex organ involvement. The age sex and seasonal influence on the occurrence of diseases were also analyzed. Accordingly, data were analyzed into three age groups: Kids/ lambs (below 12 months) adults (12 to 24 months) and older (more than 24 months) aged. Sex was male and female and. We considered three seasons as summer from March to May, Rainy from June to October and winter from November to February. The small ruminants’ diseases of male and female reproductive involvement were selection for further revision. Data on clinical cases of reproductive abnormalities (in case of female) were abortion, anoestrus, cervicitis, dystocia, endometritis, pyometra, repeat breeding, retained placenta, still birth and vaginal or uterine prolapsed as well as in male it is orchitis, postitis, and urinary tract infection. Diagnoses at the health and vaccination campaign by the veterinarian were usually based on flock history, clinical sign and symptoms.

2.3. Statistical Analysis

Data were statistically analyzed by Statistical Package for

Social Science (SPSS) software 17.0 version [14]. Chi-square and F test was used to know the association between different groups in respective cases.

3. Results

The diseases and reproductive disorders observed in the different systems of small ruminants are shown in the Table 1-4. A total 2667 cases were presented to the study, and of these, 270(10.2%) were reproductive case. The percentage distribution of diseases according to species shows goat with the highest number of cases 2394 (89.8%), then sheep 273 (10.2%) (Table1). In the study it was found that small ruminant were significantly suffering from various diseases and disorders, where maximum 816 (30.6%) of small ruminants were affected by infectious diseases. The lowest number 18 (0.7%) small ruminants affected with poisonous diseases. The other number of diseases involve in small were highest to lowest rate 444 (16.6%), 354(13.3%), 345 (12.9%), 231 (8.7%), 162 (6.1%),102 (3.8%), 84 (3.1%),72 (2.7%) and 39 (1.5%) were in gastrointestinal, respiratory, surgical, female reproductive disorder, deficiency syndrome, Integumentary involvement, diseases of sense organ, musculoskeletal system and disease of male sex organ, respectively. The overall incidence rate of reproductive disorder was 10.2, where 8.7% in female and 1.5% in male sex involvement. The incidence rate (highest to lowest) of reproductive disorders involvement with relation to sex were 32.8%, 15.8%, 10.2%, 7.9%, 6.8%, 5.7%, 4.5% in anoestrus, abortion, dystocia , retained placenta, cervicitis, mastitis and repeat breeding in case of female, but in male it was 5.7%, 5.3%, 2.6 and 1.9% in urinary tract infection, urolithiasis, postitis and orchitis, respectively (table 2). The study also revealed that the reproductive disorders of small ruminants were varied with aged. The incidence rate of cervicitis, abortion, mastitis, retained placenta, anoestrus, repeat breeding, dystocia, urinary tract infection, postitis, urolithiasis and orchitis were 5.7%, 8.7%, 2.3%, 5.7%, 20.4%, 1.1%, 4.5%, 4.2%, 1.9%, 1.9% & 1.9% in young; 1.1%, 5.7%, 2.3%, 2.3%, 7.9%, 2.3%, 1.1%, 1.5%, 0%, 3.4% & 0.8% and in adult 0%, 1.5%, 1.1%, 2.3%, 4.5%, 1.1%, 2.3%, 0.8% ,0%, 0% & 0% in older respectively (table 3). The seasonal influence also diverse with the reproductive disorders of small in case of cervicitis, abortion, mastitis, retained placenta, anoestrus, repeat breeding, dystocia, urinary tract infection, postitis, urolithiasis and orchitis were 1.1%, 3.4%, 3.4%, 1.1%, 9.1%, 0.0%, 2.3%, 2.3%, 0.8%, 1.9% & 1.9% in summer; 3.4%, 6.8%, 2.3%, 6.8%, 9.1%, 1.1%, 5.7%, 2.6%, 1.1%, 1.5% & 0.0% in rainy and 2.3%, 5.7%, 0%, 2.3%, 14.7%, 3.4%, 0%, 1.5%, 0%, 1.9% & 0.8% in winter respectively (table 4).

4. Discussion

The retrospective study provided preliminary information

on the incidence and pattern of the reproductive disorder prevalent at the Northern Barind tract in Bangladesh. The frequency of reproductive disorder randomly distributed among the species. However, there were more cases affecting small (goat and sheep). This can be explained since small ruminants are in absolute terms, more numerous and it is relatively cheaper to rear small ruminants within the Barind area (Urban area) where they are simply allowed to roam freely and scavenge for food. The occurrence of diseases was predominate to be more in female than male [15] (Wazari *et al.*, 2006) due to the presence of higher number of female animals in the study area [16](Ali *et al* 2011) . This is consistent with the fact that females are kept for longer periods in the herd for breeding or milk supply than the males. Also, the peculiarity of the female's vulnerability could be a contributing factor and observed high frequency of anoestrus. The relationship between nutritional / management factors, poor feeding and present in infectious agent in the environment would be the second position of abortion. Twinning poor feeding and management as a cause of dystocia [17-20](Arthur *et al.*, 1998; Dryendahl *et al.*, 1977; Bendixen *et al.*, 1987 & Islam *et al.*, 2013) may be associated with the relatively high incidence of dystocia and retained placenta observed in the study. Similarly the high incidence of urinary tract infection in male would be associated with service to any types of small ruminants, dry weather of the region and neglected of the infection.

Similarly the general frequency of the disease was randomly distributed throughout the year, but relatively more cases were encountered during the month of July to October (rainy season) followed by month of November to February (winter season) than the month of March to June (dry or summer season) which partially agree with Khair *et al.* [21] (2013) and disagree with Waziri *et al.*[15] (2006) The rainy season lies highest frequency may be due to the lack or scarcity of fodder and lack of grazing.



Figure 1. Area of sample collection at Northern Barind Tract in Bangladesh.

Table 1. Distribution of diseases of small ruminants.

Diseases	Small ruminants		Total
	Goat	Sheep	
Gastrointestinal	372 (13.9%)	72 (2.7%)	444 (16.6%)
Respiratory	327 (12.3%)	27 (1.0%)	354 (13.3%)
Musculoskeletal system	69 (2.6%)	3(0.1%)	72 (2.7%)
Female reproductive	183 (6.9%)	48(1.8%)	231 (8.7%)
Integumentary involvement	93 (3.5%)	9(0.3%)	102 (3.8%)
Disease of Sense organ	78 (2.9%)	6(0.2%)	84 (3.1%)
Infectious disease	750 (28.1%)	66(2.5%)	816 (30.6%)
Deficiency syndrome	153 (5.7%)	9(0.3%)	162 (6.1%)
Poison	12 (0.4%)	6 (0.2%)	18 (0.7%)
Male sex organ	39 (1.5%)	0 (0%)	39 (1.5%)
surgical	318 (11.9%)	27 (1.0%)	345 (12.9%)
Total	2394 (89.8%)	273 (10.2%)	2667 (100%)
F value	7.882	Significant	

Table 2. Distribution of reproductive diseases of small ruminants associated with sex.

Legend	Sex of small ruminants		Total
	Male	Female	
Cervicities	-	18 (6.8%)	18 (6.8%)
Abortion	-	42 (15.8%)	42 (15.8%)
Mastitis	-	15 (5.7%)	15 (5.7%)
Retained placenta	-	27 (10.2%)	27 (10.2%)
Anoestrus	-	87(32.8%)	87(32.8%)
Repeat breeding	-	12 (4.5%)	12 (4.5%)
Dystocia	-	21 (7.9%)	21 (7.9%)
Urinary tract Infection	15 (5.7%)	2(0.8%)	17 (6.4%)
Postitis	5 (1.9%)	-	5 (1.9%)
Urolithiasis	14 (5.3%)	-	14 (5.3%)
Orchitis	7 (2.6%)	-	7 (2.6%)
Total	41 (15.5%)	224 (84.5%)	265 (100%)
Chi-Square Test	Calculated value 251.506	Tabulated value 18.307	Significant P< 0.05

Table 3. Distribution of reproductive diseases of small ruminants associated with age.

Legend	Age of the small ruminants			Total
	Young 0<12 Months	Adult 12<24 Months	Old >24 Months	
Cervicities	15 (5.7%)	3 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	18 (6.8%)
Abortion	23 (8.7%)	15 (5.7%)	4 (1.5%)	42 (15.8%)
Mastitis	6 (2.3%)	6 (2.3%)	3 (1.1%)	15 (5.7%)
Retained placenta	15 (5.7%)	6 (2.3%)	6 (2.3%)	27 (10.2%)
Anoestrus	54 (20.4%)	21 (7.9%)	12 (4.5%)	87(32.8%)
Repeat breeding	3 (1.1%)	6 (2.3%)	3 (1.1%)	12 (4.5%)
Dystocia	12 (4.5%)	3 (1.1%)	6 (2.3%)	21 (7.9%)
Urinary tract Infection	11 (4.2%)	4 (1.5%)	02 (0.8%)	17(6.4%)
Postitis	5 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (1.9%)
Urolithiasis	5 (1.9%)	9 (3.4%)	0 (0%)	14 (5.3%)
Orchitis	5 (1.9%)	02 (0.8%)	0 (0%)	7 (2.6%)
Total	154 (58.1%)	75 (28.3%)	36(13.6%)	265 (100%)
Chi-Square Test	Calculated value 36.279	Tabulated value 31.410	Not Significance P>0.05	

Table 4. Distribution of reproductive diseases of small ruminants associated with Season.

Legend	Seasons of the Year			Total
	Summer (March to June)	Rainy (July to October)	Winter (November to February).	
Cervicities	3 (1.1%)	9 (3.4%)	6(2.3%)	18 (6.8%)
Abortion	9 (3.4%)	18 (6.8%)	15 (5.7%)	42 (15.8%)
Mastitis	9 (3.4%)	6 (2.3%)	0 (0%)	15 (5.7%)
Retained placenta	3 (1.1%)	18 (6.8%)	6 (2.3%)	27 (10.2%)
Anoestrus	24 (9.1%)	24 (9.1%)	39(14.7%)	87(32.8%)
Repeat breeding	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.1%)	9 (3.4%)	12 (4.5%)
Dystocia	6 (2.3%)	15 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	21 (7.9%)
Urinary tract Infection	6 (2.3%)	7 (2.6%)	4 (1.5%)	17(6.4%)
Postitis	2 (0.8%)	3 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	5 (1.9%)

Legend	Seasons of the Year			Total
	Summer (March to June)	Rainy (July to October)	Winter (November to February).	
Urolithiasis	5 (1.9%)	4 (1.5%)	5 (1.9%)	14 (5.3%)
Orchitis	5 (1.9%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.8%)	7 (2.6%)
Total	72 (27.2%)	107 (40.4%)	86(32.5%)	265 (100%)
Chi-Square Test	Calculated value 62.917	Tabulated value 31.410	Significant P<0.05	

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Authors' Contributions

Md. Hemayatul Islam designed the study, performed the data analysis and wrote the manuscript. Sarder MJU was supervised and contributed in development and pre-testing of the study questionnaire, data collection and reviewed the manuscript. The other authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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