



Economic Contribution of Cart Donkeys to the Livelihoods of Donkey Cart Families in the Rural and Peri-urban Areas of Punjab, Pakistan

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Introduction

- ❖ Donkeys are one of the major draught/carriage animals and livelihood means for the poor families in Pakistan.
- ❖ Donkeys support at great extent to integrated agriculture in rural-areas.
- ❖ They are efficiently used to pull wooden carts carrying variety of goods e.g fruits, vegetables, cereals, wood, bricks etc. and earn livelihood for many poor families in peri-urban areas.

Goal: Study was conducted to explore different transportation services by donkeys and economic contribution of cart-donkeys and its impact on livelihoods of donkey cart families in peri-urban and rural-areas of Punjab, Pakistan.



Fig. 1: Showing different transportation services by donkeys in study area

Methodology

- ❖ A baseline survey was conducted using semi-structured pre-tested questionnaire.
- ❖ Donkey-cart owners, 60 each from districts Faisalabad (Metropolitan) and Toba Tek Singh (Rural) in total (n=120) were interviewed during January-February 2019.
- ❖ Snow-ball sampling technique was used to collect data.

Results

- ❖ Results show that interviewed cart-donkey owners had age averaged 38.5 ± 11.90 years and mostly were uneducated.
- ❖ Most (78 %) married and averaged 6.0 ± 2.08 HH members.
- ❖ Donkey cart keeping experience averaged 12.9 ± 4.78 yrs.
- ❖ Overall, donkey cart price averaged 9816.7 ± 5768.58 PKR (177.3 Euro), & mostly made from Dalbergia sissoo (97 %).
- ❖ Donkeys age averaged 2–4 years (36 %), 4–7 (59 %) and 8–10 years 5 %.
- ❖ Exclusively male donkeys were used and adult price averaged 35229.2 ± 19051.45 PKR (209.69 Euro) and Lassi breed price was significantly ($p < 0.001$) higher than Spurki breed and non-descript.
- ❖ Daily working hours averaged 9.0 ± 2.50 hours/day and normally, most donkey-carts (97.5 %) were used around the year with averaged use 6.1 ± 1.11 days/week.
- ❖ All donkey-carts (98 %) were used exclusively for earning livelihoods with a few for household activities.
- ❖ Mean daily income was 853.8 ± 361.96 PKR/day (5.08 Euro/day) and significantly ($p < 0.05$) different among 2 cities.
- ❖ Donkey-carts were being kept as prime source of livelihood and earning exclusively being used to fulfill daily household needs (98.5 %) plus donkey-keeping expenses.

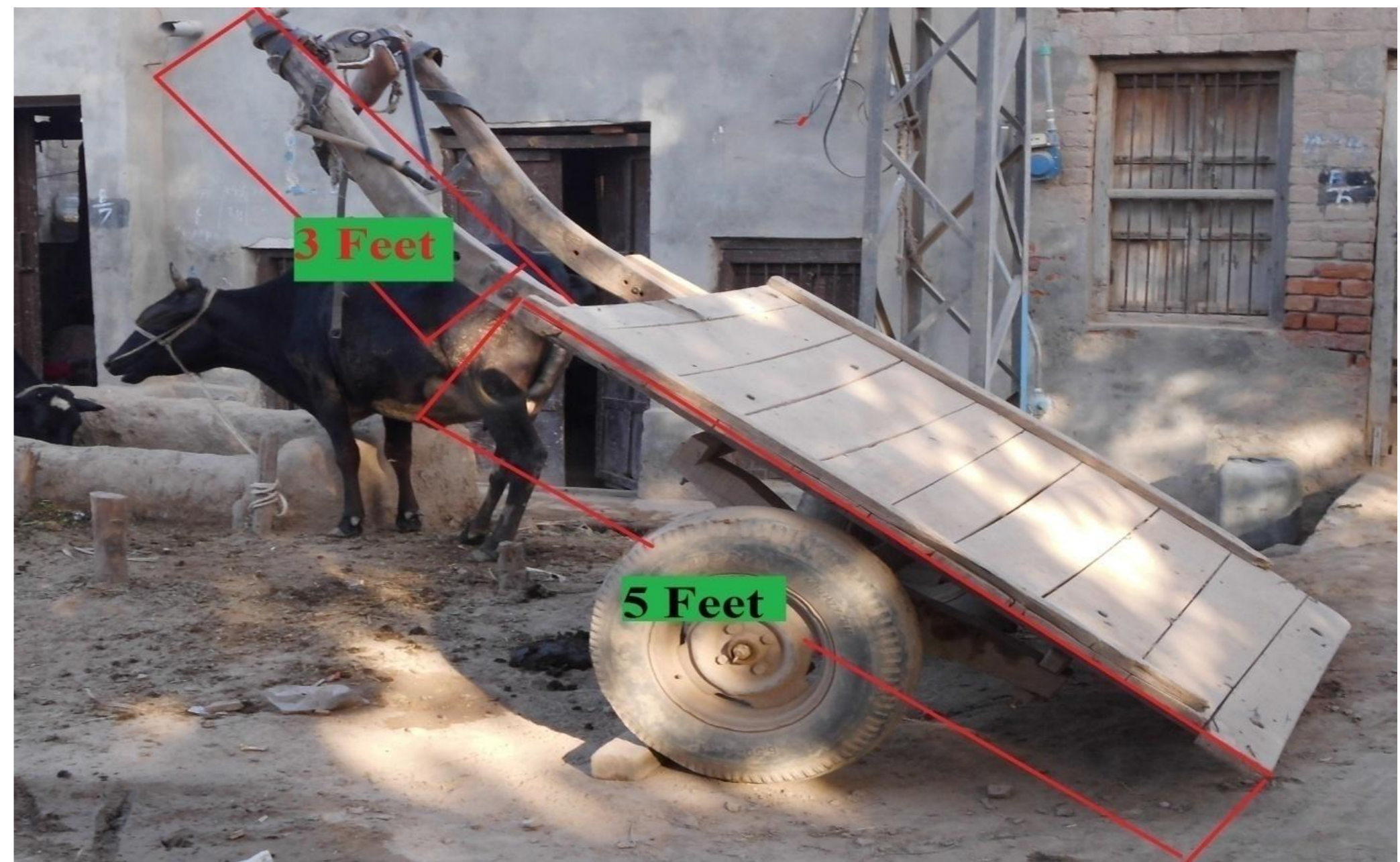


Fig. 2: Showing normal dimensions of donkey carts used in study area

Conclusions

- ❖ In conclusion, donkey ownership and participation of donkey carts in transportation of goods both in peri-urban and rural-areas has a positive impact on livelihoods by increasing in their income and livestock ownership.
- ❖ Despite of valuable contribution in providing livelihoods to the poor, still it is extremely neglected species in terms of facilitation, conservation and resource allocation in Pakistan.

