

Review of: "Economics of Cattle Fattening - A Case of Bangladesh"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General comments on the article

The work is worthy because it requires collecting data that does not exist and that is difficult to access in the field. However, the document must be reorganized, and clarifications must be made to allow better understanding.

1. The distribution of information between the introduction and the literature review is not clear. This is probably confusing for you because there are a lot of redundancies. For example, you wrote in the introduction: "So, the demand for cattle, especially beef cattle, increases several times higher during the holy Eid-UI-Azha festival. The price of cattle has also increased currently. Keeping this occasion in mind, many poor people are involved in bull fattening just before 3 or 4 months of the Eid-UI-Azha, when they sell the animals at prices that result in a high margin." And in the literature review: "They showed that a large number of farmers are involved in bull fattening just before 3 or 4 months of the Eid-UI-Azha (Muslim festival) when they sell the animals at profitable prices."

Repetitions make the reading heavier and lose the reader. In addition, you mix references from work carried out in Bangladesh and in other countries, sometimes creating confusion.

My suggestions: either you write a shorter introduction to pose the problem, and you write a literature review that integrates a significant part of the references that you use in the introduction. But this assumes that you indicate what your literature review is about, which you do not specify in the article. Either you combine the introduction and the literature review into a longer introduction. Personally, I would go for the second option because some of the references can be included in the discussion (as it is usually done). The paradox of the current formulation is that, despite all the references provided, the justification for your study does not appear so clearly.

2) Likewise, it is necessary to reorganize the information between the M&M and results parts. For example, you write several sentences about M&M surveys without specifying the information requested, which is essential. We thus discover the variables in the results (In the case of beef cattle fattening, the socioeconomic characteristics included age, educational qualification, years of experience, duration of fattening by respondents, types of cows preferred for fattening, and number of animals fattened by the respondents at a time, etc.). Not all of this information is results; they should be in M&Ms. Quite surprisingly, you start the results part with elements of discussion, not with results (According to Randela (2005), demographic characteristics of households are essential when analyzing...) to tip into M&Ms.

- 3) On a methodological level, elements of information are missing.

- You do not indicate how the sampling of fattening farmers was carried out and what it represents in the overall population of farmers. This leads you to assert things that may be incorrect: « Many of the respondents interviewed mainly depend on livestock keeping. Therefore, it is a signal that the livestock sector is the main economic activity in all selected areas.» In fact, we don't know anything about it because it's a sampling effect. You only investigated fatteners. If these fatteners represent 1% of farmers, that does not represent much.
 - You report the results by year of production, but you indicate that only 53% of farmers did cattle fattening the whole year. Is this logical? So you base your comparison on the regions (which differ little), but you do not take into account the seasonal aspect. You insist on the fact that before the Eid-UI-Azha festival, demand and prices are higher (so this is clearly an essential economic factor), which you completely elude in your analysis. It would be particularly informative to know the economic efficiency of farms which do seasonal fattening before the festival, compared to those which do it all year round, as well as the economic efficiency outside the festive period. Can you provide these comparisons?
 - In the description of marketing channels, you mentioned the channels Farmer→Consumer and Bepari→Consumer. In these cases, how is the slaughter done? What does the farmer and the .bepari sell? Live animals or meat?
4. The marketing channels and market actors are described on page 14, after 7 pages of information on the actors in these channels. It would seem logical to me to present the marketing channels and market actors at the beginning of the results.
- 5) Channel IV is preferable because livestock farmers sell their cattle directly to consumers and maximize profit -> It's an opinion. You must specify: from the farmer's point of view. In fact, an economist can consider that the preferable channel is the one that creates maximum wealth and employment for society. In this case, the longest channel will be preferable because it will create the most jobs.

Below, you will find requests for clarification and reformulation, as well as some suggestions for corrections.

Request for clarification

- cattle production and consumption of livestock products are still much lower in consumption to other countries-> as consumption is very different from one country to another, could you please precise?
- So, the demand for cattle, especially beef cattle, increases several times higher during the holy Eid-UI-Azha festival. The price of cattle has also increased currently. -> Several times, that is to say? (Conjugation: increases/has also increased)
- Many studies have shown that beef cattle fattening has greater potential for improving the living standards of people. Many? That is to say? -> Refer to the review of literature
- the review of the literature from the contemporary world. That is to say? A review on what and for what purpose? (Comtemporary world -> current)
- The total sample size was 120, which consisted of 90 cattle fattening farmers -> On what basis were the farmers chosen? What percentage of the population do they represent?
- Primary data were collected during the months of July to August 2018. -> Specify over what period. Since the annual averages are calculated, do they cover the period July 2017 - July 2018?

- The secondary sources were various publications from home and abroad -> I didn't understand what these secondary sources were for. If 'publications from abroad' were used to write the introduction/review/discussion, this is the normal writing process. There is no need to mention it. If 'home data' from BBS and DLS were used, you must specify what you did with it.
- Judiciously, we had taken nine (9) variables to explain the production of cattle fattening: What are these variables? In the formula, there are 8.
Judiciously does not provide information. You must justify the choice of variables.
- Producer's share of consumer's taka 1) I don't understand why you put the Bangladeshi currency in the formula. 2) If taka is the Bangladeshi currency, what is BDT? 3) If it is the share of the consumer, why the retailer appears? The price paid by the consumer should appear.
- Total investment = Purchase price + Marketing cost - depreciation of equipment is not mentioned (but it is on page 9)
- The labor used for the cattle fattening program included both family labor and hired labor. For me, only hired labour must be taken into account because 1) the margin corresponds to profit or income for the farmer, and 2) there are too many approximations to estimate labour time and the value of labour. In all cases, you must specify your methodology. What value do you place on each member of the family? What estimate did you make of the labour time?
- The summation of variable cost was about BDT 61546 (89.44%) and fixed cost BDT 7267 (10.66%) -> Specify per head.
- "Only in the case of Channel IV, it was found that there was no value added in that channel; so, marketing efficiency was 100 % in Channel IV... Conversely, if marketing efficiency is less than 100%, it signifies inefficiency". - > I don't see any efficiency values expressed as percentages in the tables, nor any calculation methods. Specify the calculation method to go from the MME index to the percentage.
- They showed that a large number of farmers are involved in bull fattening just before 3 or 4 months of Eid-UI-Azha // The cattle fattening period is 4.5 months in rural areas of Bangladesh. 3-4 months or 4.5 months?

Sentences to rephrase

- Large ruminants such as cattle and buffalo, and small ruminants such as sheep and goats, constitute the major portion of livestock.
- to small traders and on to large traders
- Northern Bangladesh is currently working hard to develop
- the women farmers of Bangladesh have been involved in sustained beef fattening programs -> in sustained beef...
- by considering the purchasing and selling place, market participants, and purchasing and selling price of fattening
- involved in bull fattening just before 3 or 4 months of Eid-UI-Azha -> during the 3 to 4 months preceding Eid-UI-Azha,
- of strategies to alleviate the shortage of the quality live animal -> what is linked to quality?
- The amount for personal costs such as food, 'paan,' and 'biri,' etc., spent during the cattle purchase and sale.
- Many educated, unemployed youths are coming forward and finding themselves in self-employment with a good cash inflow from livestock enterprises, especially cattle-fattening farms. -> I doubt that the cattle fattening business is sufficient to provide many jobs for educated youths. I suggest a more general formulation = in agriculture, including

cattle fattening.

- The most common marketing functions performed by the bepari and meat seller. The functions were beef cattle keeping... -> and meat seller were beef cattle keeping...
- conducted a study that in Vietnam most of the farmers do not have access to organized markets

Sentences without content (which can be removed)

- The studies which were found related were reviewed with paying attention (certainly, you cannot write that you did it without paying attention)
- For collecting primary data from the relevant respondents, interview schedules were prepared. Three separate sets of questionnaires were constructed for this purpose. One set of interview schedules was used for the cattle fattening farmers, the second one for bepari, and the third one for the meat seller: detours that seem unnecessary to me (members of sentences without content)

My suggestion: primary data was collected through a specific questionnaire applied to each category of actor.

- Kinds of literature concerning cattle fattening and marketing.
- It is not necessary to repeat twice “ Dhamrai, Kushtia Sadar and Pachbibi Upazila” on p 11 -> ‘in the 3 regions’ is enough

Some mistakes

were slaughtered -> are ?

For this, the research -> a research (or a study)

by three different sets of questionnaires -> with

subs -> subsectors?

pathways of poverty -> pathways out of poverty

Marketing cost of beparie -> bepari or beparie ?

Table 7a and 7b. have the same title (Return of meat seller) but not the same content

Word or abbreviation to define (at the first occurrence). These words are not known to an outside reader

Bepari -> I discover in the M&M that a bepari is a middleman

BDT

dalal's commission -> Dalal ?

by the 'ljaradar' ?

'paan' and 'biri'

Munshi'

Haat

SSC, HSC

Bibliography

missing in the list of references

DLS, 2015

Williams et al 2006

reference written differently in the text and in the biblio

Acharya (1999) -> Acharya and Agarwal

Ahmed, 2010 (p3) -> Ahmed et al, 2010

(Mahabile et al., 2000) text : (Mahabile et al., 2002) biblio

EntrePinoyAtbp (2008)

ENTREPinoy Atbp. 2008. Marketing of Carabao.<http://www.mixph.com/2008/03/carabaomarketing-andfinancing.html> (ENTREPinoy Atbp) (accessed 6/6/08).

Hossain and Chandra (2002)

Hossain, S. 2002.

Error on the year on the reference FAO, 2001. -> 2010

Website not accessible

Mifugo.go.tz

<http://www.mixph.com/2008/03/carabaomarketing-%20andfinancing.html>