

## Analysis of morbidity and mortality rates in bovine in Himachal Pradesh

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### Abstract

**Aim:** The aim of the present study was to determine the morbidity and mortality rates of Bovine population present in Himachal Pradesh, India. In addition, the effect of age, sex, environmental conditions, management practices and other factors on the morbidity and mortality rate was also analyzed using suitable statistical techniques.

**Materials and Methods:** Himachal Pradesh has been divided into four agro-climatic zones. Taking each agro-climatic zone as stratum, five veterinary hospitals from zone 1, two veterinary hospitals each from zone 2 and zone 3 and three veterinary hospitals from zone 4, were selected randomly. Three villages were selected from the villages covered by each veterinary hospital by simple random sampling without replacement scheme. A total of 15 livestock owners were selected from each selected village and thus a total 540 livestock owners constitute the ultimate sample from thirty six villages and twelve veterinary hospitals for the study. The sampling scheme followed in the present study is Stratified three-stage random sampling. Age, sex, season and cause wise morbidity and mortality data were collected from all selected bovine owners in the state for period of one year (January 2011 to December 2011).

**Results:** The Overall analysis of morbidity rate in bovine was 31.22%. Among the three age groups, adults' bovine showed highest morbidity rate 35.73%, followed by calves 26.98% and young stocks 23.17%. Among the three age groups, calves had highest morbidity rate 16.09% due to poor management problems followed by adults 12.15% cases of reproductive problems. The overall mortality rate in bovine was found 9.14%. The overall analysis of mortality in bovine with respect to age revealed significance ( $p < 0.01$ ) difference between age and sex. Amongst the three age groups, calves showed highest mortality 21.53% followed by young stocks 9.35% and adults 4.73%. Among the three age groups, calves had highest mortality (16.09%) due to poor management problems followed by 2.48% cases of digestive diseases.

**Conclusion:** Overall bovine morbidity and mortality rate were 31.22% and 9.14%. Major causes of morbidity were reproductive diseases followed by specific diseases and mortality were poor management problems followed by digestive diseases and specific diseases.

**Keywords:** chi-square, digestive disorder, morbidity rate, mortality rate, reproductive diseases

### Introduction

The success of livestock industry depends on the health of the livestock. Good health increases the productivity and any compromise on health ground shatter the hope of livestock sector. It also plays important role in the rural economy of a country as supplementing family incomes and generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless laborers, small and marginal farmers and women.

Total bovine population of Himachal Pradesh was 3.03 million in the year 2007 (18th livestock census) which was approx. 1 % of India's bovine population (304.42 million) [1]. India is highest milk producer in

the world (121.85 million tons of milk, 2010-11) out of which bovine milk production was 117.253 million tons [1]. Himachal Pradesh contributes 0.90% (1.053 million tons) of bovine milk of India [1]. Total meat production of India was 4.87 million during 2010-11 (cattle-0.81 million and buffalo-0.211 million of meat) but Himachal Pradesh has no record of cattle and buffalo (Bovine) meat production [1]. Contribution of livestock in total GDP is 3.37%, Livestock in agricultural GDP is 27.28 % and agriculture in total GDP is 12.34 % [1].

The knowledge of occurrence and pattern of animal diseases becomes vital in the management, as the main objective of the good management is to reduce the disease incidence and increase the productivities and reproduction. Estimation of morbidity and mortality rate in the population is an important tool for determining the disease status. In the present study the

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Table-1. Morbidity rate in bovine

Disease	Cattle		Buffalo		Bovine %
	Diseased	%	Diseased	%	
Reproductive diseases	119	8.20	45	9.66	8.93
Specific diseases	98	6.75	22	4.72	5.74
Parasitic diseases	92	6.34	16	3.43	4.89
Digestive diseases	73	5.03	20	4.29	4.66
Injury and accidents	23	1.58	2	0.43	1.005
Nutritional deficiency, respiratory diseases and poisoning	30	2.07	7	1.50	1.79
Others	48	3.31	24	5.15	4.23
Total	483	33.26	136	29.18	31.22
Total no. available	1452		466		

Table-1.1. Age wise morbidity rate in bovine

Disease	Calf		Young stocks		Adults		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	7	1.73	5	2.03	108	8.52	32.63**
Reproductive diseases	1	0.25	9	3.66	154	12.15	64.1**
Parasitic diseases	15	3.71	19	7.72	74	5.84	4.93
Digestive diseases	16	3.96	13	5.28	64	5.05	0.90
Injury and accidents	2	0.50	3	1.22	20	1.58	2.81
Nutritional deficiency, respiratory diseases and poisoning	3	0.74	1	0.41	33	2.60	9.06*
Others	65	16.09	7	2.85	0	0.00	27.23**
Total	109	26.98	57	23.17	453	35.73	21.42**
Total no. available	404		246		1268		

bovine morbidity and mortality rate in Himachal Pradesh were determined and role of host, agent and environmental factors influencing these rate were also identified.

#### Materials and Methods

Sampling design: Himachal Pradesh state of India has twelve districts that were divided into four agro-climatic zones. Zone 1 comprises of five districts, zone 2 and zone 3 each comprises of two districts and zone four comprises of three districts [2]. By taking four agro-climatic zones as strata, five veterinary hospitals from zone 1, two veterinary hospitals each from zone 2 and zone 3 and three veterinary hospitals from zone 4, were selected randomly [3]. Three villages were selected from the villages covered by each veterinary hospital by simple random sampling without replacement scheme.

A total of 15 livestock owners were selected from each selected village and thus a total 540 livestock owners constitute the ultimate sample from 36 villages



and twelve veterinary hospitals for the study. The sampling scheme followed in the present study was the Stratified three-stage random sampling [4, 5]. Age, sex, season and cause wise morbidity and mortality data were collected from all selected bovine owners in the state for period of one year (January 2011 to December 2011). The diseases observed during the study period were classified 1) Digestive diseases, 2) Respiratory diseases, 3) Reproductive problems, 4) Parasitic diseases, 5) Specific diseases, (FMD, Mastitis, HS, Enzootic bovine haematuria, Rabies, Actinomycosis), 6) Nutritional and metabolic diseases, 7) Injuries and accidents, 8) Other Diseases (due to poor management problems) [6].

#### Methodology:

Morbidity/mortality rate: The morbidity/mortality rate resulting from various diseases was calculated by the formula:

Number of cases (deaths) observed during period / Population (mid-year) × 100

Association between cattle morbidity and mortality rate and different factors was calculated by 2 test.

Chi-square analysis: This test is suitable for analyzing the categorical data. It compares the observed frequencies with expected frequencies under null hypothesis. Test statistic is based on counts that represent the number of items falling in each category. It is used for testing significance of patterns in qualitative data. Test statistics measures the agreement between actual counts and expected counts assuming the null hypothesis. The chi-square distribution can be used to see whether or not the observed counts agree with an expected counts [7].

The chi-square analysis done by using following

Table-1.2. Sex wise morbidity rate in bovine

Disease	Male		Female		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	2	0.41	118	8.22	37.57**
Reproductive diseases	0	0	163	11.36	Not calculated
Parasitic diseases	30	6.21	78	5.44	0.41
Digestive diseases	14	2.90	79	5.51	5.32*
Injury and accidents	5	1.04	20	1.39	0.36
Nutritional deficiency, respiratory diseases and poisoning	12	2.48	25	1.74	1.05
Others	72	14.91	0	0.00	NC
Total	136	28.16	483	33.66	5.0*
Total no. available	483		1435		

Table-1.3. Feeding management factor (Grazing) wise morbidity rate in bovine

Disease	Yes		No		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	57	5.76	63	6.78	0.85
Reproductive diseases	71	7.18	93	10.01	4.91*
Parasitic diseases	67	6.77	41	4.41	5.03*
Digestive diseases	43	4.35	50	5.38	1.11
Injury and accidents	20	2.02	5	0.54	8.20**
Nutritional deficiency, respiratory diseases and poisoning	14	1.42	23	2.48	2.85
Others	25	2.53	47	5.06	8.50**
Total	297	30.03	322	34.66	4.7*
Total no. available	989		929		

formula;

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

O = Observed count and E = Expected count

Statistical analysis: The data were compiled and statistical SPSS program version 17 [3] was used to compare the result [8].

### Results and Discussion

A total of 1918 livestock of different age and breeds were maintained by 540 livestock owners selected for the study during period of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

The reproductive diseases were more prominent having highest morbidity rate 8.93%, followed by specific diseases 5.74%, parasitic diseases 4.89%, digestive diseases 4.66%, injury and accidents 1.0%, diseases (nutritional deficiency, respiratory diseases and poisoning) 1.79% and poor management problems 4.23%. (Table-1)

The morbidity data was categorized according to age as, calf (0-1years), young stocks (1-3 years) and adults (more than three years) in bovine. Amongst the three age groups, adults bovine showed highest morbidity rate (35.73%), followed by calves (26.98%) and young stocks (23.17%). Among the three groups, calves had highest morbidity rate due to poor management problems (16.09%) followed by adults (12.15%) cases of reproductive problems. Calves were having low immunity and proper feeding and management was not provided to them during their early days of life [9,10]. The chi-square analysis revealed that there was significant difference ( $p < 0.01$ ) between age groups in bovine (Table-1.1).

Effect of sex on morbidity rate revealed that in

case of male bovine, poor management cases showed high morbidity rate (14.91%), while in female bovine, morbidity rate was high due to reproductive disorders (11.36%) [11,12]. Parasitic diseases were more in male (6.21%) than female (5.44%). The chi-square analysis showed that the morbidity rates differ significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) between male and female [13] (Table-1.2).

The analysis of morbidity of data according to grazing and non-grazing revealed that in non-grazing group the reproductive disorders (10.01%), specific diseases (6.78%) and poor management cases (5.06%) were more than grazing group in bovine. The chi-square analysis revealed that there was significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) in morbidity rate between grazing and non-grazing group in bovine (Table-1.3) [14-16].

Study of mortality rate revealed that majority of deaths occurred in bovine during study period were maximum due to poor management problems 4.23% followed by digestive diseases 1.65% and specific diseases 0.92%. The overall analysis of mortality rate in bovine with respect to age revealed significance ( $p < 0.01$ ) difference between age and sex group. Amongst the three age groups, calves showed highest mortality (21.53%) followed by young stocks (9.35%) and adults (4.73%). Among the three groups, calves had highest (16.09%) mortality rate due to poor management cases followed by 2.48% cases of digestive diseases. Calves were having low immunity and proper feeding and management was not provided to them during their early days of life. The mortality rate decreases with increase in age. This may due to the reason that calves were having low immunity and proper feeding and management was not provided to them during their early days of life [17-21] (Table-2.1).

The overall analysis of mortality rate in bovine with respect to sex revealed significance ( $p < 0.01$ )

Table-2. Mortality rate in bovine

Disease	Cattle		Buffalo		Bovine %
	Died	%	Died	%	
Digestive diseases	26	1.79	7	1.50	1.645
Specific diseases	8	0.55	6	1.29	0.92
Injury and accidents	19	1.31	1	0.21	0.76
Poisoning	8	0.55	4	0.86	0.705
Parasitic diseases	6	0.41	1	0.21	0.31
Nutritional, respiratory and reproductive disorders	10	0.69	2	0.43	0.56
Others	48	3.31	24	5.15	4.23
Total	125	8.61	45	9.66	9.135
Total no. available	1452		466		

Table-2.1. Age wise mortality rate in bovine

Disease	Calf		Young stocks		Adults		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	6	1.49	1	0.41	7	0.55	4.09
Digestive diseases	10	2.48	8	3.25	15	1.18	6.94*
Injury and accidents	2	0.50	3	1.22	15	1.18	1.49
Parasitic diseases	3	0.74	2	0.81	2	0.16	4.44
Poisoning	1	0.25	0	0.00	11	0.87	1.65
Nutritional, respiratory and reproductive disorders	0	0.00	2	0.81	10	0.79	0.002
Others	65	16.09	7	2.85	0	0.00	27.23**
Total	87	21.53	23	9.35	60	4.73	107.17**
Total no. available	404		246		1268		

Table-2.2. Sex wise mortality rate in bovine

Disease	Male		Female		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	0	0.00	14	0.98	NC
Digestive diseases	11	2.28	22	1.53	6.34*
Injury and accidents	5	1.04	15	1.05	0.0
Parasitic diseases	2	0.41	5	0.35	0.04
Poisoning	7	1.45	5	0.35	7.04**
Nutritional, respiratory and reproductive disorders	4	0.83	8	0.56	0.43
Others	72	14.91	0	0.00	NC
Total	101	20.91	69	4.81	116.00**
Total no. available	483		1435		

Table-2.3. Feeding management factor (Grazing) wise mortality rate in bovine

Disease	Yes		No		<sup>2</sup> cal
	No.	%	No.	%	
Specific diseases	7	0.71	7	0.75	0.014
Digestive diseases	17	1.72	16	1.72	0.0
Injury and accidents	15	1.52	5	0.54	4.45*
Parasitic diseases	1	0.10	6	0.65	3.91*
Poisoning	4	0.40	8	0.86	1.61
Nutritional, respiratory and reproductive disorders	6	0.61	6	0.65	0.012
Others	25	2.53	47	5.06	8.50**
Total	75	7.58	95	10.23	4.14*
Total no. available	989		929		

difference between sex. Male bovine showed maximum (20.91%) mortality than female mortality (4.81%). The reason for this may be given the fact that more care is given to female bovine due to their economic importance as compared to their male counterparts (Table- 2.2).

Significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) difference was found in the overall analysis of mortality in bovine with respect to grazing and non-grazing habit. High mortality (10.23%) had showed by non-grazing bovine than grazing bovine (7.58%) (Table-2.3).

Reproductive diseases are major problem that

affecting bovine under village condition though they are recorded only in female. Relative to other diseases the incidence rate of reproductive disease was more. The reason for this is silent heat, in local or desi bovine/cross bred bovine which farmer did not able to detect, the nutritional status under village condition is poor in minerals which leads to irregular estrous of female, further hormonal imbalance leads to repeat breeding which is supposed to be the major reason for reproductive diseases. The main cause of repeat was faulty AI (artificial insemination), infections of genital organs due to improper hygiene [22, 23].

The morbidity and mortality rates due to various infectious diseases were found to be high. The inadequate knowledge about deworming, vaccination, lack of knowledge about importance of proper ventilation, reluctance of farmers of getting deworming and vaccination done in their livestock etc. were major problems that lead to recurrent outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Occurrences of digestive diseases were high in village condition which may relate to the feeding management of bovine. Lack of knowledge regarding balance feeding among villager leads to various digestive diseases conditions. Animals are fed on low cost and low nutrient diet; sudden changes in feeding of animals are the factors which supplement the disease occurrence [24, 25].

#### Conclusions

Overall morbidity and mortality rate were 31.22% and 9.14% in bovine population respectively. Major causes of morbidity were reproductive diseases followed by specific diseases and mortality were poor management problems followed by digestive and specific diseases. Adult bovine showed high morbidity due to reproductive problems which are major challenges under village conditions in study area. Major emphases are laid to attend reproductive problems. The female were at higher risk of morbidity but males were at higher risk of mortality in bovine. Logistic regression analysis showed that grazing reduces risk of morbidity as high morbidity rate recorded in non-grazing bovine. The calves were found at more risk of mortality. The probability getting disease reduces with increase in age. Mortality rate was high in bovine calves due to poor management. Logistic regression analysis showed that the male were at higher risk of mortality as compared to female.

#### Authors' contributions

JKC and BS designed the study. JKC conducted the study and analysed the data. SP and MRV drafted and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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