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Management practices in dairy farms at selected upazillas of Gazipur district in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

A baseline survey on management practices with some background parameters of dairy farms was conducted at Gazipur sadar upazilla, Sreepur upazilla, Kapasia upazilla and Kaligonj upazilla of Gazipur district during January to June, 2022. Data was collected with structured questionnaire from a total of 115 dairy farms. The farm size varied from 10 to 150 dairy cattle, with majority of the farms contained between 15 to 40 dairy cattle. The highest 91.76% and 16.0% of the farmers were male and female in Kaligonj upazilla and Sreepur upazilla, respectively. The farmers had a wide range of educational background from primary to higher secondary or above. The highest 35.72% of the farmers were engaged in business in Gazipur sadar upazilla. The highest 59.53% of the farmers used own capital in Gazipur sadar upazilla. Most (59.52%) of the farmers did not have any training on cattle farming in Gazipur sadar upazilla. The highest 76.19%, 83.33%, 76.19%, 83.33%, 83.33% and 95.83% of the farmers took help from govt. office, regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases, took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment, used vitamin and mineral supplements, used feed according to body weight and production and used antibiotics for the treatment in Gazipur sadar upazilla and Kapasia upazilla, respectively. The highest 76.0% of the farmers followed scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling, and 68.0% followed scientific/hygienic way of storage and transportation of milk in Sreepur upazilla. The results of this study provided a clear picture of the level of farm management practices among the dairy farms of Gazipur district which will be useful for farmers and researchers to identify the overall situations with problems and their remedies on management related to dairy farms in Bangladesh.

Introduction

Bangladesh is a developing country, where livestock is a major component of the agricultural economy which plays a vital role of country's food production, particularly highly nutritious foods: milk, meat and eggs. Milk, meat and eggs currently provide 74.5% animal protein in the country (DLS, 2023). Milk has been known as nature's almost complete food and its nutritive value depends on its wholesomeness. Quality of milk can be sharply deteriorated due to unscientific and unhygienic way of production and handling, and with the presence of pathogenic bacteria, heavy metals, insecticides, antibiotics, hormones, soda, urea, melamine etc. which deteriorates the quality of milk that not suitable for human consumption. Outbreak of different infectious and contagious diseases have been a major constraint to the production of healthy milk in the country. Measures to prevent outbreaks of diseases and reduce their spread include preventive vaccination, promotion of biosecurity and hygiene by changing management systems, and controlling or restricting the sale of live animals in market places (FAO, 2013). The productivity of the dairy industry is constrained by diseases, specially, in urban areas (Ahmed, 2018). Ndambi *et al*. 2017 mentioned that, shortage of land, shortage of feed and/or high feed prices, and manure related waste management, water scarcity, shortage of labour and animal disease prevalence were the common constraints to dairy production. In Bangladesh, it is fact that

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the consumption of milk and milk products has been increased over the last two decades (DLS, 2023). It is also fact that most of the milk producers of the country still unaware about farm management practices and hygienic production of milk and milk products etc.

The information of the literature on dairy farm management of Gazipur district is still unavailable. To develop a sustainable dairy production in Bangladesh at the farmers' level for the production and ending at consumers' level for consumption, it is necessary to find out the existing management practices and the factors which are directly related with dairy production at Gazipur. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives: (i) to investigate the farm management practices of dairy farms at selected upazillas of Gazipur district and (ii) to identify the background information of the dairy farmers at the same area related to problems of dairy production and their potential solutions.

Methodology

Gazipur district is located at the central part of Bangladesh and near the capital city of Dhaka which consists of six upazillas, namely Gazipur sadar, Kapasia, Tongi, Sreepur, Kaliganj and Kaliakior upazilla where many educational institutions are situated.

The present study was conducted to assess the management practices of different dairy farms located at Gazipur sadar, Sreepur, Kapasia and Kaligonj upazilla of Gazipur district. The data was collected through the direct interviews and/or making frequent personal visits by survey questionnaire which was developed in Bengali on different aspects including knowledge, attitude and practices on farm management practices. The respondents were chosen randomly. The interview schedule was prepared based on the objectives of the study. The selected characteristics included gender, educational qualification, occupation of the farmers, sources of money, knowledge on rearing of cattle, management of dairy cattle, training on cattle farming, treatment of cattle, vaccination program, feeds and feeding of cattle, milking and milk handling; storage and transportation of milk, problems and suggestions related to dairy farming etc.

Data Collection and Sampling

In the Gazipur sadar upazilla, Sreepur upazilla, Kaligonj upazilla and Kapasia upazilla, the data was collected with the visit during 07-08 March, 21-22 March, 04-05 April & 18-19 April, 2022 respectively, with the assistance of a Sub-Assistant Livestock Officer (Extension), Gazipur sadar upazilla veterinary hospital, Gazipur sadar, Gazipur. The information was collected from a total of 115 respondents in four upazillas. The collected data were entered in Excel spreadsheet and analyzed using Excel and SPSS software.

The total sample covered in this study by the following table:

Table 1: Sampling frame of this study

Name of the District	Name of the Upazilla	No. of Respondents
Gazipur	Gazipur sadar upazilla	42
	Sreepur upazilla	25
	Kapasia upazilla	24
	Kaligonj upazilla	24
	Grand Total	115

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic background of the farmers

Number and proportion of the respondents according to gender, academic background, occupation and sources of money are shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 4.

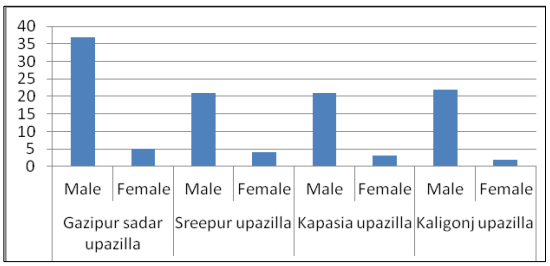

Fig. 1: Number and proportion of the respondents according to gender

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla among a total of 42 respondents, 37 farmers (88.1%) were male with 5 female farmers (11.9%). On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla among a total of 25 respondents, 21 farmers (84.0%) were male with 04 female farmers (16.0%), in Kapasia upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 21 farmers (87.5%) were male with 03 female farmers (12.5%) and in Kaligonj upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 22 farmers (91.67%) were male with 02 female farmers (08.33%).

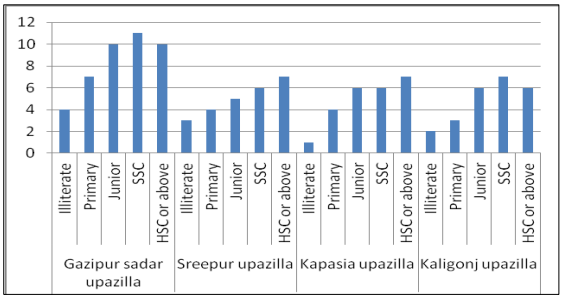

Fig. 2: Number and proportion of the respondents according to academic background

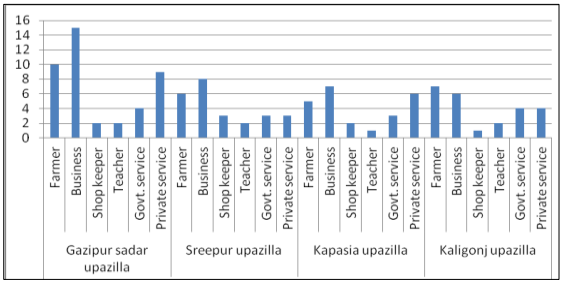

Fig. 3: Number and proportion of the respondents according to occupation

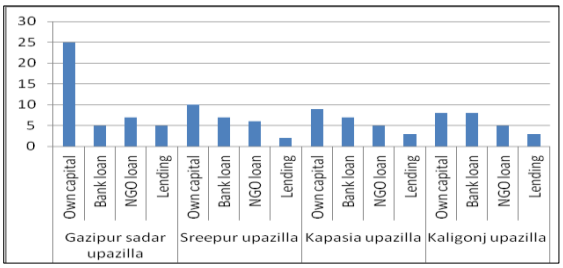

Fig. 4: Number and proportion of the respondents according to sources of money

The study showed that, the farmers had a wide range of educational background from primary to higher secondary or above; in Gazipur sadar upazilla out of total 42 respondents, 04 farmers (9.52%) were illiterate, 07 farmers (16.67%) were primary, 10 farmers (23.81%) were junior, 11 farmers (26.19%) were SSC, 10 farmers (23.81%) were HSC or above. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla among a total of 25 respondents, 03 farmers (12.0%) were illiterate, 04 farmers (16.0%) were primary, 05 farmers (20.0%) were junior, 06 farmers (24.0%) were SSC, 07 farmers (28.0%) were HSC or above, in Kapasia upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 01 farmers (4.16%) were illiterate, 04 farmers (16.67%) were primary, 06 farmers (25.0%) were junior, 06 farmers (25.0%) were SSC, 07 farmers (29.17%) were HSC or above and in Kaligonj upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 02 farmers (8.33%) were illiterate, 03 farmers (12.5%) were primary, 06 farmers (25.0%) were junior, 07 farmers (29.17%) were SSC, 06 farmers (25.0%) were HSC or above. Sharma *et al*. (2014), Rahman *et al*. (2012) and Hossen *et al*. (2008) mentioned that, currently, higher educated (graduation) people are attracting towards the livestock business than before.

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla out of the 42 respondents, 23.81% were involved in agriculture, 35.72% in business, 4.76% in shop keeper, 4.76% in teachering, 9.52% in govt. service and 21.43% in private service. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla among a total of 25 respondents, 24.0% were involved in agriculture, 32.0% in business, 12.0% in shop keeper, 08.0% in teachering, 12.0% in govt. service and 12.0% in private service, in Kapasia upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 20.83% were involved in agriculture, 29.17% in business, 08.33% in shop keeper, 04.17% in teachering, 12.5% in govt. service and 25.0% in private service and in Kaligonj upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, 29.17% were involved in agriculture, 25.0% in business, 04.17% in shop keeper, 08.33% in teachering, 16.67% in govt. service and 16.66% in private service. The total respondents were classified into six categories. On the other hand, Ahmed *et al*. (2010) revealed that the majority (70.2%) of the respondents had main occupation as agriculture, 11.2% were related in the livestock business.

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla among a total of 42 respondents, about 59.53% respondents used own capital for cattle farming and 11.9, 16.67 and 11.9% respondents took bank loan, NGO loan and lending for cattle farming. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla among a total of 25 respondents, about 40.0% respondents used own capital for cattle farming and 28.0, 24.0 and 08.0% respondents took bank loan, NGO loan and lending for cattle farming, in Kapasia upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, about 37.5% respondents used own capital for cattle farming and 29.17, 20.83 and 12.5% respondents took bank loan, NGO loan and lending for cattle farming, in Kaligonj upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, about 33.34% respondents used own capital for cattle farming and 33.33, 20.83 and 12.5% respondents took bank loan, NGO loan and lending for cattle farming. On the other hand, Rahman *et al.* (2012) mentioned that, about 51.3% of the farmers run their cattle fattening business by own money, 20% from NGO loan, 23.8% bank

loan, 5% taken loan from mohajon. Ahmed *et al*. (2010) revealed that About 90.2% respondents used own capital for cattle fattening and 2.3, 4.2 and 3.3% respondents took bank loan, NGO loan and lending for cattle fattening and Begum *et al*. (2007) reported that 86.7% farmers used own capital for cattle fattening.

Factors associated with cattle farming

Number and proportion of the respondents according to training on cattle farming are shown in Fig. 5. The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla among a total of 42 respondents, about 59.52% respondents did not have any training on cattle farming whereas about 40.48% respondents had taken short training on cattle farming. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla among a total of 25 respondents, about 40.0% respondents did not have any training on cattle farming whereas about 60.0% respondents had taken short training on cattle farming, in Kapasia upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, about 25.0% respondents did not have any training on cattle farming whereas about 75. 0% respondents had taken short training on cattle farming, in Kaligonj upazilla among a total of 24 respondents, about 33.33% respondents did not have any training on cattle farming whereas about 66.67% respondents had taken short training on cattle farming. Islam *et al*. (2012) revealed that, in case of training, only 23.8% respondents had cattle fattening training and 76.2% farmers whom had not any training on cattle rearing. Ahmed *et al*. (2010) revealed that about 79.5% respondents did not have any training on cattle fattening whereas about 20.5% respondents had taken short training on cattle fattening.

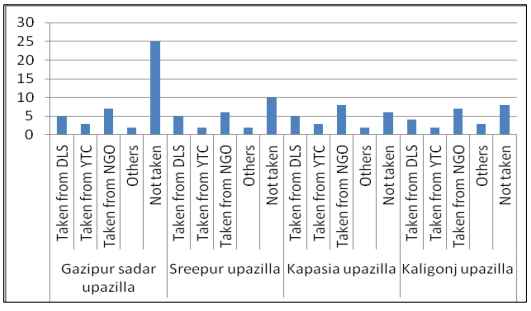

Fig. 5: Number and proportion of the respondents according to training on cattle farming

Number and proportion of the respondents according to govt. office support and uses of antibiotics are shown in Fig. 6. The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 76.19% respondents took help from govt. office and 23.81% didn't take any help from govt. office. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla about 64.0% respondents took help from govt. office and 36.0% didn't take any help from govt. office, in Kapasia upazilla about 75.0% respondents took help from govt. office and 25.0% didn't take any help from govt. office and in Kaligonj upazilla about 70.83% respondents took help from govt. office and 29.17% didn't take any help from govt. office. Ahmed *et al*. (2010) revealed that about 17.7% respondents took help from govt. office and 82.3% didn't take any help from govt. office.

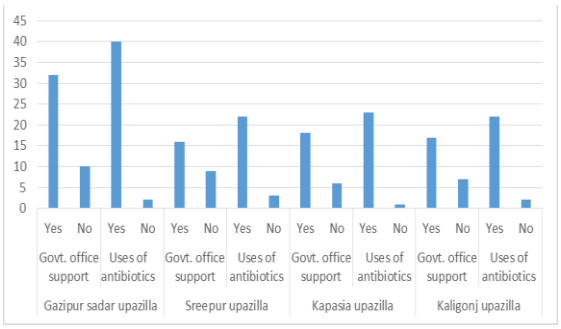

Fig. 6: Number and proportion of the respondents according to govt. office support and uses of antibiotics

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 95.24% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 4.76% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla, about 88.0% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 12.0% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle, in Kapasia upazilla, about 95.83% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 04.17% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and in Kaligonj upazilla, about 91.67% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 08.33% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle.

Number and percentage of the respondents according to vaccination against infectious diseases and treatment of cattle are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Number and percentage of the respondents according to vaccination against infectious diseases and treatment of cattle

Parameters	Study area	Categories	Number of respondents	Percent of total respondents
Vaccination against infectious diseases	Gazipur sadar upazilla	Regularly	35	83.33
		Irregularly	07	16.67
	Sreepur upazilla	Regularly	18	72.00
		Irregularly	07	28.00
	Kapasia upazilla	Regularly	18	75.00
		Irregularly	06	25.00
	Kaligonj upazilla	Regularly	17	70.**83**
		Irregularly	07	29.17
Treatment of cattle	Gazipur sadar upazilla	By veterinary surgeon	32	76.19
		By quack	10	23.81
	Sreepur upazilla	By veterinary surgeon	17	68.00
		By quack	08	32.00
	Kapasia upazilla	By veterinary surgeon	16	66.67
		By quack	08	33.33
	Kaligonj upazilla	By veterinary surgeon	16	66.67
		By quack	08	33.33

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 83.33% respondents regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases and 16.67% didn't regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla, about 72.0% respondents regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases and 28.0% didn't regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases, in Kapasia upazilla, about 75.0% respondents regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases and 25.0% didn't regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases and in Kaligonj upazilla, about 70.83% respondents regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases and 29.17% didn't regularly used vaccine against infectious diseases. Ahmed *et al*. (2010) revealed that about 72.6% respondents used vaccine against infectious disease regularly for their cattle.

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 76.19% respondents took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment of their cattle and 23.81% took help from quack (unskilled village doctor) for the treatment of their cattle. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla, about 68.0% respondents took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment of their cattle and 32.0% took help from quack (unskilled village doctor) for the treatment of their cattle, in Kapasia upazilla, about 66.67% respondents took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment of their cattle and 33.33% took help from quack (unskilled village doctor) for the treatment of their cattle and in Kaligonj upazilla, about 66.67% respondents took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment of their cattle and 33.33% took help from quack (unskilled village doctor) for the treatment of their cattle. Ahmed *et al.* (2010) revealed that about 76.3% respondents took help from veterinary surgeon for the treatment of their cattle and 23.7% took help from quack (unskilled village doctor) for the treatment of their cattle.

Number and proportion of the respondents according to uses of vitamin and mineral supplements and uses of feed according to body weight and production are shown in Fig. 7. The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 83.33% farmers used vitamin and mineral supplements for dairy production and 16.67% didn't use vitamin and mineral supplements. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla about 80.0% farmers used vitamin and mineral supplements for dairy production and 20.0% didn't use vitamin and mineral supplements, in Kapasia upazilla about 83.33% farmers used vitamin and mineral supplements and 16.67% didn't use vitamin and mineral supplements and in Kaligonj upazilla about 75.0% farmers used vitamin and mineral supplements and 25.0% didn't use vitamin and mineral supplements for dairy production.

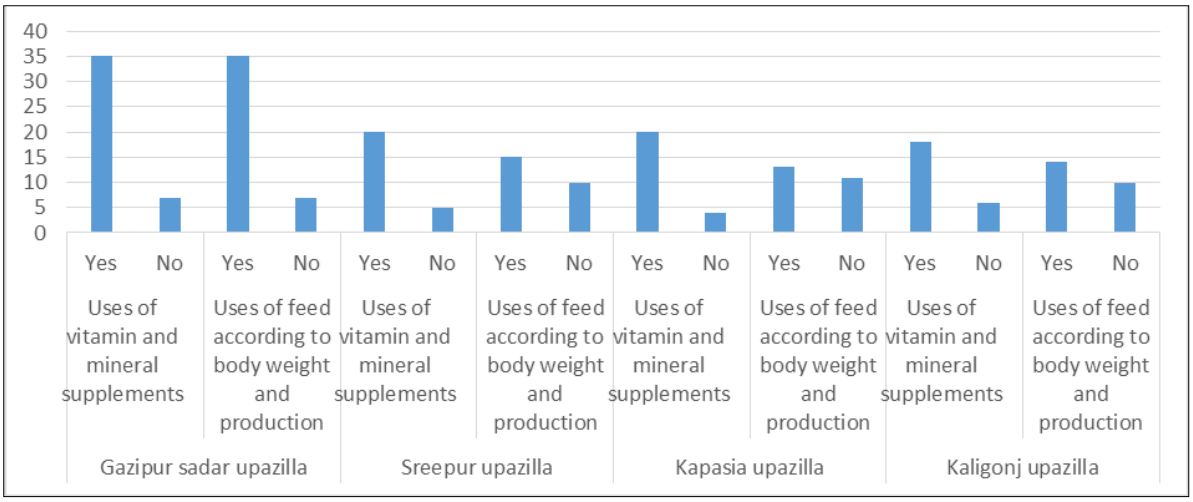

Fig. 7: Number and proportion of the respondents according to uses of vitamin and mineral supplements and uses of feed according to body weight and production

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 83.33% respondents used feed according to body weight and production of their cattle and 16.67% didn't use such type of feed of their cattle. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla about 60.0% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 40.0% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle, in Kapasia upazilla about 54.17% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 45.83% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and in Kaligonj upazilla about 58.33% respondents used antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle and 41.67% didn't use antibiotics for the treatment of their cattle.

Factors associated with milking, milk handling, milk storage and transportation

The factors associated with milking, milk handling, milk storage and transportation are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Factors associated with milking, milk handling, milk storage and transportation

Parameters	Study area	Categories	Number of respondents	Percent of total respondents
Follow scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling	Gazipur sadar upazilla	Yes	30	71.43
		No	12	28.57
	Sreepur upazilla	Yes	19	76.00
		No	06	24.00
	Kapasia upazilla	Yes	16	66.67
		No	08	33.33
	Kaligonj upazilla	Yes	17	70.83
		No	07	29.17
Follow scientific/hygienic way of milk storage and transportation	Gazipur sadar upazilla	Yes	25	59.52
		No	17	40.48
	Sreepur upazilla	Yes	17	68.00
		No	08	32.00
	Kapasia upazilla	Yes	15	62.50
		No	09	37.50
	Kaligonj upazilla	Yes	16	66.67
		No	08	33.33

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 71.43% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling and 28.57% didn't follow. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla, about 76.0% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling and 24.0% didn't follow, in Kapasia upazilla, about 66.67% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling and 33.33% didn't follow and in Kaligonj upazilla about 70.83% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milking and milk handling and 29.17% didn't follow.

The study showed that, in Gazipur sadar upazilla, about 59.52% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milk storage and transportation and 40.48% didn't follow. On the other hand, in Sreepur upazilla, about 68.0% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of

milk storage and transportation and 32.0% didn't follow, in Kapasia upazilla, about 62.5% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milk storage and transportation and 37.5% didn't follow and in Kaligonj upazilla about 66.67% respondents followed scientific/hygienic way of milk storage and transportation and 33.33% didn't follow.

Overall problems and suggestions on dairy farming in Gazipur district

Table 5 shows the overall problems and suggestions on dairy farming in Gazipur district. Hashem *et al.* (1999) reported that lack of training and lack of credit facilities were the problems for dairy farming in Bangladesh. The result of this study was more or less similar to Hashem *et al.* (1999).

Table 5. Overall problems and suggestions on dairy farming

Problems on dairy farming	Suggestions on dairy farming
1. High price of cattle feeds	1. Lowering the feed cost
2. Lack of knowledge on dairy farming	2. Providing training facilities to the farmers
3. Low capital investment	3. Providing bank loan facilities
4. Shortage of cattle feed	4. Increase production and preservation of cattle feeds & fodder
5. Lack of sufficient green grass supply	5. Need government support
6. Price fluctuation of milk	6. Feeding UMS is beneficial
	7. Preparation of balanced ration to reduce the cost
	8. Price fluctuation of milk should be checked

Conclusion

Gazipur district is a crowded area in the country where huge numbers of peoples are staying and contributing to the development of formal-informal economic activities whose are dependent on locally produced milk. Improved farm management are the tools for the wholesomeness of milk. The present baseline survey provides a snapshot on the farm management, problems and potential solutions among the dairy farms of Gazipur district which are important for the country. It also provides the knowledge and attitude of the farmers about farming management of dairy farms. Dairy animals, due to their natural habits, are more vulnerable to infectious diseases which can spread the infectious organisms to other animals. Good management practices found effective to reduce the rate of infectious diseases load in dairy farms. The development and implementation of good management practices in dairy farms improve cattle health, welfare, and farm productivity. The results of this study will be useful to farmers and researchers to identify the overall problems and their remedies on feeding and management related to dairy farming. So the findings may be act as a prescription of proper management on dairy farming in the country.

Acknowledgments

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no potential conflict of interest.

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Appendix 1: The questionnaire of this research was prepared by the following factors-

Name of the farm's with address	
Name of the farm owner/farm manager/farm supervisor with mobile number	
Gender of the respondents	Male, Female, Others
Educational qualification	Illiterate, Primary, Junior, SSC, HSC or above
Occupation	Business, Farmer, Shop keeper, Teacher, Govt. service, Private service
Source of money	Bank loan, Own capital, NGO loan, Lending
Training on cattle farming	Taken from DLS, YTC, NGO, Others; Not taken
Vaccination	Regularly, Irregularly
Uses of antibiotics	Yes, No
Uses of vitamin and mineral supplements	Yes, No
Uses of feed according to body weight and production	Yes, No
Govt. office support	Yes, No
Treatment of cattle	By veterinary surgeon, By quack (Unskilled village doctor)
Follow scientific/hygienic way of milking, milk handling, milk storage and transportation	Yes, No
Problems and suggestions on dairy farming	Have, Don't have