**Studies on effect of gastro intestinal parasites on weight gain in goat of the Sundarban areas, West Bengal.**

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**Abstract:**

A study was conducted to evaluate the effect on weight gain due to gastro-intestinal parasites of goat of some selected villages (*viz*. Kholakhuli, Dosorabhagwanpur, Purba Raghunathpur) of Sunderban areas of South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. A total 720 faecal samples of goats were collected for six months in this study. About 40 samples were collected from each village in every month to check the parasitic burden and processed by standard sugar flotation technique to broadly discriminate the ova of cestode, nematode and coccidian parasites. In this study, goats were found severely infected with coccidian than strongyle and cestode in all villages. Out of three villages, strategic anthelmintic treatments along with mineral mixture supplementation were provided to goats of two villages and one village (Purba Raghunathpur) was kept as control. After intervention for 6 months, it was found that rate of weight gain in animals in two intervene villages were 0.18 g and 0.14 g as compare to control village where it was 0.03 g.

**Keywords**: Gastrointestinal Parasite, Goat, Helminth parasites' eggs,Fecal flotation, Nematode

**Introduction:**

 It is generally accepted that goat husbandry has been practised extensively in west Bengal since the dawn of civilization, particularly in rural areas and at all altitudes without regard to the local topography. For small and marginal farmers, goat farming has proved a viable crop production alternative. Goat population in 2007/2008 was 8,135,880, and it increased by 1.37 times in 2016/2017, showing that the rearing of goats is a major industry in the nation (MOAD 2018). The Village region appears to be one of the best consumers of goats, despite the fact that their numbers were low in the Kolkata city area, which includes the North Kolkata and Howrah districts. The goat markets of the village area obtain goats mostly from outsides like other districts at different landscapes of the country. However, it depends on the breeds, which may include local races like Terai, Khari, Sinhal, and Chyangra, foreign breeds like Boer, Barbari, Sannen, Beetal, Sirohi, and Jamunapari, (<https://www.jica.go.jp/nepal/english/office/others/c8h0vm0000bjww96-att/tm_8.pdf>, accessed on: March 20, 2019)as well as hybrid strains like Boer cross and Jamunapari c. It is interesting to note that it has been estimated that the smallholder farmer earns a net income of 5000–8000 per annum after selling goats for meat. It is true that the goat markets have long provided the Valley with goat meat by bringing goats from various regions of Nepal. The domestic supply, however, is unable to keep up with the rising demand because to inadequate husbandry practises by farmers, the genetic deficiency of regional breeds, and the poor state of animal health (MOAD 2014). This explains why supplies from China and India have been widely used, particularly during religious and celebratory occasions. Therefore, it has been interesting to learn how microbes including parasites, viruses, bacteria, and fungus have contributed to the poor health of these goats. In spite of the potential for massive morbidity and mortality in goats, parasites are frequently disregarded as etiologic agents (Babják et al. 2017; Chartier and Paraud 2012; Chikweto et al. 2018; Das et al. 2017; Dixit et al. 2017; Donkin and Boyazoglu 2004; Fakae 1990; Godara et al. 2014; Hashemnia et al). For instance, NAST published postmortem findings on goats in a hilly part of the nation in the Nepal Journal of Science and Technology, listing a total of 27 aetiologies, some of which included parasitosis including monieziasis, hydatid cyst, and strongylosis. The author (Khakural 2003) quantified around 64% of the primary parasitic disorders treated by experts in a select few places, illuminating a serious parasite problem in West Bengal. The NAST laboratory has already discovered tapeworm eggs in the liver, abomasum, faeces, stomach, and intestinal tract of goats in west Bengal, along with Haemonchus in the abomasum, Trichostrongylus in the liver, and oocysts of Eimeria and Isospora. It's interesting to note that many people think male goats at goat markets may be pathogen-free because of their robust and healthy physical appearances. However, a pilot study carried out by our group revealed widespread protozoal and helminthes infection in goats (Ghimire 2018), demonstrating that these agents are typically prevalent in asymptomatic hosts. Understanding the presence of different endoparasites that are secreted via the goats' GI tract is crucial. The goal of the current study was to determine the prevalence of several protozoan and helminthic parasites in goat faeces collected from the goat market in the Sundarban region of West Bengal.

**Material & methods:**

Goat faecal samples were collected & stored at 10% formalin, every month from 40 goats. Saturated sugar is prepared by dissolving 454 grams of sugar in 355 ml of water for faecal flotation solution. Other instruments that were plain microscopic slides cover slips, vials (6ml), stirring rod, & microscope.

Fresh feces was collected on a vial & labeled it properly with the date and animal that was provided the specimen. After saturated sugar solution was added, mixed well with stirring rod. The solution was added more and pours it through the strainer or cheesecloth to remove the large particles. Next, the vial was filled to the very top with more liquid and after that was placed a microscope cover slip over the top, and there was no air between the cover slip and the liquid. After, over 20 minutes the eggs were floated up to the top and adhere to the glass plate. The sample slides were examined for worm eggs and coccidia oocysts. Next, Microscope was started with the lowest power (40X) and carefully move up to 100X & count the eggs of parasites.



**Fig: Cover slips placed over menisci for fecal flotation test.**

**Result:**

Helminth parasites' eggs detected in this study by sedimentation and flotation method and Mini-FLOTAC techniqueusing fresh and preserved samples respectively.

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**Coccidia**

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**Strongyle eggs**

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**Cestode**

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**Trichuris trichuris**

**Weight gain in goat in two villages after strategic anthelmintic treatment as compare to control villages:**







 **Discussion:**

The study of GI parasites in goats is thought to be exciting research because the Kathmandu Valley receives a variety of goats brought in from across the nation raised in various environments, and as a result, the goats may come with a variety of parasites. The goal of the current investigation was to determine how common GI parasites were in those goats. In this study, the prevalence of 87.25% was greater than that of other Indian States (50.51-86.05%), but lower than that of the West area, where Kholakhuli, Dosorabhagwanpur, and Purba Raghunathpur reported prevalences of 90.4%, 95.9%, and 91.5%, respectively. Different deworming and management techniques, seasons, host age and sex, altitude, and climatic conditions could all have an impact on the outcomes (Daniel et al. 2014; Gul and Tak [2016](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6841857/#CR29)). It's interesting to note that every sample showed concurrent infection with multiple parasites, up to and including septuple infection, indicating a high parasite density in those goats. Mixed infections are important since they ultimately cause host mortality. For instance, the combined infection of Moniezia and Trichuris has been reported to have caused severe malnutrition that resulted in pulmonary edoema after the death of the Black Bengal goat kid (Maity et al. 2018).

According to this study's findings (Agyei et al. 2004, Hassan and Barzinji 2018, Kaur et al. 2019), Eimeria is the most prevalent species of GI tract in which it causes goat coccidiosis, the most frequent enteric disease in goats. This coccidian parasite may result in significant rates of death and a decline in productivity.

Currently, Cryptosporidium sp., another coccidian parasite, has a prevalence rate (0.5%) that is lower than that of another nation. According to Elmadawy and Diab (2017), 20% of imports come from Pakistan, 14% from China, 4% from Brazil, and 7.1% from Greece (Mi et al. 2014). Although C. xiaoi and a zoonotic species, C. ubiquitum, are linked to slightly older age groups of goats, adult animals develop immunity, and generally, Cryptosporidium spp. are known to primarily infect goat kids (Utaaker et al. 2017; Robertson et al. 2014). As a result, the low prevalence may be caused by the fact that the majority of samples were from adult animals. But just a few.According to previous studies (Li et al. 2018; Kamaruddin et al. 2014; Dimasuay and Rivera 2013; Tzanidakis et al. 2014; Utaaker et al. 2017), the current investigation discovered P. hominis (1.25%), Blastocystis (0.75%), and Giardia (0.5%), showing that despite being present in goats, these species are crucial for human health. Despite the fact that P. hominis has been found in solid, semisolid, and diarrheal faeces, the latter can create an anaerobic environment that encourages the opportunistic expansion of this flagellate (Li et al. 2016). The generally solid, dry structure of goat faecal samples, which lack an ideal environment for growth and reproduction, may be a contributing factor in its low occurrence. Giardia sp. prevalence rates in the United States were lower than those in China (4.8%), Egypt (5%) (Elmadawy and Diab 2017), Brazil (9.0%), and other countries.

Notably, we are the first to describe the 1% prevalence of oocysts that resemble Cyclospora in faeces. Although earlier research suggested that there were no oocysts similar to Cyclospora in domestic animals and birds in Nepal (Ghimire et al. 2010) and Haiti (Mark et al. 1999), the prevalence rate in our samples was slightly lower than that found in the previous study in Tamil Nadu, India, where the range of prevalence was found to be 0-33.3% (average prevalence 1.85%). Therefore, additional research on this coccidian in goats acting as natural reservoir hosts should be looked at in the absence of epidemiologic proof.

Because we lacked the necessary larval cultures for nematodes to provide a full diagnosis, we designated'strongyle' for the strongyle-type of eggs produced by Haemonchus, Ostertagia, Trichostrongylus, Teladorsagia, Cooperia, Bunostomum, and Oesophostomum. We discovered that it was prevalent (59.25%) and, interestingly, the prevalence ranged from 26.9 to 85.1% in several Indian states (Dixit et al. 2017; Singh et al. 2015; Verma et al. 2018; Dappawar et al. 2018). The incidence of these parasites is adversely correlated with the densities of goats because they exhibit a diluting impact of GI illnesses between domestic livestock species (Sun et al. 2018). Strongyle infection was revealed to be the cause of 7.4% of goat mortality in Nepal, indicating a crucial role for these worms there (Khakural 2003). Strongyles have been found in sheep (66%) and goats (89%), and Haemonchus contortus has been linked to 29% mortality, indicating they are essential for the health of livestock (Chikweto et al. 2018). Trichuris sp. prevalence was approximately 29.75%, which was greater than the 3.24–20.8% prevalence reported from India (Sorathiya et al. 2017, Das et al. 2017, Dappawar et al. 2018, Singh et al. 2015, Shakya et al. 2017). In comparison to reports from India (0.79-11.9%) (Sorathiya et al. 2017; Singh et al. 2015; Dappawar et al. 2018; Dixit et al. 2017) and from Iraq (7.7% in children and 8.9% in adults) (Hassan and Barzinji 2018), the prevalence rate of Strongyloides egg includes larva was 28.75%, which was higher. Despite resembling Trichuris, Capillaria species are vital.

Goats had a lower prevalence of cestodes such Moniezia (2.0%) than had been reported for India (3.0-18.7%) (Das et al. 2017; Bihaqi et al. 2017; Choubisa and Jaroli 2013; Singh et al. 2015; Verma et al. 2018). It is spread by eating pasture mite larva that has been infected. Despite the fact that this parasite is thought to be non-pathogenic, postmortem reports of 13.95% of goat deaths in Nepal were connected to monieziasis (Khakural 2003), and these cases may represent the effects of coinfection (Maity et al. 2018). The paper mentions the trematodes Fasciola and Paramphistomum. In comparison to the prevalence rates of Fasciola reported from India (0.32 to 4.06%) (Dixit et al. 2017; Singh et al. 2015; Sorathiya et al. 2017), the prevalence rate of 10.25 percent was greater. Paramphistomum has a lower prevalence rate (0.5%) than that of India (4.9–13.6%) (Godara et al. 2014; Maitra et al. 2014). They have the potential to lead to anaemia, haemorrhage, weight loss, frailty, increased mortality, and decreased production because they are extremely pathogenic (Singh et al. 1984; Godara et al. 2014; Hashemnia et al. 2015). Due to the presence of metacercaria in the lower portions of the straw, fascioliosis is more common in stall-fed buffaloes than grazing populations in Nepal, where these trematodes are spread through consumption of water or food containing metacercarial stages (Joshi and Mahato, 2013).

**Conclusion:**

Three villages (*viz*., Kholakhuli, Dosorabhagwanpur, PurbaRaghunathpur) were selected in Sunderban areas of South 24 Parganas district. From each village faecal samples were collected every month from 40 goats for monitoring parasitic infection and weights of every animal were also recorded. Out of three villages, strategic anthelmintic treatments along with mineral mixture supplementation were provided to two villages and one village (PurbaRaghunathpur) was kept as control. After intervention for 6 months, it was found that rate of weight gain in animals in two intervene villages were 0.18 g and 0.14 g as compare to control villages where it was 0.03 g.

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