

Lumpy Virus and animal husbandry: A strong pillar of rural economy affected by the deemed pandemic

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A recent news in one of the popular regional papers struck me hard when it titled that the deadly lumpy virus has affected deer and other animals after rising the death toll of cows. Across many Indian states, mainly Rajasthan (from where this deadly virus entered India) are bearing not just death of their livestock but now even the wildlife is getting fatally hurt from this virus.

Although Animal Husbandry was defined by western culture in the 18th century, but India has an even longer history of animal husbandry. We depend on domestic animals for our livelihood and also affectionately revere them, especially cows. The practice of raising selective breeding is a part of animal husbandry is developed for profit. A large number of farmers make their living from animal husbandry. And this isn't just for the livelihood, the connection between these farmers and their domesticated animals in India is very intricate and emotional.

The Aggravating Condition in this Lumpy Pandemic

For many rural farmers who are dealing with poverty and malnutrition, the

situation in the Thar Desert has reached a critical point. India accounted for about half of all hungry people worldwide in 2015, according to the United Nations World Hunger List. Due to the arid climate and erratic droughts, subsistence farmers face a significant problem with regard to food security.

Statistically speaking, in Rajasthan, a 10% average contribution to the state's G.D.P. comes from animal husbandry. This industry offers the best opportunity for rural self-employment at the lowest possible cost per unit. Consequently, the growth of livestock is an essential step toward rural prosperity. According to the 2012 livestock census, the state has 577.32 lac animals and more than 80.24 lakh poultry. Only 7% of the nation's cattle are in Rajasthan, but that small portion produces 12.72% of the nation's milk, 2.46% of its meat, and 34.46% of its wool.

Rajasthan ranks top in the production of wool while coming in second for milk.

It is right to term that government, society, and humanity has failed in the endeavor to keep the livestock, the very source of livelihood intact. And those who have found a cure to this deadly virus are still seeking government support so that millions of animal lives can be saved.

Ayurveda, the age-old secret natural science, originated in India has provided great results in saving cows from lumpy virus.

The Solution to this Animal Pandemic

Vasudhev Kutumbakam – is the only principle than can ensure sustainability and existence of life on this planet. We live in a delicate ecosystem and any species or animal affected will definitely have repercussion on others. Recently the spread of lumpy has been seen in animals other than cows. We don't know at what pace this is increasing and how much it will affect.

Those who have found treatments for this lumpy virus and distributing the medicine should be appreciated and motivated. It is time to stop this virus and bring positive health results where all animals, domestic or wild, can live in good health.

There is an old saying, "unity is strength" and since COVID-19, the situation has risen again to such an extend that people need to come together and help in spreading, distributing, and delivering such cure to rid animals of this dreadful ailment.