

Full Length Research Paper

Poultry Farmers' Attitude towards Utilization of Veterinary Services in Ogun State, Nigeria

Ewebiyi I. O.

Department of Agricultural Science, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria.
Email: tayoewebiyi@yahoo.com; Tel. 08055210068

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Abstract

Inadequate veterinary services have been identified as severe constraints that limit poultry production in Nigeria. This study examined poultry farmers' attitude towards utilization of veterinary services in Ogun state, Nigeria from August 2016 – May 2017. The specific objectives are to describe socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, identify available veterinary services and utilization. Simple random approach was employed through structured questionnaire to elicit information from 215 poultry farmers. Data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, mean and Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance. Result revealed that (57.2%) of the respondents' age was between 40-59years and (69.8%) were married. Also, 20.9% and 32.6% had learn up to primary and secondary education. Nearly half of the respondents (46.5%) had 10years and above farming experience. The available and utilization of veterinary services of the respondents at low level were 74.4% and 63.3%, respectively. There was a significant relationship between attitude of the respondents ($r=0.419$, $p=0.112$) and utilization of veterinary services. Majority 62.3% of poultry farmers had negative attitude towards utilization of veterinary services. It is therefore recommended that extension should be proactive in their services delivery by ensuring effective synergy between poultry farmers and veterinary doctors. Workshops and seminars should be periodically organized for poultry farmers and extension agent for utilization of veterinary services for enhancement of higher productivity and better standard of living among poultry farmers in the study area.

Keywords: Poultry farmers, veterinary services, utilization, attitude.

Corresponding Author: Email: ayoewebiyi@yahoo.com
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Introduction

The development of the nation's agricultural sector is highly dependent on a well coordinated crop and livestock production sub-sectors. Livestock as a sub-sector of agriculture has been known to contribute significantly to the health and economy of rural people and also to the sustainable agricultural development

of the nation as a whole. A large percentage of the rural people in Nigeria satisfy their subsistent needs through livestock enterprise which involves rearing and marketing of livestock and its products (Oladele, 2004). Hence, smallholder farmers also need to engage in more value-adding activities such as expanding livestock production (Malangwa *et al.*,

2010). Nigeria with a population of about 165 million is grossly underprovided with the essential food components, particularly, protein. In order to ameliorate this problem of low-level of protein intake, there is the need for concerted effort, among the various stakeholders to bring about the massive production of protein based food items at competitive cost so that they would be affordable to the people. Hence, massive investment in poultry farming is a way of resolving the problem (Foraminilera, 2012). Intensive poultry production was introduced into Nigeria over fifty years ago and has developed rapidly especially in the last few decades as an important livestock business enterprise in the country (FAO, 2000).

The Nigerian poultry industry is estimated at \$600million and is comprised of approximately 165million birds, which produced 650,000 Metric Tonnes of eggs and 290,000 Metric Tonnes of poultry meat in 2013 (Capital, 2015). According to Capital, Nigeria's egg production is the largest in Africa followed by South Africa with 540,000 Metric Tonnes of eggs, and it has the 2nd largest chicken production after South Africa's 200million birds. Chicken importation was banned by Nigeria in 2003, which spurred growth in domestic poultry production (Capital, 2015) poultry production has therefore assumed greater importance in improving the employment opportunity and animal food production in Nigeria. However, livestock diseases in Nigeria have remained serious constraint to sustainable livestock development which has resulted in animal protein output not being able to meet up with the national demand (Oladele, 2004; Adesiji *et al.*, 2013). Hence, there is a continual need for a well coordinated

Hypothesis of the study

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the attitude of poultry farmers and utilization of veterinary services.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Ogun state, Nigeria, Ogun state covers a land area of approximately 16, 409, 26 square kilometers with a population of about 3,728,098 people (NPC, 2006), and is bounded in the west by Republic of Benin, in the south by Lagos State and the Atlantic Ocean, and in the East by Ondo State and in the North by Oyo State. It falls between longitudes 2°40'E -6°40'E and latitudes 4°40'N-9°15'N. The state has a tropical climate with mean annual rainfall of about 1,500 millimeters and

veterinary service system that will boost poultry production in Nigeria. The availability of quality and effective veterinary services is the key to poultry development in Nigeria (Umail *et al.*, 1994). The essence of veterinary service is to eliminate or reduce the threat posed by animal diseases and pests to both livestock production and public health.

Attitude is the way of responding to people and situations that someone have learnt based on the beliefs and values, attitude becomes manifest through behavior. Attitude is hypothetical construct that represents an individual's degree of like or dislike for an item. Attitude generally is positive or negative views of a person, place, thing or event. Attitude is also a learned predisposition to response in a consistently favourable or unfavourable manner with respect to a given object or class of object. Attitude often comes in pairs, one conscious and the other unconscious.

Unlike personality, attitude is expected to change as a function of experience and this could be attained through persuasion. The prevention and control of animal diseases is frequent recurring problem at all levels of government in Nigeria. This often brings about direct action being taken by veterinary services. In order to prevent this trend, attitude of poultry farmers' towards utilization of veterinary services should be positively changed. Therefore, this study was conducted to identify the veterinary services available to small scale poultry farmers and to examine the attitude of poultry farmers towards utilization of veterinary services in Ogun state, Nigeria.

temperature range of 25°C-35°C. Agriculture is the major occupation of the people of Ogun state, which is favoured by the climatic condition. The commonly reared livestock in the state include sheep, goat, poultry, cattle and local chickens.

Farmers who involved in poultry farming were used for this study. A multistage sampling procedure was employed. Firstly, poultry farmers were stratified into registered and non-registered in Ogun State. Poultry Association of Nigeria, Ogun state (PANOG) divided

Ogun state into six zones for its operations. List of registered poultry farmers was collected from the PANOG Secretariat in Abeokuta, the state capital and this list served as sampling frame of the study population. Considering the available time and financial resources as well as scattered distribution of registered poultry farmers in the study area as at the period of study, forty percent of the farmers were selected through simple random approach from each zone and this make a sample size of two hundred and fifteen (215) respondents. Collected data were subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage distribution and mean were used. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the hypothesis.

Results and Discussion

Result in Table 1 revealed that more than quarter respondents (27.0%) were between 40-49 years of age. This corroborates the finding of Ewebiyi and Adetunji (2016) which showed that most poultry farmers in Egbede Local Government Area (LGA) of Oyo State, Nigeria were matured adults. This result implies that respondents were matured enough to have favourable attitude towards utilization of veterinary services effectively. Most respondents 68.4% were males while 31.6% were females. This means that both males and female involved in poultry production in the study area.

Majority (69.8%) were married, this is expected to influence their attitude positively towards utilization of veterinary services. Respondents' result on education revealed that (20.9%) and (32.6%) had primary and secondary education, respectively and nearly quarter of the respondents, (20.9%) had tertiary education. This implies that most respondents appreciably educated and may be favourably disposed to learn and follow instructions for the use of veterinary services. In corroborating this findings, Igwe *et al.* (2015) in a study on analysis of broilers poultry farmers' participation in veterinary services in Abia state, Nigeria noted that farmers who are educated are more aware of veterinary services than the uneducated farmers and this would enable them to access and interpret information better.

Oladeji (2011) asserted that farmers who can read and write can benefit from the print media source of information. Also 34.9% of the respondents had between 6-9years of poultry farming experience and 46.5% had 10years and above experience while 49.8% of the respondents earn a monthly income of \$28 - \$164 which implies that most respondents are small scale farmers and this may not let them favourably dispose to use of veterinary services. This result is in tandem with that of Ewebiyi and Adetunji (2016) who also reported that poultry farmers in Egbede LGA of Oyo State, Nigeria operate small farms.

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	147	68.4
Female	68	31.6
Age (Years)		
30-39	60	27.9
40-49	58	27.0
50-59	65	30.2
60 and above	32	14.9
Marital Status		
Single	25	11.6
Married	150	69.8
Separated	20	9.3
Widowed	11	5.1
Divorced	9	4.2
Religion		
Christianity	106	49.3
Islam	95	44.2
African traditional	14	6.5
Educational Qualification		
No formal education	55	25.6
Primary education	45	20.9
Secondary education	70	32.6
Tertiary education	45	20.9
Poultry Size		
Large	18	8.4
Medium	97	45.1
Small	100	46.5
Farming Experience (Years)		
1 – 4	40	18.6
6 – 9	75	34.9
10 and above	100	46.5
Monthly Income (\$)		
28 – 165	107	49.8
166 – 275	9	4.2
276 – 1664	36	16.7
1665 – 2775	44	20.5
2776 and above	19	8.8

Source: Field survey, 2017

Availability of veterinary services

Results of analysis in Table 2a revealed that on advisory services, 20.5% of the respondents acclaimed it to be readily available and 21.4% of the respondents said occasionally available while 52.1% of the respondents said not available. This implies that most of the needed veterinary services that can boost

farmers' productivity are not readily available and this may impact negatively on the utilization of Veterinary services among the poultry farmers in the study area. Result from table 2b also affirms that most veterinary services in the study area are available at low level among 74.4% of the total respondents.

Table 2a: Distribution of the respondents on availability of veterinary services

	Statement on Veterinary Services	Readily available		Occasionally Available		Not available	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Advisory services	44	20.5	59	27.4	112	52.1
2.	Management of poultry diseases	53	24.7	79	36.7	83	38.6
3.	Treatment of poultry diseases	68	31.6	81	37.7	66	30.7
4.	Provision of drugs for poultry farmers	63	29.3	83	38.6	69	32.1
5.	Consultancy services	63	29.3	76	35.3	76	35.3
6.	Inspection of poultry products	37	17.2	83	38.6	95	44.2
7.	Diseases diagnosis	61	28.4	82	38.1	72	33.5
8.	Poultry education	53	24.7	90	41.9	72	33.5
9.	Training of poultry farmers and workers	42	19.5	65	30.2	108	50.2
10.	Dissemination of information in new disease outbreak	49	22.8	93	43.3	73	34.0

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 2b: Respondents' categorization of availability of veterinary services

	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
High	55	25.6	8.7
Low	160	74.4	
Total	215	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2017

Respondents' utilization of veterinary services

Results of analysis on the Table 3a revealed that on advisory services, 19.5% of the total respondents acclaimed of high utilization and 36.3% of the respondents said moderately utilized while 44.2% of the respondents said not utilized. On consultancy services, 27.0% of the total respondents said highly utilized and 41.4% of the respondents said moderately utilized while 31.6% of the respondents said not utilized. This finding is in line with the findings of Lipton (2013) that livestock farmers only consult or call for veterinary services whenever there is disease outbreak. Lynne *et al.* (2014) also reported that

treatment of poultry diseases by veterinary doctors is very expensive and that may be the reason why many poultry farmers prefer their own methods except in serious cases. These findings disagreed with the findings of Marra *et al.* (2015) that every poultry farm should have a veterinary doctor or personnel that will carry out daily, weekly or monthly inspections on the poultry birds not until a bird is sick but this may be expensive for some poultry farmers. The result further revealed in table 3b that level of utilization of veterinary services among most respondents (63.3%) was low.

Table 3a: Distribution of the respondents' utilization of veterinary services

Statements	High Utilized	Moderately	Not Utilized
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	F	%	Utilized		F	%
			F	%		
Advisory services	42	19.5	78	36.3	95	44.2
Management of poultry diseases	36	16.7	98	45.6	81	37.7
Treatment of poultry diseases	46	21.4	82	38.1	87	40.5
Provision of drugs for poultry farmers	34	15.8	85	39.5	96	44.7
Consultancy services	58	27.0	89	41.4	68	31.6
Inspection of poultry products	54	25.1	88	40.9	73	34.0
Diseases diagnosis	37	17.2	95	44.2	83	38.6
Poultry education	42	19.3	96	44.7	77	35.8
Training of poultry farmers and workers	63	29.3	83	38.6	69	32.1
Dissemination of information in new disease outbreak	19	8.8	113	52.6	83	38.6

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table 3b: Respondents' level of utilization of veterinary services

	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
High	79	36.7	8.6
Low	136	63.3	
Total	215	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2017

Respondents' attitude towards utilization of veterinary services

Result of analysis in Table 4a revealed that 64.2% of the respondents agreed that non-challant attitudes of the poultry farmers in reporting to veterinary doctors while 35.8% disagreed with this statement. On inefficient consultancy services rendered by the veterinary doctors, 61.4% of the respondents agreed while 38.6% disagreed. This result implies that farmers

prefer their local treatment of poultry diseases to modern treatment rendered by veterinary doctors. Arnon (2013) opines that attitudinal behaviors displayed by poultry farmers towards poultry health management innovation determine their productivity and profitability.

Table 4a: Distribution of the respondents' attitudes towards utilization of veterinary services

Attitudinal Statements	Agree		Disagree	
	F	%	F	%
Non-challant attitudes of poultry farmers in reporting to veterinary doctors	138	64.2	77	35.8
Inefficient consultancy services rendered by the veterinary doctors	132	61.4	83	38.6
Late consultation after the diseases attack by the farmers	142	66.0	73	34.0
Illiteracy level of the farmers in taken adequate measures of their birds	134	62.3	81	37.7
Veterinary services are too expensive for poultry farmers	141	65.6	74	34.4
Farmers prefer their local treatment of poultry diseases to modern treatment rendered by veterinary doctors	119	55.4	96	44.6

Source: Field survey, 2017

The result of analysis in Table 4b revealed that 37.7% of the total respondents had positive attitude towards utilization of veterinary services while 62.3% of the respondents had negative attitude towards utilization

of veterinary services. This implies that the more unfavourable the farmers' attitudes to use veterinary services the higher the risk of disease outbreak which in serious cases may wipe out all the poultry birds.

Table 4b: Categorization of respondents' attitude towards utilization of veterinary services

	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
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Favourable attitude	18	37.7	10.9
Unfavourable attitude	134	62.3	
Total	215	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2017

Result of hypothesis testing showing relationship between attitude of the respondents and their utilization of veterinary services

This hypothesis was tested with the aid of PPMC, the results in Table 5 showed that there is significant relationship between the attitude of the respondents ($r = 0.419$; $p = 0.112$) and utilization of veterinary services. This finding can be explained based on the fact that the few respondents who had positive attitude towards veterinary services may utilize it to the fullest of their poultry production compared to a good number of respondents who had negative attitude towards utilization of veterinary services may not utilize it to boost their poultry production. This finding is in agreement with the findings of the Amon (2013) who submitted that only favourable attitude

and behavior to innovations will bring a good result and fat profit from the use of veterinary services for poultry production. Diniara and Sknras (2014) also reported that attitudinal behavior of the farmers to innovations in poultry management easily affects their level of adoption and utilization of veterinary services. This finding does not corroborate with the findings of Dixon *et al.* (2012) that even the highly educated and well-to-do poultry farmers hardly change their attitudes towards innovation expect there is outstanding result which could increase their profitability.

Table 5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) between attitude of respondents and their utilization of veterinary services

Variables	r-value	p-value	Decision
Attitude towards veterinary services versus level of utilization of veterinary services	0.419	0.112	Significant

Source: Field survey, 2017

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that poultry farmers had negative attitude towards utilization of veterinary services and this could be ascribed to non-availability of needed veterinary services. Their negative attitude may also account for low level of utilization of veterinary services.

The study therefore recommends that extension agents should be proactive in their services delivery by ensuring effective synergy between poultry farmers and veterinary doctors. Workshops and seminars must be periodically organized by the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for poultry farmers on the need for importance of veterinary services in poultry production. Extension agents must also effect positive attitudinal behavior towards utilization of veterinary services for enhancement of higher productivity among poultry farmers in the study area.

Conflict of interest

Author didn't declare conflict of interest regarding this work.

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