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### Constraints in Telangana livestock markets: Stakeholders' perspective

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#### Abstract

The present study was conducted to analyse the constraints faced by sellers, buyers, middlemen and market management personnel in livestock markets of Telangana state. The major constraints faced by the sellers were lack of animal shelters, inadequate water troughs for animals, unavailability of loading and unloading platforms, lack of C.C. roads inside the market and insufficient veterinary facilities. Key constraint faced by the buyers were lack of animal shelters, lack of C.C. roads inside the market, inadequate troughs for animals, absence of loading and unloading platforms and poor sanitary conditions. Major constraints faced by the middlemen were inadequate water troughs for animals followed by the lack of animal shelters, the unavailability of loading and unloading platforms or ramps, the absence of a resting place and lack of access to credit for livestock trading. Insufficient funds for market development followed by the lack of sufficient sheds, compound walls, fencing, lack of cooperation from sellers and buyers in paying market fees, less competitive bidding and non-availability of office rooms were the major constraint faced by the market management personnel. To improve market management, ensure animal welfare, comfort and ease of marketing for sellers, buyers and middlemen, there is a need for statewide master plan and investments in livestock markets are essential.

**Keywords:** Livestock market, constraints, sellers, buyers, middlemen, Telangana state

#### Introduction

The livestock sector in India is the main driver of the country's agricultural growth. Livestock markets play a crucial role in linking producers, buyers, and intermediaries, ensuring the trade of live animals (Kumar, 2010) <sup>[1]</sup>. However, their efficiency is limited by multiple infrastructural, financial, operational, and regulatory constraints (Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019; Meshram *et al.*, 2023) <sup>[2, 3]</sup>. Infrastructural challenges compromise animal welfare and participant comfort (Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019; Kolo *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[2, 4]</sup>. Financial, administrative and operational constraints reduce the profitability and participation of stakeholders (Meshram *et al.*, 2023) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Addressing these challenges is essential to improve market efficiency, ensure fair returns to producers, enhance animal welfare, and promote sustainable growth in the livestock sector (Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019) <sup>[2]</sup>. This study focuses on identifying the constraints faced by livestock sellers, buyers, middlemen and market management personnel in Telangana's livestock markets to provide

actionable insights for policy, infrastructure development, and market management improvements.

#### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Telangana State, purposively chosen for its extensive livestock marketing network of 145 livestock shandies including 21 regulated Agriculture Market Committees (AMCs) where livestock transactions occur. All three Telangana's agro-climatic zones i.e. Northern, Central, and Southern were included for the study, to provide comprehensive state coverage. Two districts from each zone (Kamareddy and Karimnagar from Northern, Sangareddy and Khammam from Central, Nalgonda and Suryapet from Southern Telangana Zone) and two markets from each district were chosen for analysing the constraints perceived by a sample of 120 sellers, 120 buyers, 120 middlemen and 120 market management personnel. In the current study, constraints refer to the challenges encountered in livestock marketing at livestock markets (*Shandies*) by sellers, buyers, middlemen and market management personnel. All the constraints faced by the

sellers, buyers, middlemen and the market management personnel were explored with the help of open-ended interview schedule developed for the purpose. The most important constraint was ranked first and the least important last, both zone-wise and overall, using the formula proposed by Garrett and Woodworth (1969) [5].

## Results and Discussion

**Constraints Faced in Livestock Marketing:** All the significant constraints faced by sellers, buyers, middlemen and the market management personnel were detailed under the following.

### Constraints Faced by Sellers in the Livestock Markets

The constraints reported by sellers in the livestock markets of Telangana state were ranked based on Garrett's Mean Score (Table 1). An overview of Telangana (TG) indicates that the top five critical constraints for sellers (ranks I-V)

were the lack of animal sheds, inadequate water supply and troughs for animals, absence of loading and unloading ramps, poor internal roads, and limited veterinary facilities. The relatively minor constraints (ranks VI-X) included high transport costs, poor sanitation, high market fees, exploitation by middlemen, and lack of drinking water for humans. These challenges compromise animal welfare, seller comfort and seller's market participation. Improving market infrastructure and essential services would enhance sellers' participation, which in turn increases market fee revenue, profitability and helps offset the investment costs of these improvements in a sustainable manner. These findings align with previous studies across India and other countries (Kumar, 2000; Rao, 2000; Biswal, 2009; Kumar, 2010; Murugan *et al.*, 2016; Addis, 2017; Darith *et al.*, 2017; Kolo *et al.*, 2019; Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019; Vishnu Dev & Harikumar, 2020; Thangarasu *et al.*, 2022; Meshram *et al.*, 2023) [6, 7, 8, 1, 9, 10, 11, 4, 2, 12, 13, 3].

**Table 1:** Constraints faced by sellers in the livestock markets

S. No	Constraints faced by sellers	NTZ		CTZ		STZ		TG	
		GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Overall rank
1.	Unavailability of loading and unloading platforms or ramps	55.73	II	50.83	IV	54.23	III	53.88	III
2.	Lack of C.C roads inside the market	54.13	IV	61.53	II	45.28	VIII	51.38	IV
3.	Lack of animal shelters or sheds	58.05	I	65.15	I	66.38	I	62.42	I
4.	High transportation costs and tolls	45.68	VII	49.25	VI	50.85	V	49.62	VI
5.	Inadequate water supply or water troughs for animals	55.30	III	55.90	III	57.85	II	55.96	II
6.	Insufficient veterinary facilities like Tervis and veterinary services	51.95	V	48.00	VII	46.33	VI	50.83	V
7.	Poor sanitary conditions (especially during the rainy season)	51.70	VI	35.43	X	51.03	IV	46.13	VII
8.	Lack of drinking water for humans	41.78	IX	40.20	IX	45.88	VII	41.33	X
9.	High market fee	43.90	VIII	43.35	VIII	38.85	X	45.17	VIII
10.	Exploitation by middlemen	40.80	X	49.38	V	42.35	IX	42.29	IX

**Note:** GMS= Garretts Mean Score

### Constraints Faced by Buyers in the Livestock Markets

Perusal of Table 2 revealed the constraints faced by buyers in the livestock markets of Telangana state. The top five ranked constraints, being lack of animal sheds, poor internal CC roads, inadequate water for animals, absence of loading and unloading ramps and poor sanitation in the market. These key constraints compromise animal welfare, buyer comfort and market appeal. Minor issues (ranked VI-X) include lack of veterinary guidance, no drinking water for humans, middlemen exploitation, lack of resting/shaded

areas and high animal prices, all of which reduce buyer confidence and participation. Improving infrastructure, water supply, sanitation and market fairness would enhance buyer satisfaction, engagement and overall market efficiency. These findings are consistent with previous studies across India and abroad (Rao, 2000; Biswal, 2009; Kumar, 2010; Murugan *et al.*, 2016; Addis, 2017; Darith *et al.*, 2017; Kolo *et al.*, 2019; Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019; Vishnu Dev & Harikumar, 2020; Thangarasu *et al.*, 2022; Meshram *et al.*, 2023) [7, 8, 1, 9, 10, 11, 4, 2, 12, 13, 3].

**Table 2:** Constraints faced by buyers in the livestock markets

S. No	Constraints faced by buyers	NTZ		CTZ		STZ		TG	
		GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Overall rank
1.	Inadequate water supply or water troughs for animals	60.53	II	52.78	IV	51.23	VI	53.46	III
2.	Unavailability of loading and unloading platforms or ramps	49.35	VI	55.65	III	54.28	II	52.25	IV
3.	Lack of animal shelters or sheds	63.10	I	64.33	I	53.33	III	60.73	I
4.	Poor sanitary conditions (especially during the rainy season)	49.85	V	51.78	V	54.75	I	51.31	V
5.	Lack of C.C roads inside the market	59.53	III	56.78	II	53.08	IV	56.86	II
6.	Lack of technical or vet guidance in animal selection	50.93	IV	49.65	VI	52.23	V	50.58	VI
7.	Lack of drinking water for humans	48.03	VII	40.90	IX	47.08	VII	47.86	VII
8.	High prices of animals	40.50	IX	38.58	X	42.88	X	41.09	X
9.	Fear of being cheated by middlemen	41.83	VIII	43.15	VIII	43.53	IX	42.48	VIII
10.	No resting place or shaded areas	35.38	X	45.43	VII	46.65	VIII	42.39	IX

**Note:** GMS= Garrett's Mean Score

### Constraints Faced by Middlemen in Livestock Markets

The major constraints (ranked I -V) expressed middlemen (Table 3) in Telangana's livestock markets were inadequate water supply, lack of animal shelters, absence of loading/unloading ramps, no resting/shade areas and limited access to credit, all of which affect animal welfare, middlemen comfort and business operations. Other challenges (ranked VI-X) include inconsistent pricing due to lack of standards, absence of a union, poor security and no compound walls, high transportation costs and police harassment. These constraints effects the livelihood, reduce

profitability and lowers number of market transactions. Addressing water access, shelters, ramps, credit facilities, price standards and union support would improve market conditions and profitability for middlemen, encouraging greater engagement of all stakeholders. Similar findings reported by previous studies highlighting infrastructure and operational constraints effecting the stakeholders (Biswal, 2009; Kumar, 2010; Murugan *et al.*, 2016; Addis, 2017; Darith *et al.*, 2017; Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019; Vishnu Dev & Harikumar, 2020; Thangarasu *et al.*, 2022; Meshram *et al.*, 2023) [8, 1, 9, 10, 11, 2, 12, 13, 3].

**Table 3:** Constraints faced by middlemen in the livestock markets

S. No	Constraints faced by middlemen	NTZ		CTZ		STZ		TG	
		GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Overall rank
1.	Lack of animal shelters or sheds	56.43	II	54.80	II	55.73	III	55.65	II
2.	Absence of a union for middlemen	44.28	VII	46.43	VII	45.95	VII	45.55	VII
3.	Inadequate water supply or water troughs for animals	58.50	I	57.78	I	59.43	I	58.57	I
4.	No resting place /shaded area	54.65	III	54.63	III	51.90	V	53.73	IV
5.	Unavailability of loading and unloading platforms or ramps	53.58	IV	50.45	V	57.50	II	53.84	III
6.	No fixed criteria for price fixation	52.00	VI	49.43	VI	49.78	VI	50.40	VI
7.	Lack of access to credit or loans for livestock trading	53.15	V	54.43	IV	53.28	IV	53.62	V
8.	High transportation costs and police harassment	40.13	X	42.90	X	37.75	X	40.26	X
9.	Lack of security in the market	42.50	IX	43.65	IX	42.48	IX	42.88	IX
10.	No compound wall, fencing, or gate	43.80	VIII	44.53	VIII	45.23	VIII	44.52	VIII

**Note:** GMS= Garrett's Mean Score

### Constraints Expressed by Market Management Personnel

In Telangana's livestock markets, market management personnel too face significant constraints (Table 4), with the top challenges (ranked I -V) being insufficient funds for market development, lack of sheds and compound walls, limited cooperation from buyers and sellers in paying market fees, low competitive bidding and absence of office facilities, all of which hinder effective administration of livestock markets. Additional problems (ranked VI-

X)include poor security, water scarcity, unorganized management by private bidders, weak teamwork and limited control over middlemen, affecting market stability and stakeholder trust. Addressing funding, infrastructure, security and administrative gaps would enhance operational efficiency and market governance. These findings align with previous studies of Murugan *et al.*, 2016 [9]; Selvakumar & Kathiravan, 2019 [2]; Vishnu Dev & Harikumar, 2020 [12]; Thangarasu *et al.*, 2022 [13]; Meshram *et al.*, 2023 [13].

**Table 4:** Constraints expressed by market management personnel

S. No	Constraints expressed by market management	NTZ		CTZ		STZ		TG	
		GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Zone rank	GMS	Overall rank
1.	Lack of cooperation from sellers and buyers in paying market fees	51.88	IV	55.63	II	51.00	IV	52.81	III
2.	Lack of security in the market	45.83	IX	52.53	III	53.10	III	50.48	VI
3.	Less competitive bidding	51.80	V	52.48	IV	50.85	V	51.73	IV
4.	Insufficient funds for market development	50.93	VI	55.83	I	57.63	II	54.79	I
5.	Non-availability of office rooms	52.35	III	50.40	V	49.28	VI	50.60	V
6.	No sufficient sheds, No compound wall, fencing, or gate	52.60	II	50.18	VI	59.58	I	54.19	II
7.	Water scarcity	53.93	I	48.15	VII	44.80	IX	48.96	VII
8.	Unorganised management by private bidders	44.33	X	46.73	VIII	48.00	VII	46.35	VIII
9.	No control over middlemen	46.18	VIII	42.80	X	39.83	X	42.93	X
10.	Lack of teamwork	49.20	VII	44.30	IX	44.95	VIII	46.15	IX

**Note:** GMS= Garrett's Mean Score

### Conclusion

Livestock markets in Telangana face multiple infrastructural, financial, technological and administrative constraints that limit their efficiency and the welfare of market stakeholders and animals. Addressing key gaps such as water facility, shelters, internal roads, ramps, veterinary support, credit facilities and funds is essential to enhance market operations. A comprehensive state-wide plan with

targeted investments could improve market infrastructure, animal welfare, livelihoods, sellers' and buyers' participation, regulate middlemen, boost revenue for local bodies and the state and promote inclusive and sustainable growth for all stakeholders in the livestock value chain.

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