

CLASS-I

Lesson 1 Go Shala Charnam

Lesson 2 Human Friends

Lesson 3 Watering the Plants



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GO SHALA CHARNAM

India is leading producer of milk in the world. In Indian culture and traditions animals have a very important role especially Cow. They are part of our livelihood earning, social customs and our daily life. In our homes most of us take care of cows. They provide us milk which keeps us healthy. Other products i.e. cow dung, cow urine etc are also used in agriculture. In this lesson, we will study the importance of Indian cow and their unique features.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the role of cows in our life;
- identify the physical structure of Indian cows;
- differentiate between Indian pure breed and cross breeds;
and
- list out the benefits of cows for human being.

1.1 COWS IN OUR LIFE

Cows have become an important part of Indian agriculture and social customs. They have played an important role in Indian rural economy from Vedic age. We can see their importance in our day to day life. In Vedic period and even in later years, they were the key of rural economy. Bulls were used in ploughing the farms, sowing seeds, threshing and transporting agricultural goods from one place to another. Cows were giving milk and other milk products were created. The other bi-products i.e. cow dung etc were used as fertilizer and even for cooking. Due to the importance of cows in ancient Indian society, it was called as 'Kamdhenu' in Vedic texts. It means 'who fulfills all wishes'.



Fig. 1.1 Indian Cow

1.2 PHYSICAL FEATURES OF INDIAN COW

India is a diverse country. It has different climatic conditions, different physiographic areas and different cultures too. Same happens with the variety of Indian cows. There are many breeds of Indian cows found in different parts of the country. All these breeds have some differences in colour, size, horn, milk production etc. However, they have some common features which can be easily visible in Indian breeds of Cows. We can specify the Indian cows with following features:

- i. **Hump-** Almost all breeds of Indian cows have hump on their back. The bulls have bigger hump than cows. Hump gives them advantage to carry more loads. The size of hump may vary in different breeds.
- ii. **Dewlap-** The other specific feature of Indian cows is dewlap. You can observe the cow at your home or at your nearby place, that these cows develop a fold of loose skin hanging below their neck. It provides them heat resistance strength and capacity to sustain in all environmental conditions in India.
- iii. **Horn-** Most of Indian breeds has big sized horn. However, their length and width may vary in different breeds.



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- iv. **Colour-** Most of Indian cow breeds may be found in single colour. The colour may vary in different breeds and can be found in white, black, grey, red and in some more colours.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.1

Fill in the blanks:

1. It was called as _____ in Vedic texts.
2. Indian breeds have some difference in colour, _____, horn and milk production.
3. The bulls have bigger _____ than cow.
4. Most of Indian cow has big sized _____.
5. Dewlap provides them _____.

1.3 INDIAN PURE BREEDS AND CROSS BREEDS

As a diverse country cow breeds are also diversely found in India. With the changes in time some foreign breeds were also introduced in India for higher milk production.

I. INDIAN PURE BREEDS

There are long list of Indian pure breeds. Let us discuss 05 selected Indian breeds which are important for milk production and other agricultural activities.



Fig. 1.2 Gir Cow

- i. **Gir-** It is one of the best dairy breed in the world. Originally it belongs to Gir forest of Gujarat. However, it is used for cattle rearing in other states also. It can be easily identified with its long and wide horns. Its other names are bhodali, Gujarati, Kathiavari etc.



Fig. 1.3 Sahiwal Cow

- ii. **Sahiwal-** Another important Indian breed for milk



production is sahiwal. It is mostly found in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. It has also been adopted in other Indian states.

- iii. **Deoni-** It is a very popular breed found in Maharashtra. It's used for milk production as well as agriculture. Its called with other names also i.e. dongan, wannera, shevera etc.
- iv. **Ongole -** It is mostly found in Andhra Pradesh. This breed has disease resistance as well as can survive in less water.
- v. **Hallikar-** It is one of the best breed which can survive in less water and draught fodder. It is found in almost all districts of Karnataka.

Some of the other important Indian breeds are Punganor, Malvi, Nagauri, Red Kandhari, Khari, Kakrej, Dangi, etc.

II. CROSS BREEDS IN INDIA

With the passage of time many foreign cow breeds were introduced in India. They were cross bred with Indian breeds so that can survive in Indian conditions. Some of the important breeds used for crossbreeding are:



Fig. 1.4 Holstien fresian Cow

- i. **Holstein fresian-** Its black and white coloured cow. It gives good quantity of milk with 3% to 4% fat.



Fig. 1.5 Jersey Cow

- ii. **Jersey-** It is mostly red or chocolate in colour. It gives good quantity of milk. fat percentage is 4 to 6 %



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1.4 BENEFITS FROM COW

- i. **Milk-** We get milk from cow which is an essential part of our daily food habits.
- ii. **Other milk products-** Many other products i.e. butter, cheese, curd, butter milk etc. are created by milk.
- iii. **Use in Agriculture-** Our rural economy is based on agriculture. Bulls are used in various agricultural activities i.e. ploughing the farms, sowing seeds, transporting agricultural products, threshing etc.
- iv. **Other bi-products-** Manure is used as an organic fertilizer. Urine has also medicinal value and used in many Ayurvedic medicines. It is also used with other organic products.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.2

True or False

1. Gir cow is found in Gujarat.
2. Sahiwal is not found in Haryana.
3. Deoni cow is found in Maharashtra.
4. Jersey is not used for cross breeding.
5. Manure is an organic fertilizer.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT

- Cow has an important role in Indian economy.
- Indian pure breed can be easily identified with its hump and dewlap.
- Famous Indian breeds are Gir, Sahiwal, Deoni, Ongole, Hallikar, Red Kandhari etc.
- Cross breed cows found in India are-Holstein Fresian and Jersey.
- They provide us milk and milk products and bulls are used for agricultural activities



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Why it is called as Kamdhenu in Vedic texts ?
2. Write any two physical features of Indian cow.
3. Explain any four Indian breeds of cow.



ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

1.1

1. Kamdhenu
2. Size
3. Hump
4. Horn
5. Heat resistance



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1.2

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True