

# Welfare challenges in marketing, transportation and slaughtering of ruminant animal in Bangladesh

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## INTRODUCTION

- Bangladesh is a densely populated country. Most of the people have been involved: directly or indirectly in agriculture.
- Livestock is one of the major parts of agriculture linked to the production of meat, milk, and related food products.
- There is a growing perception that animal welfare should be protected and improved to ensure food safety.
- This study evaluated the welfare challenges during the marketing, transportation, and slaughtering of cattle.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- This study included survey questionnaire and visual observation of the cattle's overall management during marketing, transportation, and slaughter in the Rajshahi district of Bangladesh from July to December 2021.
- Investigation included a total of 504 cattle from seven local markets transported by 20 local vehicles (Vutvuti) and 20 trucks to six slaughterhouses.

## RESULTS

### Challenges during marketing of cattle

1. Each cattle had  $8.33 \pm 2.01$  ft<sup>2</sup> space while the minimum requirement is 15 ft<sup>2</sup>.
2. Inadequate or no shelter, feed, and water was provided

### Challenges during transport of cattle

1. Cattle were transported in open trucks allowing less than  $6.0 \pm 1.92$  ft<sup>2</sup> space/ cattle.
2. The humane handling practices were neglected during the loading, unloading, and transportation of cattle.
3. The loading and unloading of cattle on the vehicles were also risky as there were no designated stairs or else.
4. Had no access to food, water, or rest during transport, and cattle often got exhausted, dehydrated, and even die.



**Figures: First figure shows Cattle in a market for sale, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> show cattle transportation via open truck and local Vutvuti, respectively, and the last figure shows slaughtered cattle in a slaughtering house.**

### Challenges during slaughter of cattle

1. Slaughtering of cattle involved the fixation of cattle on hard floors without proper restraining and or making cattle senseless, slaughtered by using blunt knives or directly entering the head of the knife into the trachea.
2. The slaughtering places were not well designed; slaughtered cattle in open spaces, one in front of the other cattle.
3. Lack of trained personnel and equipment to apply humane slaughter techniques.

It is concluded that the welfare issue is poor during the marketing, transportation, and slaughtering of cattle in Bangladesh. Possible reasons included lack of animal welfare knowledge to consumers and related stakeholders, the economic benefit of traders, and lack of animal welfare legislation.

It is highly recommended to create opportunities for national and international funding for the promotion of animal welfare.