



Being the biggest endowment of 20<sup>th</sup> century, antibiotics are widely used in humans as well as in animals for treatment of different diseases and to promote growth. Unfortunately, irrational and unwise use of antibiotics may lead towards development of antibiotic resistance. Majority of the published studies related to self-medication and antibiotic resistance are focused on hospitals and communities, much less has been done to evaluate the practices concerning dairy farm animals and specially from farmer's perspective. Therefore, basic aim of this study was to evaluate the knowledge, perceptions and practices of farmers related to antibiotic usage and antimicrobial resistance. Information about farmer's attitude and knowledge is necessary to evaluate trends of using antibiotics and to design strategies for its wise use.

Two hundred and seventy farmers were selected randomly for this survey from urban and suburban areas of Lahore, Pakistan. Information was gathered by using a comprehensive and well organized questionnaire. Results were analyzed using SPSS (version 16.0). All participants of the study were male and two-third majority was illiterate or less educated. Maximum number of farmers reported that their animals suffered from illness thrice in a year (31.1%). Of all the respondents, 21.5 stated that they do not consult veterinarian whenever their animals get sick. Thirty one percent reported that they do not follow correct dosage instructions and 61.5% said that they discontinue treatment once symptoms subside (without completing the whole antibiotic course). Many farmers were unaware of the dangers of misusing antibiotics (40%), while some stated that side effects appear (29.3%) and just a few reported that same antibiotic treatment doesn't work always (17%). Misuse of antibiotics was also prevalent as 35.2% of the farmers claimed that they do save left-over antibiotics for future use and 20.7% said that they share it with other friends/farmers. An overwhelming majority of farmers (90.4%) did not find it economical to consult veterinarian or to use antibiotics for treatment of animals.

It was concluded from current research that local farmers lack basic information regarding antibiotic usage. Therefore, improved cognizance and enhanced knowledge among local farmers about proper usage of antibiotics and to follow correct dosage and protocol may help in improving the global microbial resistance problem. Furthermore, a comprehensive awareness program and implementation of strict antibiotic dispensation laws along with development of healthy relationship between farmers and veterinarians is inevitable.