

Coal Mines and their Equids in Pakistan.

Syed Abbas, Brooke Pakistan

Framework Sc.2

Type: Case Study | 01/02/25

OWM No. 2

SUMMARY

In Pakistan, people and equids (horses, donkeys and mules) work together to help extract coal in mines. Working conditions faced by both coal mine workers and their equids have a negative impact on their wellbeing. In 2014 a study explored the health and welfare of coal mine owners and managers as well as workers and their equids.

Workers lived in substandard accommodation, suffered serious work related health problems and dangerous working conditions. The welfare of their equids suffered similarly, with many animals having poor body condition, lameness and serious skin lesions. The study data helped to inform recommendations to improve equid welfare and highlighted the need for stakeholders to focus on human health and working conditions using a One Welfare approach. Since then the Brooke project has taken this forward, by setting up “Project Coalmine” which has provided two mobile clinics to deliver veterinary care and to train equid owners in first aid.



Image: Syed Abbas

Donkey carrying goods



Image: Syed Abbas

Case study impacts

- Local equid owners have formed cooperatives for resource sharing, fostering community cooperation leading to stronger community ties in the intervention area.
- Improvements in equid welfare and working conditions have boosted local economies and supported community development.
- Training delivery has resulted in improved knowledge and animal care among mine workers.
- The area has benefited from improved emergency response systems for both miners and their equids as a result of the introduction of first aid kits for humans and animals alongside relevant training.



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One Welfare Pillars

ANIMAL WELFARE



- Local para-vet training has improved equid welfare, particularly in addressing lameness and poor body condition.
- Improved knowledge, skills, and positive behaviours towards animal welfare.
- Reduced percentage of underweight equids, improving their overall health.

HUMAN WELLBEING



- Better health for coal miners through stronger connections with local hospitals.
- Enhanced emergency response for miners and their equids.
- Health & Safety Training for miners and equid owners on occupational health and safety has improved working conditions.

ENVIRONMENT



Physical environment

- Safer work Environment
- Improved Housing for people and animals

Social environment

- Improvements in equid owners wellbeing had a positive impact on the welfare of equids and their interactions.

Multidisciplinary relevant areas

Animal behaviour and welfare; environment; health and safety; first aid; working equids

References / Source

- Brooke, 2014 Equine Welfare Assessment in Pakistan Coal mines (<https://www.thebrooke.org/research-evidence/equine-welfare-assessment-pakistan-coal-mines>)
- Abbas, 2021 - Coal mines and their equids in Pakistan, Winning OWSM session - One Welfare World Conference, 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lw5qwSCrLg>

