

# Study of Ornamental Fish in Lalitpur, Nepal

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## Abstract

This work has been done from 2068 to 2069. The main theme of the survey was to find out the Aquarium fish interest among people, highest and lowest price of different fishes, feeding criteria, socio economic condition of aquarium fish trade. Survey points out that few shops are in Lalitpur. Gold fish varieties are famous among the people. Only artificial feed was given to the fishes. Increasing number of shops and satisfactory response regarding this business shows better socio economic condition regarding this sector.

**Key words:** Bio filter, Guppy, Parrot fish, Pearl scale, Sucker head

## Introduction

Keeping a home aquarium has now become a very popular past time all over the world. It is a hobby and it appeals to young as well as old. It is very exiting to watch gentle and colourful fishes. Aquarium also adds fascinating colors to a drawing room. Besides, maintaining aquarium has also opened a flourishing business in all cities. Together all countries of the European Union are the largest market for ornamental fishes; however, the United States (US) is the single largest importer of ornamental fish in the world (Chapman 2000). Pet industry surveys have estimated the aquarium industry worth over Dollar 1,000 million USD (Cato and Brown 2003)

In cold water of mountain the Cyprinids, *Schizothorax* and *Schizothoraichthys* dominate. In high hill and hilly region they are joined by *Tor*, *Neolissocheli*, *Barilius*, *Glyptothorax*, *Botia* and *Clupisoma* (Rajbansi 1976). Zebra fish, Medaka and Xiphophorus fishes are grouped as aquarium fishes (Yang, Chen and Lan 1994).

Shop imports large varieties of ornamental fish and the other requirement like heater, filter water vibrator, medicines, fish food, purifier, net, aquarium cleaner decorating materials such as coloured stones, gravel, corals, wood, rocks and aquarium plants from India Thailand, Hongkong and Srilanka (Amatya and Gurung 2005).

## Materials and Methods

Weekly visits were made up to two months at initial period followed frequent visits later in different ornamental fish shops at Lalitpur to collect information about the fish marketing system, types of fishes available; their cost price, sizes of aquarium used, source of aquarium fish supply, socio economic condition aquarium fish markets.

Likewise, frequent visits in different houses were made for information collection regarding ornamental fishes and to know about people's interest towards this recreation. The data were collected by direct observation, through questionnaire and by phone, using a writing pad, a pen, and a camera.

## Results

There are around 30 aquarium shops in Kathmandu Valley including all four districts. In Lalitpur, Kupundol, Jawalakhel, Lagankhel & other place of this district aquarium fish shops are available. During visit to shops it showed that more than 40 types of aquarium fishes as shown in the Table 1. Out of these fishes most of them are imported from foreign country and very less native species were seen in the market.

**Table 1.** Fish prices at Lalitpur

S.No.	Name of Fish	Price (NRs/2pc)	S. No.	Name of Fish	Price (NRs/2pc)
1	Brown gold fish	300	16	Serpa tetra	125
2	Lion head	3000	17	Guppy	200
3	Bubble eye	200	18	Balloon molly	150
4	Black mor gold	1000	19	Silver shark	200
5	Red oranda	275	20	Tiger shark	150
6	Suban kin	375	21	Rainbow shark	200
7	Ray kin gold	2600	22	White shark	150
8	White gold	300	23	Red tail black shark	200
9	Mix gold	525	24	Green terror	800
10	Red carp oranda	275	25	Dollor fish	200
11	Bensent tetra	150	26	Oscar	1500
12	Angel fish	1150	27	Flower horn	3000
13	Green tiger barb	550	28	Texax	250
14	Red eye sword tail	150	29	Tinfoil barb	350
15	Platy	100	30	Zebra fish	400

Among these fish Parrot Fish has highest price which reaches upto Rs. 20,000 per two pieces of large size available where as Gupppi has lowest price which ranges from Rs. 15 to 35 per two pieces. Concerning size of the fish, Guppi is the smallest one which has about one inch length and Shark is the largest one having length of about one & half feet.

Only artificial feed are given to aquarium fishes, in which Tokyo, six seven, nine star optimum, C.P., Etc are famous ones. While talking about aquarium filter, three types of filter are seen i.e. physical filter, bio filter and over head filter. For decorative purpose stones, different types of statues, artificial fishes, turtle, snakes, artificial plants etc are used. In shops and few houses also natural plants like hydrilla, cocomba, amazon etc are seen.

People showed more interest in keeping gold fish varieties due to their different coloration and shape. They keep different varieties of gold fishes like Red Oranda, Black oranda, Subun kin, Calico gold, Bubble eyes, Pearl scale etc. besides they also shows their interest in fishes like Oscar, Texax, green terror, Pirana, Sweaper, Angle fish, Parrot fish and Sharks etc. Fishes like Guppy and Tetra are famous among children due to their small size, active nature and low cost. As well as Gold fishes like Ray kin,

red Oranda, Bubble eyes are also liked by children. Decorative items like stones gravels, colorful scenery artificial fish turtle artificial plants kept in aquarium gives extra ordinary look to tank, which also helps people to increase their interest in aquarium fish keeping.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

By visiting different shops in the Lallitpur suggest that more than 40 types of aquarium fishes are available. Only glass tank is made locally but it is imported from different countries. Shopkeepers in group use to import so most of them represent them self as a wholesalers. Shopkeeper not pleased with government and scholars of related field. The government agencies, NGO, INGO can play supportive role in the developing fish marketing and other related things. In this way number of increasing aquarium shops year by year in the valley is positive & satisfactory point regarding aquarium fish trade and also indicates the public demand. For this, government sector should put forward artificial breeding programs in extensive way so that fish can made available at reliable prices & mass killing of fish events can be lowered.



**Figure 1.** Parrot Fish



**Figure 2.** Guppy



**Figure 3.** Red cap Oranda

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