

Original Article

A Study on Attitude of Undergraduate Veterinary Students towards Career Preferences in Andhra Pradesh: Rural Perspectives

G.R.K. Sharma

Author Affiliation

Professor & University Head, Dept. of
Veterinary & Animal Husbandry
Extension Education College of
Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara
Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh 517502, India.

Reprint Request G.R.K. Sharma

Professor & University Head,
Dept. of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry
Extension Education College of
Veterinary Science, Sri Venkateswara
Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra
Pradesh 517502, India.
E-mail: sharmagr@yahoo.com

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Abstract

An attempt was made to explore the veterinary students' attitude towards rural oriented careers and their extent of participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities in AP. Data was gathered from 150 undergraduate veterinary students through random sampling from three veterinary colleges (50 from each) under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. The pretested questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection, the data was tabulated and statistically analyzed using SPSS version 20. Ex-post-facto research design was followed in the study. Equal distribution of boys and girls from all the years were selected and findings indicated that majority of the students had expressed more favourable (positive) attitude towards rural oriented careers and showed less inclination to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

Keywords: Career Preference; Attitude; Under Graduate; Veterinary Students; Career; Rural.

Introduction

India is an agricultural country with about three quarters of its population residing in villages. Most of the farmers in these villages keep bullocks for tilling, cows and buffaloes for milk and manure, while some farmers rear sheep and goats for their livelihood. The animal health care services for the millions of livestock farmers in urban and rural areas of the state are rendered by Veterinary Assistant Surgeons of the State Animal Husbandry Department.

In Andhra Pradesh majority of the Veterinary Graduates are being employed as Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the State Animal Husbandry Department while only few enter the Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Co-operation Federation

(APDDCF), Poultry Marketing centres, Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC), Private Dairies, Banking Sectors, Insurance sectors, Academic careers etc., Veterinary graduates of the country are expected to render a great service to the community either in the rural areas or urban areas. Veterinary graduates with a high degree of confidence in practical, scientific farming could take up leadership role in transformation from primitive level to subsistence level and to scientific and commercial proposition. In veterinary profession, students after completion of their graduation opt to join different professional jobs in rural likewise urban areas which depend on their preferences. So there is need to comprehend the desire of the students to work in rural area beside urban. This study was aimed to articulate the attitude of undergraduate veterinary students towards working in rural areas i.e. rural oriented careers and

their extent of participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

Methodology

The three veterinary colleges under the purview of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University in Andhra Pradesh were purposively selected for the study as the researcher hails from the same state. The data was collected using well structured questionnaire from the students pursuing B.V.Sc and A.H of the three colleges through random sampling leading to the total sample size of 150. An inventory on attitude towards rural oriented careers was prepared by the Investigator. (Details are given in Appendix).

Results and Discussion

Among the respondents 50.00 per cent were boys and remaining were girls and were studying their under graduation in three respective colleges of SVVU (Table 1). From the Table 2 it is evident that majority of the students (64.00 per cent) had shown more favourable (positive) attitude, while 20.00 per cent students were neutral and remaining 16.00 per cent expressed less favourable attitude towards rural oriented careers. This clearly illustrates that most of the students wanted to serve the rural house hold livestock farmers and enhance their living standards. These results are in accordance with the investigative findings reported by [2] and [4].

Appendix

Responsive categories and scores assigned to each item used to evaluate the attitude of undergraduate veterinary students towards rural oriented careers.

S. No	Statement	SA	A	DA	SDA
1.	Whether rich or poor all young students like myself should work together to develop villages				
2.	Young veterinary students should enter rural based trades and industries.				
3.	Village development is government job. I would not bother about it.				
4.	Paid or unpaid I would like to take up rural oriented careers.				
5.	Village development work would be a waste of my time.				
6.	Rural oriented careers are not meant for us.				
7.	Rural oriented career would be a rewarding experience for a student like me.				
8.	Without attractive incentives, I would not like to involve myself in rural oriented careers.				
9.	We should develop democratic leadership for organizing village development activities.				
10.	We should migrate to urban areas and settle there as more facilities are available.				
11.	We should accept challenge of improving our villages.				
12.	We young graduates should combine our occupational careers with village development task.				
4-Strongly agree (SA), 3-Agree (A), 2-Disagree (DA) and 1-Strongly disagree (SDA)					

An Observation from Table 3 could be Drawn that Majority of the Respondents had Low

Participation (35%), followed by high (33%) and medium (32%) participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. This may be due to the heavy workload under the new VCI curriculum where they get little time to spend for the activities other than studies. The university authorities should think of fixing certain time periods regularly for students to participate in various co-curricular and activities by organizing every event in the colleges and inspire the students to participate and enhance their skills. These results are in accordance with the findings revealed by [1] and [3].

Summary

The data was assembled from 150 undergraduate veterinary students through random sampling from three veterinary colleges (50 from each) under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. Ex-post-facto research design was followed in the study. The pretested questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection and the data was tabulated, statistically analyzed using SPSS version 20. Equal distribution of boys and girls from all the years were selected. Overall, the students participating in this study had more favourable attitude towards rural oriented careers and showed less inclination to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

Table 1: Base line information of study participants (N=150)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	75	50.00
Female	75	50.00
Total	150	100.00
Study year		
I year	30	20.00
II year	30	20.00
III year	30	20.00
IV year	30	20.00
V year	30	20.00
Total	150	100.00

Table 2: Distribution of students based on their attitude towards rural oriented careers

S. No.	Attitude	Frequency (N=150)	Percentage
1.	Less favourable	24	16.00
2.	Neutral	30	20.00
3.	More favourable	96	64.00
	Total	150	100.00
	Mean =26.9		SD=6.74

Table 3: Distribution of students according to their extent of participation in co-curricular and extra curricular activities

S. No.	Participation	Frequency (N=150)	Percentage
1.	Low	52	35.00
2.	Medium	47	32.00
3.	High	51	33.00
	Total	150	100.00
	Mean=2.013		SD=1.231

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