

Role of Women in Veterinary Profession

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History of women in Veterinary profession

The Veterinary Journal published in 1889 mentioned the first ever woman who entered veterinary profession was Ms. Parisienne and subsequently Ms Pole Stephanie Kruszewska followed her foot step in Zurich university of Europe in the same year.

Following the First World War, women stepped into almost all the professions dominated by men in the western world. Their ability had been proved and recognized and also the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919 resulted in the governing bodies of many professions which opened doors for women to register in professional colleges. This made the veterinary profession, the last of the orthodox men dominated professions to admit women. The article in *The Veterinary Record* of April 7, 1934, refers to the capability of women veterinarians in treating the horses. Women Vets of 19th century inspired many more women to join Veterinary Profession and at present the girls are outnumbering the boys in almost all Western and as well as Eastern countries.

In India, it was in 1948, Madras Veterinary College at Vepery, Chennai, opened its portal for admission to girls for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science course. Dr. Sakkubhai Ramachandran the first woman Vet of India graduated in 1952 and later assumed many prestigious posts and retired as Scientist from IVRI, Bangalore in 1971. Following her foot steps, Dr. Pushpa Ranaparkhe, Dr. Amritha Patel and many stalwart lady vets have shown the way to the youngsters and at present there has been an increase in the number of girls preferring this profession and it is estimated that there are more than 3000 lady vets in the country registered with different State Veterinary councils of India.

Women vets of India have formed an Association called Indian Association of Lady Veterinarians which was started on 2nd October 1985 at Veterinary College, Thrissur, and Kerala. At that time Dr. Annamma Jacob was the first woman Vet to occupy the position of Dean of Kerala Veterinary College. Since then eight National

Seminars have been conducted by the women vets in different states of the country. In Karnataka, it is proud to announce that two national seminars have been conducted at Veterinary College; Bangalore i.e.; one during 1987 under the Presidentship of Dr.Nalini Pradeep and second under Dr. Y.B. Rajeshwari as Organizing Secretary in 2008. Two technical Seminars at State level (Sixth & seventh) were also organized by the IALV (Karnataka Chapter) during 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Women Veterinarians due to their commitments to their family and as majority of the women vets are working in the field serving the livestock in rural areas and have very less exposure to latest developments in Science and Technology in veterinary research. The India association of Lady Veterinarians (IALV) a national body served as common platform with the intention of bringing the all the women Veterinarians serving in various sectors to congregate in one platform and to exchange their views and ideas.

Women Vets in Karnataka

The first ever woman who graduated from Veterinary college, Bangalore, Karnataka was Dr. Prema, who worked for Animal Husbandry department and retired as Assistant Director during 1980s. At present Women Veterinarians are working in various organizations serving the livestock in different capacities in Karnataka are as follows : There are 180 women Vets registered with Karnataka Veterinary council as on 2007, seven women vets working at the level of Assistant Directors and 106 as Veterinary Officers in Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Government of Karnataka. 16 women veterinarians in teaching faculty of the Veterinary College of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University and six scientists working at IAH and VB, two lady vets working at National Institutes, around 20 women vets have taken up career abroad and lastly there are eight retired lady vets from State government and University.

During 1970's there were one or two girl students

for each year batch at Veterinary College, Bangalore which slowly increased to 3- 6 during 1980's then to 10-15 during 1990's at present there are 15-20 girl students studying Veterinary sciences.

The Themes of National Seminars Conducted in Karnataka

Second National Seminar in 1987: Second Annual conference was held at Veterinary College under the chairmanship of Dr. Nalini Pradeep on 11th and 12th Sept 1987. During the conference it was emphasized that women vets being a minority should develop the rapport with the professional women vets of different states of our country. It was then the association decided to conduct National Seminars in future also to exchange research outcomes/field experiences such that they can serve the society better through the welfare of livestock.

Ninth National Seminar in 2008: India has witnessed green and white revolutions during the past decades. This has been achieved mainly through the farmers involved in agricultural and livestock operations. Most of these activities have been made successful with the involvement of the women in the families. The health and management problems in livestock can be easily approached and solved to better extent if women vets are involved in communicating with the rural women involved in livestock activities.

With this back ground, the theme of the IX national Technical seminar was **Role of women Veterinarians in augmenting rural economy through Animal husbandry** held on 24th and 25th January 2008 at Veterinary College, Hebbal KVAFSU in commemoration of Golden Jubilee celebrations of

Veterinary College, Hebbal with Dr. Rajeshwari Y.B, Professor, and Small Animal House. Department of LPM as organizing Secretary. A total of 150 women Vets participated from all over the country and was inaugurated by Mrs. Neeraja Rajkumar, IAS, and Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka. The Patrons were Dr. R.N.Sreenivasa Gowda, Honorable Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, and Bidar. The technical sessions included the presentation of more than 85 papers received for poster and oral presentations. In addition to the technical sessions, stalls have been arranged from women entrepreneur to act as an impetus for more women to take up livestock farming and other related activities in the future. A Directory comprising addresses of registered women Veterinarians of 14 states was released and Compendium was having scientific articles commemorating Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Veterinary College (1958-2008) was published on this occasion.

References

1. Sreenivasa Gowda, R. N. (2008): Role of Lady Veterinarians in Livestock Development. Compendium, on Role of women Veterinarians in augmenting rural economy through animal Husbandry of IX National Technical Seminar 11th -12th Jan 2008.
2. Rajeshwari Shome (2008): Compendium on Role of women Veterinarians in augmenting rural economy through animal Husbandry of IX National Technical Seminar, 11th -12th Jan 2008.
3. Nalini Pradeep (1987): Compendium, Indian Association of Lady Veterinarians, Second Annual Conference 11-12th Sept 1987.

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XI X National Congress of Veterinary Parasitology, Ludhiana, India- Dates changed

The 19th National Congress of Veterinary Parasitology is now to be held from 3-5 feb, 2009 at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal sciences University Ludhiana India. The theme is on "National Impact of Parasitic Diseases on Livestock Health and Production and with focal theme "Changing Trends in Parasitology from Eggs to Genomics". The organizers call for the abstracts of papers and the details of submission of abstracts and registration are available at the web site WWW.IAAVP.nxom.org or email to ncvp19@gmail.com and juyalpd@rediffmail.com .