

## Role of Veterinarian in Rural Development of Khed Taluka of Maharashtra State

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### Abstract

A study was carried out to determine the role of veterinarian in rural development in Khed taluka of Pune district. The survey was carried out in 19 villages of 4 subdivisions of Khed taluka by personnel interview and 210 farmers were screened. The study revealed that accessibility of veterinarian for 21.05 % (4) villages was below average, 73.68% (11) villages were average and 5.26% (1) villages were above average. The availability of veterinarian for 31.58 (6) villages was above average and rest 68.42% (13) were below average. The role in rural development of veterinarian was above average for 21.05% (4) villages, 36.84% (7) villages were average and rest 42.11% (8) villages were below average. The study also showed that 15.79% (3) villages were good, 42.12% (8) villages were average and 42.12% (8) villages were below average when total ranking of villages was done by block level veterinary service index.

**Keywords:** Veterinarian, Rural Development, Khed Taluka, Farmer, Village, Veterinary Service.

### Introduction

Khed Taluka has 191 villages (sector codes) with an area 137354 Hecter and has population 273253. It has total livestock population of 719912. It is one of the progressive Taluka in adopting new technologies of cattle farming

The main economy of Khed Taluka is agriculture followed by dairy and poultry Industry. Lot of industrialization is also playing an important role in economy. bhima, bhama and indrayani rivers are providing irrigation to the taluka. The cropping pattern includes mainly bajra, groundnut, vegetables in Kharip season and onion, potato, rice in rabbi season. The vegetables are also playing major role in agricultural economy.

Farmers are able to evaluate veterinarians on the basis of expectations and reality. Keeping this view in mind 210 farmers were interviewed personally so as to get more reliable data and to observe the exact geographical conditions. The objectives of study were-

- To access different aspects of role of veterinarian concerning rural development as soul.
- To access the communication, connectivity and flow of information through veterinarian.
- To determine perception of farmer regarding current veterinary and animal health delivery needs.

- Appraisal of current veterinary services at village level on basis of

- I Accessibility
- II Availability
- III Role in rural development

### Material and Methods

The present study was undertaken to evaluate veterinarian's role in rural development taking farmers as a source of information.

The design for this study was descriptive research type. The methodology involved 3 major components

- Preparation of questionnaire- The structural interview guides were prepared in which questions assessing veterinary services were involved as shown in table no.01.
- Data collection- It was collected from farmers, veterinary polyclinic (Government of Maharashtra), veterinary clinics (Zillha Parishad, Pune) and supplied by self observation.
- Appraisal of current system- It was done by ranking method and block level veterinary service index was calculated for comparison. Following was criteria used for grading of villages as below.

### Table-1 QUESTIONAIRE

Name...Address.....Age.....Caste..... Education...  
Family type- joint / separate Land- Irrigated/Non-irrigated. Family member no.-.....No. of animals.....  
1. Name of veterinarian related to you-.....

1. Internee Student

2. M.V.Sc. Scholar

2. Does he vaccinate animals regularly? (20)
3. Does he directly participate in rural development? (15)
4. Does he help in increasing milk production? (15)
5. Do you get immediate veterinary service when needed? (30)
6. Which means you use to communicate with veterinarian?  
 a. By telephone (30)  
 b. In person contact (15)  
 c. By other means (05)
7. a- Are you using any government scheme?(10)  
 If yes, give details.....  
 b- Do you know about subsidies provided by government?  
 If yes, give details.....  
 c-What is your source of information about government schemes.....  
 d-Does extension officer inform about government schemes, subsidies and other Projects of government?
8. Are group-discussions, workshops, meetings arranged in your village?(10)
9. What is your opinion.....

Note-

1. Give answer in Yes or No and in detail wherever required.
2. Numbers in bracket show points given to that question.

Table-2 Criteria for different points

Points to be assessed	below Avg.	Average.	good
Accessibility	0-25	26-39	40-50
Availability	0-25	26-39	40-50
Rural dev.	0-25	26-39	40-50
Total	0-75	76-119	120-150

Result and Discussion

When global condition is considered concept of veterinary and extension services have changed radically. This was possible due to involvement of academic institution in reviewing; monitoring and evolving new appropriate opportunities. We have not received much attention to this concept. It is a fact that there is no use of all the development technologies available unless we evolve a system of delivering these to rural stakeholders in a cost effective way.

Perception of Veterinary Services

The OIE quality standards ([www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int) <<http://www.oie.int>> update 25 July 2006) of animal health services has indicated that a model delivery service system would have essential components including

- a) Availability.
- b) Accessibility.
- c) Rural development.

The current concept of veterinary services involved components such as-

- a) Artificial Insemination based on expected heat.
- b) Pregnancy, calving based on expected dates.
- c) Milk record and testing for components on designated stages.
- d) Definition of sub clinical diseases and under performances.
- e) Provide support to raise replacement stock.
- f) Fodder and feed continuity.
- g) Curative services.
- h) Set production, fertility and business targets and provide support to achieve this.
- i) To convey government schemes and concession schemes of livestock to the people of villages and help to get benefit of these schemes.

Keeping in mind above gold standards each village surveyed was individually ranked as below in table.3.

Perception of Farmer

Farmers felt need to hold disease awareness and training programmes, information on calf, heifer rearing, feed fodder development and update about new technologies and these were not regular. While farmers were ready to participate and involve in such type of activities if arranged.

Farmers in tribal and hilly areas were extremely poor and backward. They had no communication with veterinarian. Poor farmers leaving them unable to sick animal health care because of their lack of knowledge regarding appropriate services (Hafferman, 1999).

Farmers also use radio programmes, chief meetings, television, neighbors, friends and politicians as a source of information supplemented by trial and error method (Morton et al, 2000). The farmer were asked questions regarding,

- 1 Accessibility of veterinary services.
- 1 Availability of veterinary services.
- 1 Role in rural development.

Accessibility

To determine accessibility of veterinarian criteria shown in materials and methods was used. After evaluation of questionnaire it was noticed that 5.26% (1) villages were above average, 73.68% (14) were average and 21.05% (4) villages were below average. The farmers from these villages used accessibility tools like In person contact 59.52 % (125), by telephone 35.24% (74) and by other means 5.24% (11).

Table-3.

Village Name	Accessibility	Availability	Rural Dev.	Total
BLOCK-1				
Gonawadi	30+0+0	0+20	0+0+0+0	50
Pimpri	30+0+0	0+20	0+0+0+0	50
Karanjihire	30+0+0	30+20	0+10+10+0	100
Shive	0+15+0	30+20	0+10+10+0	115
Charholi bd	30+0+0	30+20	15+0+10+15	130
BLOCK-2				
Jaulake kd	30+0+0	0+20	0+0+0+15	65
Gosasi	30+0+0	0+20	0+10+10+15	85
Mohakal	30+0+0	30+20	15+0+0+15	110
Tokawade	30+0+0	30+20	15+10+10+15	130
Kharapudi	30+0+0	0+20	15+10+10+15	100
BLOCK-3				
Yenawe bd	30+0+0	0+20	0+0+0+15	65
Anwade	30+0+0	0+20	0+0+10+15	75
Wandra	0+15+0	0+20	0+0+0+15	50
Saygaon	0+15+0	0+20	0+10+10+15	70
BLOCK-4				
Wadagaon Patole	30+0+5	0+20	0+10+10+15	90
Pimpri bd	30+0+5	0+20	0+10+10+15	85
Kalus	30+15+0	30+20	15+10+10+15	145
Koye	0+15+5	0+20	0+10+10+15	75
Koregaon	30+0+0	0+20	0+10+10+15	85

#### Availability

The veterinary services are available for various services like artificial insemination, cases, surgeries, vaccination and different extension programmes. However numbers of veterinary dispensaries available in subdivisions were 12 (44) for subdivision-1, 9 (42) for subdivision-2, 6 (34) for subdivision-3 and 6 (42) for subdivision-4 where number in bracket denote total number of villages in that subdivision. The availability of veterinarian for 31.58 (6) villages was above average and rest 68.42% (13) were below average.

#### Rural Development

Rural development is most important part and veterinarian can play major role in rural development. The role in rural development of veterinarian was above average for 21.05% (4) villages, 36.84% (7) villages were average and rest 42.11% (8) villages were below average.

#### Conclusion

Field observations and studies revealed that a lot of improvement is necessary regarding the extension services, Availability and Accessibility to enable small farmers and those residing in adverse agro-climatic conditions. The conclusions are:

- The particular effort is needed to ensure that necessary services reach tribal areas and accessibility should be increased. The facilities like

mobile and vehicle should be provided to veterinarians by government.

- Duplication of services, Information asymmetry, existence of quacks, corrupt practices, lack of positive attitude and improper division of resources are the major constrains in Khed Taluka.

- In livestock development programme there is gross neglect of extension services and training programmes. Though such efforts are made, the effectiveness is poor in view of lack of desired approach.

- It is strongly felt that the concept of veterinarian should be changed and looked at, from a broader perspective and efforts made at overall development of villages with livestock as a prime factor.

- A special effort by government is required in case of peoples living in hilly and tribal areas to increase livestock output.

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