

**A STUDY OF VALUES OF MALE AND FEMALE VETERINARY SCIENCE
DOCTORS OF SKUAST-K**

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Abstract: *The present aim focused on the Values of male and female veterinary science doctors of SKAUST-K. The study was conducted upon 60 individuals (N=30 males, N=30 females) Veterinary Science Doctors selected at random from FV.Sc. & AH, of SKUAST-K. The Veterinary Doctors were given questioners and were asked to answer on the provided questions on the questioners. The answers given were scored and statistical analysis of the data was done. The sample has been taken randomly from SKUAST-K, Shalimar Srinagar. The scoring was strictly done according to the instructions given in the manuals of the two different tests. The tool for the present investigation is given as under:- N.Y. Reddy's (Indian adaptation) scale has been taken to assess the values of Veterinarian doctors. It consists of six (6) types of values: Theoretical values, Economic values, Aesthetic values, Social values, Political values and Religious values. 1) Male veterinary science doctors have higher political and economic value. 2) Female veterinary science doctors have higher social and religious value. 3) Male and female veterinary science doctors have same behavior towards theoretical aspects. 4) There is no significant difference between male and female veterinary doctors on aesthetic value but female have slightly higher mean than male veterinary science doctors. 5) Male veterinary science doctors have the temper towards discovery of truth and scientific temper.*

Key words: Values, Male, Female, Veterinary Doctors, SKAUST-K

INTRODUCTION

The public often regards veterinarians and the veterinary profession as animal healers, protectors, and defenders of animal welfare. This viewpoint is integrated into policies and procedures involving the use of animals. Animal sporting organizations frequently require event organizers to hire a veterinarian to examine animal athletes in order to ensure that they are healthy enough to compete in the event. Veterinarians are seen as a brake, tempering the use of animals and ensuring their appropriate care. Veterinary associations give support to this position by declaring their professional responsibility to promote the welfare of animals. Yet veterinarians perform procedures that are harmful to animals or perform them in a manner that reduces patient welfare. Veterinarians perform cosmetic procedures, such as ear cropping, that provide little or no benefit to the patient. Many veterinarians also fail to provide post-operative analgesics for routine surgical procedures. Veterinarians refrain from reporting instances of animal abuse even when they believe that they are morally obligated to do so and sometimes resist attempts to entrench

this felt obligation into legislation. At times, the notion of the beneficent veterinarian promoting the welfare of animals appears to differ from the way veterinarians actually act.

In order to understand why veterinarians sometimes appear to fail in their responsibility to promote animal welfare, this dissertation explores how veterinarians make decisions about the care of their patients. In particular, I investigate instances where there is tension between the interests of a veterinary client (as perceived by the veterinarian) and the interests of the veterinary patient. Veterinarians fulfill many roles in society including working for governmental agencies in regulating food safety, research facilities, academic institutions, and in private practice. These differing roles present distinct ethical challenges which require veterinarians to balance their professional responsibilities. However, this research focuses only on situations involving veterinarians in private practice, who make their living by providing services to individual animal owners. Even within this subset, veterinarians may experience conflicting responsibilities to parties outside the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. For example, veterinarians have a responsibility to the public to uphold food safety regulations and the responsibility to maintain client confidentiality. These responsibilities might compete when a veterinarian diagnoses an animal with a disease that may affect human health. Many types of conflicting responsibilities may occur in veterinary medicine. However, this dissertation focuses on animal welfare and veterinarians' (sometimes) conflicting responsibilities within the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. In addition to exploring how veterinarians make decisions at the hub of these conflicting responsibilities, this dissertation also describes how the actual practices of veterinarians can sometimes deviate from the conception of veterinarians as animal healers. In part, my awareness of this discrepancy between actions and ideals is based on personal practice experience. Furthermore, the veterinary ethics literature, although limited, also demonstrates that there is no shortage of ethical challenges in veterinary medicine. Through the thoughts and experiences of veterinary practitioners, this dissertation documents instances in which veterinarians appear to deviate from their role as promoters of animal welfare.

Veterinary organizations declare that member veterinarians should value and promote animal welfare. Both the Alberta and British Columbia Veterinary Medical Associations include in their mission statements avowals of promoting animal well being. The Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association states, "it is the responsibility of each member to provide his [sic] patient with the best possible veterinary care". Oath that includes a promise to promote animal welfare, an addition that sets it apart from the American Veterinary Medical Association's version. Veterinary associations also develop positions and codes that guide veterinarians on how to promote animal welfare. The CVMA develops animal welfare position statements in part to guide veterinarians and to "suggest the opinion that a right-thinking member of the profession would hold". For example, some of its position statements stipulate that cosmetic surgery is unacceptable, that anesthesia and analgesia should be routine for surgical procedures performed on farm animals over 1 week of age, and that animal abuse should be reported to an appropriate authority. In a recent symposium on veterinary ethics convened by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, speakers suggested that veterinarians have a "duty of being an

advocate for pets” and that food animal practitioners have “a responsibility to the animal, to be its advocate when advising the owner on the best care for its health and welfare”. Rollin estimates that over 90% of veterinarians embrace what he calls the “new social ethic for animals” which allows the use of animals but affords them certain protections or rights based on their innate needs. Interpretations of this consensus ethic include certain proscriptions and prescriptions such as those veterinarians should not perform cosmetic surgery, that they should report instances of animal abuse, and that they should use appropriate anesthesia and analgesia for painful procedures.

Members of a profession are considered different from other members of society in that they have ‘professed’ or pledged to uphold the societal ‘good’. Koehn says that professionals “act morally and consequently have authority if and when they abide by the terms of their publicly made pledges” and that these pledges “commit professionals to furthering an end which is genuinely good”. Koehn’s Aristotelian approach focuses on role-defined ‘ends’ for professionals. Veterinarians’ public pledges, such as the veterinary oath, create expectations in the eyes of the public and individual clients with respect to veterinarians’ ‘ends’ and the ‘good’ that the veterinary profession provides. These expectations are based on assumptions of how veterinarians should act. Coupled with formal veterinary ethical tenets declared by the profession, these societal expectations create veterinary responsibilities. Bayles argues that professionals have responsibilities to three main groups: 1) clients and employers, 2) colleagues and the profession, and 3) third parties including members of the public at large.²⁶ One difficulty in applying this framework of obligations to veterinary medicine is that the treatment and moral standing of veterinary patients is the source of profound debate. Some philosophers suggest that it is nonsense to speak of moral claims for animals at all since animals lack moral standing.

Furthermore, social scientists have noted that perceptions of the moral importance of animals appears to fluctuate^{30,31} depending on the context of the human-animal relationship, and that human-animal interactions are plagued with ambiguity and ambivalence. Disagreement over the moral importance of animals, and inconsistency in the treatment of animals, make interpretations of veterinarians’ responsibilities difficult. Thus, veterinarians are pulled in different directions in their day-to-day interactions with clients and patients. Nevertheless, Rollin claims that society shows increasing concern for the treatment of animals and that this necessitates veterinarians’ serious consideration of the interests of animals. More importantly to this research, through the professional tenets described above, the veterinary profession agrees that veterinarians at least have responsibilities concerning animals if not responsibilities directly to animals. The same organizations that promulgate the notion that veterinarians are beneficent promoters of animal welfare also require veterinarians to consider the interests of clients. Professional codes provide veterinarians with significant detail regarding their obligations to clients. Veterinarians should be honest, fair, and candid with their clients. Once entering into a veterinarian -client- patient relationship, veterinarians owe clients duties to 1) obtain informed consent, 2) charge fair fees, 3) provide follow-up care, 4) create proper medical records, 5) safeguard medical records, 6)

disclose medical records appropriately, 7) provide an appropriate standard of care, 8) avoid conflicts of interest, 9) maintain adequate facilities, and 10) appropriately supervise employees. These responsibilities are owed to both patients and clients although clearly some of these are pertinent only to veterinary clients. In particular, the obligation to obtain informed consent must be owed to the client rather than the patient.

According to the BCVMA Code of Ethics s. “Every member’s duties to the client include at all times the duty to obtain informed consent as the services to be provided to a patient, by providing the client with the information including advice, reasonably required to enable the client to make informed choices concerning the health care of their animals”. Members must also “inform the client in clear terms of the nature of and reasons for the services recommended and provide as appropriate, an estimate of the fee for the same” (BCVMA Code). Veterinarians must also be “forthright, objective and impartial in serving their clients” (BCVMA Code s. 35). Taken together, these duties place a significant emphasis on client interests. To use the language of biomedical ethics, these tenets require veterinarians to respect their client’s autonomy relative to decisions regarding animals. Bayles maintains that professionals must remain autonomous themselves and in doing so they must balance their obligations to clients, colleagues, and the public; in other words, professionals should not blindly follow the instructions of their clients. In order to maintain their professional position, veterinarians must consider all of their obligations, including responsibilities concerning patients, and then act appropriately. How should veterinarians manage situations of competing responsibilities?

Conflicts can occur when the interests of the client (either explicitly stated or assumed) and those of the patient differ and the veterinarian feels divided loyalties. Veterinarians routinely face situations where they are “called upon to serve as an advocate of both parties’ (owner’s and animal’s) interests, even when these interests conflict” because there are occasions when clients may wish to manage or treat their animals in ways that do not conform to the veterinarian’s conception of patient welfare. Rollin describes the tension veterinarians feel in serving both patient and client as the “fundamental question in veterinary medical ethics”. Competing responsibilities to patients (to promote animal welfare) and to clients (to respect client autonomy) can give rise to moral concern for clients, professionals, and those members of the public concerned about animal well being. Competing responsibilities create what many refer to as veterinary dilemmas. ‘Dilemmas’, as reported in veterinary ethics literature, may include requests by clients to perform unnecessary procedures (cosmetic surgeries); requests to perform procedures that are harmful, painful, or stressful to the animal (e.g. dehorning and castration of cattle); requests for euthanasia of healthy animals; breaking client confidentiality to protect animals; and refusal by or inability of clients to provide the necessary resources (e.g. financial, time commitment) for care of patients, to name a few. ‘Dilemmas’, as defined in the biomedical ethics literature, are conflicts between responsibilities or obligations of equal moral weight. In a broader sense, ‘dilemma’ relates to a difficult choice due to contextual factors such as reprisals from clients or loss of income. For example, a veterinarian may know that a client engages in

dog fighting but chooses not to report the client to authorities because she worries that the client may retaliate or she may lose contact with the client, thus preventing further medical care to the dogs. Ethically, the obvious course of action is to report the client to the authorities. This obvious ethical solution is reflected in the fact that dog fighting contravenes the Animal Cruelty section of the Criminal Code of Canada. Beyond legal proscriptions, veterinarians are ethically responsible to reduce animal suffering. Condoning dog fighting diametrically opposes this responsibility. Although an ethically correct solution is at hand, practical, sometimes self-interested, concerns confound right action. Nevertheless, pragmatically, veterinarians worry about the actual consequences of calling humane authorities especially given that these cases are difficult to document and prosecution is often unsuccessful. Although a clearly correct course of action exists, veterinarians may find themselves seeking other alternatives. This dissertation explores how veterinarians make decisions in situations where there may be a more clearly correct course of action but that action is difficult to take (practical dilemmas); it also explores situations that are normatively less clear (moral dilemmas).

With the use of social science methodology, the study explores Veterinarians' views about competing responsibilities to promote animal welfare and to respect client autonomy. Descriptive ethics is research aimed at eliciting an "accurate depiction and articulation of opinions and practices of a moral nature, as these are exemplified in the customs, mores, practices, traditions and ideologies of groups and individuals," whereas normative ethics "involves the making of moral judgments – judgments about right and wrong action"⁴⁸ based on theoretical ethics. However, debate continues regarding the relationship between descriptive and normative ethics in applied situations such as medical ethics.

Hoffmaster proposes that moral decision-making should come from a 'ground up' approach that is one that focuses on local knowledge acquired through social Science research – a more descriptive ethics approach. Contextual features of a situation are more important than the application of theoretical principles.

Human beings everywhere in the present age are passing through difficult times. And India is no exception to this. Crises are going on not only in veterinary science education but in all other aspects of life. The younger generation is constantly being influenced by the changes that occur here and there. Young males and females in the institutions of higher learning are influenced, and they are the persons who set patterns through their interests, pleasures, preferences, duties, desires, aversions and many other modalities of selective orientation. In-fact, a new value system has emerged with the younger generation. Therefore, psychologists have to explore the field of values from different perspectives so as to arrive at definite conclusions.

The importance of proper values among young males and females is emphasized by all great religious leaders, educationists, social reformers and others. But today we are at such a stage of human civilization where the importance of adequate value orientation has become extremely

necessary. But on the other hand this importance receives a jolt because of the clash of opposing economic, technological, political, cultural and sociological factors.

The investigator has realized the urgency of studying the value orientation of male and female Veterinary Science Doctors of F.V.Sc. and A. H. of SKUAST-K in society and to compare the two groups on the basis of some values.

After going through a number of related studies, it was found that there is hardly any researcher who has tried to approach the problems of value orientations of male and female in Veterinary profession. Subjects of Veterinary profession, whether male or female usually remains under stress i.e. negative comparison of vets as compared to medicos by people of society, hard work to be done by vets in their profession to up-hold the economy of the country, and much more. Irrespective of these stresses vets have a pivotal role and values for the norms of society. Also there are sex differences in this profession towards some values in the society like theoretical value, economic value, aesthetic value, social value, political value and religious value. The present study was done to study the value orientation of a society among male and female Veterinary Science Doctors choosing the sample of veterinary Doctors of Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc and AH), Shuhama Alusteng of SKUAST-K.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1: Showing mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on theoretical value (N=30 in each group).

Group	Mean/S.D.	t-value	level of confidence
Male vets	38.4/5.43	1.26	Insignificant
Female vets	36.6/5.64	1.26	Insignificant

Table 1 shows the mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on theoretical value. The table indicated that the two groups do not differ significantly on theoretical value. The table further indicates that both the groups have similar theoretical value but males having the temper towards discovery of truth and scientific temper.

Table-2 Showing mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on economic value (N=30 in each group).

Group	Mean/S.D.	t-value	Level of confidence
Male vets.	34.0/4.68	0.87	Insignificant
Female vets.	32.6/4.84	0.87	Insignificant

Table 2 shows the main comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on economic value. The table indicated that the two groups do not differ significantly on economic value. The

table further indicates that the male veterinary doctors have slightly higher mean on economic value than female veterinary science doctors but statistically the two groups do not differ significantly and have similar economic value.

Table-3 Showing mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on aesthetic value (N=30 in each group).

Group	Mean/S.D.	t-value	Level of confidence
Male vets.	43.8/4.43	0.44	Insignificant
Female vets.	46.4/4.45	0.44	Insignificant

Table 3 shows the mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on aesthetic value. The table indicates that the two groups do not differ significantly on aesthetic value but female have slightly higher mean than male veterinary science doctors.

Table 4 Showing mean comparison of male and female science doctors on social value (N=30 in each group).

Group	Mean/S.D.	t-value	level of significance
Male vets.	43.4/6.54	0.8	Insignificant
Female vets.	45.0/7.43	0.8	Insignificant

Table 4 shows mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on social value. The table indicates that the two groups do not differ significantly on social value but female veterinary science doctors have slightly higher mean on social value than male veterinary science doctors.

Table-5 Showing mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on political value (N=30 in each group).

Group	Mean/S.D.	t-value	level of significance
Male vets.	34.4/4.33	1.55	Insignificant
Female vets.	32.6/4.68	1.55	Insignificant

Table 5 shows the mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on political value. The table indicates that the two groups do not differ significantly on political value but male veterinary science doctors have slightly higher mean on political value than the female veterinary science doctors.

Table-6 Showing mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on religious value (N=30 in each group).

Group	M/SD	t value	Level of significance
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Male vets.	43.4/4.58	0.13	Insignificant
Female vets.	43.6/6.78	0.13	Insignificant

Table 6 shows mean comparison of male and female veterinary science doctors on religious value. The table indicates that the two groups do not differ but female veterinary science doctors have slightly higher mean on religious value than the male veterinary science doctors.

Table-7 Showing mean comparison of different values of male and female veterinary science doctors value hierarchy of Veterinary Science Doctors.

Group	Theoretical	Economic	Aesthetic	Social	Political	Religious
MALE	38.4	34.0	43.8	43.4	34.4	43.4
FEMALE	36.5	32.0	46.4	45.0	32.6	43.6

The table indicates that the value hierarchy of veterinary science doctors indicates as, that male veterinary science doctors have higher aesthetic value followed by social, religious, theoretical, political and economical values. Where-as, female veterinary science doctors have also higher aesthetic value followed by social, religious, theoretical and political values.

CONCLUSIONS

A number of interesting and worthwhile inferences have been deduced from this study. These inferences have drawn the attention of the present investigator to some conclusions listed as:

1. Male veterinary science doctors have higher political and economic value.
2. Female veterinary science doctors have higher social and religious value.
3. Male and female veterinary science doctors have same behavior towards theoretical aspects.
4. There is no significant difference between male and female veterinary doctors on aesthetic value but female have slightly higher mean than male veterinary science doctors.
5. Male veterinary science doctors have the temper towards discovery of truth and scientific temper.
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