

*Survey Article*

**VETERINARY AS A CAREER CHOICE: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY  
IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

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**Abstract:** The present study was conducted with an aim to explore veterinary as a career choice among undergraduate veterinary students and the importance of considerations on student's career choices in Andhra Pradesh. Data was collected from randomly selected 150 undergraduate students from the existing three veterinary colleges (50 from each) under Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. The results revealed that majority of the students expressed that veterinary and animal science was the first career choice selected by them for university admission, opined that career guidance had a big influence on their career choices and most of the students (56.00 per cent) wanted to start their career after post graduation. Job flexibility, salary and benefits were the most important considerations expressed by them while selecting careers.

**Keywords:** Veterinary science- Students- Career choices.

### **Introduction**

Education sets career direction. Career according to Schreuder and Theron (1999) is defined as reaching the career-related steps correctly, realizing and accomplishing the planned goals by making the right decision during this transition period by deciding what will be done in available time period. The individuals, who are considered as ready workforce for whom career choice and planning is done, are university students in today's world. Career planning of students usually starts after graduation and usually students want to pursue their higher education in professions having higher opportunities. The career opportunities of veterinary graduates have increased due to the advent of globalization and demand of trained people has increased to meet the need for development in the context of WTO. Students in veterinary, after completion of their degree opt to join the different professional jobs which depend on their preferences and the existing situations. Though they have a wide variety of careers to choose each one have their own liking and disliking regarding these careers which again depends on several factors. Career choices of veterinary students are to be studied due to wide range of opportunities opening up and changing interests of Veterinary Graduates in the

present scenario. This will be of great use for academicians and a policy makers for future strategy as per Veterinary Human Resource Development is concerned.

### **Methodology**

The study was conducted in Andhra Pradesh state by following cross sectional survey method. All the constituent three veterinary colleges of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University were selected for the study. The data was collected from 50 randomly selected students studying in each college, thus constituting the total sample size of 150. The structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection.

### **Results and discussions**

#### **Respondents order of preference to B.V.Sc & A.H after Intermediate**

The results from the Table 1 revealed that majority of the students (58.00 per cent) had opted B.V.Sc and A.H course as their first choice of study after intermediate, while rest had this course as the second (26.00 per cent) and third choice (16.00 per cent) respectively. Students' perception of B.V.Sc & A.H as their first choice might be due to the existence of more Veterinary Assistant Surgeon posts vacancies in the state and job security in the profession apart from getting chance to serve the farming community directly.

The respondents were however, asked whether career guidance was helpful to them at their intermediate level before entry into professional course. Table 2 shows the influence of career guidance on their career choices.

#### **Influence of Career guidance on their career choice at Intermediate level**

A Persual of Table 2 indicates that 62.00 per cent of the students reported that career guidance had a big influence on their career choice at intermediate level; 24.00 per cent said that it had little influence, while 12.00 per cent stated that career guidance had no influence and 2.00 per cent expressed that there was no career guidance at all.

#### **Students' perception regarding when they want to start their career**

The data from the Table 3 revealed that, majority of the students (56.00 per cent) wanted to start their career after post graduation, while 36.00 per cent of the students stated to start their career after under graduation and only few (8.00 per cent) students expressed to start their career after completion of their Doctoral or Higher specialization.

#### **Important considerations of students while selecting career**

From the Table 4, it is clear that majority of the students chose Job flexibility as their first choice followed by salary and benefits. Geographic location and advancement opportunities

were the least preferred ones revealed by them. These results are partially in line with the findings reported by Ubaka *et al.* (2013).

### Summary

This study showed that majority of the students expressed that veterinary and animal science was the first career choice selected by them for university admission, opined that career guidance had a big influence on their career choice and most of the students (56.00 per cent) wanted to start their career after post graduation. Job flexibility, salary and benefits were the most important considerations expressed by them while selecting careers.

### References

- [1] Schreuder, A.M.G., and Theron, A.L. 1999. *Careers: An organisational Perspective*. Juta Akademic. South Africa.
- [2] Ubaka, C. M., Ochie, U. M., and Adibe, M. O. 2013. Student pharmacists' career choices: a survey of three Nigerian schools of pharmacy. *Pharmacy Practice*. **11(3)**, 149.

**Table 1: Respondents order of preference of B.V.Sc & A.H after completion of their Intermediate**

Preference	Respondents (N=150)	
	Number	Percentage
First choice	87	58.00
Second choice	39	26.00
Third choice	24	16.00
<b>Total</b>	150	100.00

**Table 2: Influence of Career guidance on their career choice at Intermediate level**

Influence of career guidance	Respondents (N=150)	
	Number	Percentage
Career guidance had a big influence	93	62.00
Career guidance had little influence	36	24.00
Career guidance had no influence	18	12.00
There was no career guidance at all	03	02.00
<b>Total</b>	150	100.00

**Table 3: Students perception regarding when they want to start their career**

Perception of students	Respondents (N=150)	
	Number	Percentage
After under graduation	54	36.00
After post graduation	84	56.00
After Doctoral or Higher specialization	12	08.00
<b>Total</b>	150	100.00

**Table 4: Important considerations of students while selecting careers**

Considerations (N=150)	Very high importance	High importance	Neutral	Low importance	Total	Rank
Benefits (e.g. leave and allowances)	64(42.66)	56(37.33)	28(18.66)	2(1.33)	332	<b>III</b>
Salary	44(29.33)	96(64.00)	10(6.66)	00(0.00)	334	<b>II</b>
Geographic location	48(32.00)	84(56.00)	16(10.66)	02(1.33)	328	<b>IV</b>
Advancement opportunities	70(46.66)	48(32.00)	08(5.33)	24(16.00)	314	<b>V</b>
Flexible work schedule	72(48.00)	56(37.33)	16(10.66)	06(4.00)	344	<b>I</b>

*@Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage*