

PERCEPTION OF ANIMAL OWNERS TOWARDS VETERINARY CLINICAL COMPLEX

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ABSTRACT

The Veterinary Clinical Complex is a leading centre for animal treatment and serves as a reference Veterinary Clinic, with the main goal of training students to attain academic excellence and become successful veterinarians. Many clinical cases of small and large animals are presented to the veterinary clinical complex, which gives undergraduate students plenty of instructional material. The placement of multiple clinical departments and Veterinary Clinic units in one site has allowed for a well-integrated and coordinated approach to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in small and large animals. The research was conducted at the veterinary clinical complex (VCC), CVS & AH, Kamdhenu University, Junagadh. An interview schedule was used in accordance with the objectives of the research in order to gauge how animal owners respect the VCC. In order to conduct a statistical analysis based on mean, frequency and percentage, 200 animal owners who visited VCC every day from 2021 to 2022 were randomly selected. The result indicated that majority of the animal owners had a medium level of perception towards Veterinary Clinical Complex services. Variables like education, experience as an animal owners, herd size, social participation and extension contact were positive and significant association with perception of animal owners about veterinary clinical complex and the variables like type of family, size of land holding, annual income and occupation had non-significant relationship with perception of animal owners about VCC services. Major constraints experienced by animal owners are vaccination and free of cost medicine is not provided by the VCC centre. Major suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints were; medicine should be provided free of cost in veterinary clinical complex.

Keywords: perception, animal owners, veterinary clinical complex

INTRODUCTION

The College of veterinary science and animal husbandry was established in the year 2008 with the funding from the Government of Gujarat. It has started functioning from 1st August 2008 (vide Resolution No. JKV-122008-362-K.2 dated 10th June, 2008 of Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation, Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar). Veterinary Clinical Complex was started during 2009. Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC) is working for clinical teaching, diagnosis and treatment of animals through its different units. The VCC is a premier center for treatment of animals and serve as a referral Veterinary Clinic for Saurashtra region with main aim to train students to achieve academic excellence and become successful veterinarians.

of clinical cases of small and large animals which provides ample teaching material for undergraduate students. The location of different units of Veterinary Clinics and various clinical departments at one place has provided a well-integrated and coordinated approach to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in small and large animals. In addition to efficient functioning of Veterinary Hospital, departments also provides hands on training to undergraduate and postgraduate students; coordinate internship programme, provides regular ambulatory service to rural areas; organize training courses for the field veterinarians and animal owners; organize clinical camp etc. Along with these mass communications through radio, television and printed literature are also carried out. The Hospital has gained popularity not only in the city but the cases are referred from the nearby districts also.

Veterinary Clinical Complex gets large number like medical care, diagnosis and treatment for animals,

both large and small. This can involve routine check-ups, vaccinations, surgeries, emergency care, laboratory testing, imaging services (like X-rays or ultrasounds) and sometimes even specialized services like physical therapy or alternative medicine treatments. Additionally, they may engage in research and teaching activities, depending on the institution's focus and capabilities. In this regard, it is necessary to measure the perception level of animal owners who are visit the Veterinary Clinical Complex for the animal diagnosis.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To know the perception of beneficiaries regarding VCC services
- (2) To ascertain the relationship between the perception of beneficiaries and profile of the beneficiaries
- (3) To ascertain the constraints experienced by beneficiaries farmers and suggestion to overcome the constraints

METHODOLOGY

Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. Kerlinger, F. (1969) stated that "Ex-post facto" design is worthy is apply when the independent variable has already acted upon. The study was conducted in Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC), CVS & AH, Kamdhenu University, Junagadh. To measure the perception of animal owner towards the VCC, an interview schedule was developed according to the objectives of study. From the daily visit of animal owner of VCC during the year 2021-22, the total number of 200 animal owners was selected randomly. Data collected for the study was analysed using tool like frequency, percentage and coefficient of correlation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perception of beneficiaries regarding VCC services

Perception refers to the process concerned with the acquisition and interpretation of information from one's environment. Consequently, understanding the perception of animal owners is important as perception can shape the preparedness of these actors to adopt and change their practices. The data regarding level of perception are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of animal owners according to their perception towards veterinary clinical complex (VCC)

(n=200)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percent
1	Low level of perception (below 75.09 score)	23	11.50
2	Medium level of perception (75.09 to 88.93 score)	147	73.50
3	High level of perception (above 88.93 score)	30	15.00
Mean = 82.01		S.D. = 6.92	

It is apparent from Table 1 that more than two-third of the animal owners (73.50 per cent) had a medium level of perception towards veterinary clinical complex, followed by 15.00 per cent had a high level of perception and 11.50 per cent had a low level of perception towards veterinary clinical complex. This finding was similar with that of Nagananda *et al.* (2005) and Janke *et al.* (2021).

Relationship between the perception of beneficiaries and profile of the beneficiaries

In order to ascertain the relationship between the level of perception (dependent variable) of respondents about Veterinary Clinical Complex and each of their selected characteristics (independent variable), the correlation coefficient ('r') were calculated. The empirical hypotheses were stated for testing the relationship and its significance on zero order correlation are given in Table 2.

The data in Table 2 revealed that the age had negative and highly significant relationship with perception of animal owners towards VCC services; it means young age animal owners have more favourable perception about VCC services than the old age animal owners. Variables like education, experience as an animal owners, herd size, social participation and extension contact had positive and highly significant relationship with perception of animal owners about veterinary clinical complex. It means that educated, more experienced animal owners are engage more in the social and extension participation so that they know more about the Veterinary Clinical Complex. While remaining variables like type of family, size of land holding, annual income and occupation had non-significant relationship with perception of animal owners about VCC services. So, that they play negligible role in the level of perception of animal owners regarding Veterinary Clinical Complex. This finding

was in line with that of Nagananda *et al.* (2005) and Janke *et al.* (2021).

Table 2: Correlation between profile of animal owners and perception towards VCC services

(n=200)

Sr. no.	Independent variable	r-value
X1	Age	-0.1920**
X2	Education	0.2341**
X3	Experience as an animal owners	0.1893**
X4	Type of family	0.1078 ^{NS}
X5	Size of land holding	0.0128 ^{NS}
X6	Annual income	0.1349 ^{NS}
X7	Herd size	0.2105**
X8	Occupation	0.0924 ^{NS}
X9	Social participation	0.14832*
X10	Extension Contact	0.2376**

* = Significant at 0.05 level

** = Significant at 0.01 level

NS = Non significant

Constraints experienced by beneficiaries farmers and suggestion to overcome the constraints

The data in table 3 showed that the respondents experienced five constraints as major level. The constraints are; animal vaccine facility is not available in veterinary clinical complex was faced by 92.50 per cent of the respondents and ranked first followed by medicine not provide free of cost by veterinary clinical complex, for treatment of disease infected animal in home which ranked second (88.50 per cent) and after discharge from veterinary clinical complex, if necessary, many services like dressing, medicine and injection not provide by VCC in timely ranked third (77.50 per cent).

The constraints during treatment of disease infected animal, if animal death is occur, then discharge of death animal facility is not proper available in veterinary clinical complex ranked fourth (68.50 per cent) and followed by if stay for long treatment in VCC, at that time, feed and drinking water provided by VCC to the animal is not proper timely with ranked five (60.00 per cent) respectively. This finding was more or less corroborated with Ravikumar *et al.* (2005) Kumar *et al.* (2015), Patel *et al.* (2016) and Verma *et al.* (2020).

Table 3: Constraints perceived by the animal owners in veterinary clinical complex

(n=200)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Animal vaccine facility is not available in veterinary clinical complex	185	92.50	I
2	Medicines not provide free of cost by veterinary clinical complex, for treatment of disease infected animal in home.	177	88.50	II
3	After discharge from veterinary clinical complex, if necessary, many services like dressing, medicine and injection not provide by VCC in timely.	155	77.50	III
4	During treatment of disease infected animal, if animal death is occur, then discharge of death animal facility is not proper available in veterinary clinical complex.	137	68.50	IV
5	If stay for long treatment in VCC, at that time, feed and drinking water provided by VCC to the animal is not proper timely.	120	60.00	V

The result in the Table 4 indicate that major suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints were; medicine should be provided free of cost in veterinary clinical complex was gave by 93.50 per cent of the respondents and ranked first followed by animal vaccine facility should be provide at veterinary clinical complex which ranked second (86.50 per cent) and after discharge of animal from veterinary clinical complex, some services like dressing, injection etc. should be provided free of cost by veterinary clinical complex ranked third (79.50 per cent).

The suggestions when animal stay at veterinary clinical complex in long time for treatment, at that time feed and drinking water should be provided timely to the animal in VCC ranked fourth (66.50 per cent) and followed by when animal death was occur during treatment, at that time proper discharge facility should be provide in veterinary clinical complex with ranked five (63.00 per cent) respectively. This finding was more or less corroborated with Ravikumar *et al.* (2005) Kumar *et al.* (2015), Patel *et al.* (2016) and Verma *et al.* (2020); Shah *et al.* (2023); Patel *et al.* (2023); Ghasura *et al.* (2022); Shafi *et al.* (2022a); Shafi *et al.* (2022b).

Table 4: Suggestions given by the animal owners to overcome the constraints in VCC services

(n=200)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Medicine should be provided free of cost in veterinary clinical complex.	187	93.50	I
2	Animal vaccine facility should be provide at veterinary clinical complex.	173	86.50	II
3	After discharge of animal from veterinary clinical complex, some services like dressing, injection etc. should be provided free of cost by veterinary clinical complex.	159	79.50	III
4	When animal stay at veterinary clinical complex in long time for treatment, at that time feed and drinking water should be provided timely to the animal in VCC.	133	66.50	IV
5	When animal death was occur during treatment, at that time proper discharge facility should be provide in veterinary clinical complex.	126	63.00	V

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of the animal owners had medium level of perception followed by high level of perception about services provided by veterinary clinical complex, college of veterinary science and animal husbandry, Kamdhenu University, Junagadh. There was positive and highly significant association between education, experience as an animal owners, herd size, social participation and extension contact and perception of animal owners about veterinary clinical complex. Age had negative and highly significant association with perception of animal owners towards VCC services. While type of family, size of land holding, annual income and occupation had non-significant relationship with perception of animal owners about VCC services. Major constraints experienced by animal owners are vaccination and free of cost medicine is not provided by the VCC centre and medicine not provide free of cost by veterinary clinical complex, for treatment of disease infected animal. Major suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints were; medicine should be provided free of cost in veterinary clinical complex.

IMPLICATIONS

- (1) The findings of this study would facilitate in knowing the existing level of perception of beneficiaries regarding Veterinary Clinical Complex. The study concluded that majority of farmers had medium to high level of perception regarding Veterinary Clinical Complex. This indicates that more efforts are needed to develop and improve their perception regarding Veterinary Clinical Complex.
- (2) The findings of this study in terms of personal, social, economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of the farmers would act as guidance to the policy makers to plan, implement and evaluate reforms in

the field of agriculture farming.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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