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## Constraints perceived by the veterinarians of state regional cooperative milk producers union in delivering livestock services

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### Abstract

The present study aimed to identify the constraints perceived by the veterinarians working under state regional cooperative milk producers union (SRCMPU) of Kerala in delivering livestock services. An *ex-post-facto* research design was adopted for the study. Fifteen veterinarians working under SRCMPU Kerala were selected and data collection was done through structured interview method. Garrets ranking technique was used in ranking the constraints perceived by them. The results from the study revealed that majority of the veterinarians working under SRCMPU ranked first for lack of proper diagnostic facilities, lack of adequate skilled subordinate staff, poor pay and incentives from the organizations, lack of feedback from farmers about the outcome of the case and insufficient avenue for continuing veterinary education. It is concluded from the study that decentralized veterinary units are facing the problem of lack of facilities and lack of staffs. Hence there is need to improve the quality of livestock service provided by the above constraints.

**Keywords:** livestock service, SRCMPU, veterinarians

### 1. Introduction

Livestock sector imparts important avenues for a plethora of livelihood activities for millions of farmers and is also instrumental in supporting agriculture in the form of ensuring supply of crucial inputs, contributing to the health and nutrition of the household offering supplementary income, employment opportunities and serving as a dependable “bank on hooves” for farmers in the times of crisis. Through all these activities this sector acts as a supplementary and complementary enterprise.

The rapid growth and modernization of dairy is largely credited to the contribution of dairy cooperatives in India. These cooperatives have prevented the exploitation of dairy farmers by exploitative middlemen and private contractors. Further, dairy cooperatives play an important role in furnishing livestock extension services to enhance the competence of dairy and it is the lone reason why dairy cooperatives are earning much attention in developing countries. Presently, 70,000 village dairy cooperative societies are federated into about 170 district milk unions which are afterwards federated into 22 state cooperative dairy federations (Ramananda, 2012) [2].

In this background, it was felt foremost important to know the constraints perceived by the veterinarians in working under state regional cooperative milk producers union in order to formulate an appropriate strategy to make service delivery system more effective.

### 2. Methodology

An *ex- post-facto* research design was adopted for the study. Simple random sampling technique was used for selection of the respondents. A total of 15 veterinarians were selected from the 2 regional milk union of Kerala viz. Trivandrum regional cooperative milk producers union and Malabar regional cooperative milk producers union. Garrets ranking technique was used as the statistical tool for assessing the constraints.

According to Garrett’s ranking technique, respondents were asked to enumerate and assign ranks to different problems which shall be used for prioritization of constraints. The order of merit given by the respondents was converted into ranks by using the following formula:

$$\text{Per cent position} = [100 (R_{ij} - 0.50)]/N_j$$

Where,

R<sub>ij</sub>=Rank given for ith problem by jth individual.

N<sub>j</sub>= Number of problems ranked by the jth individual.

The percent position of each rank was transformed into scores by referring to the table given by Garrett (1979). The scores of the individual respondents' for a particular problem were added and divided by the total number of respondents. The mean scores for all the problems were then arranged in descending order and ranks were assigned to prioritize the constraints.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1 Infrastructure/facilities shortage

The major constraints perceived by the veterinarians on infrastructure/facilities shortage is given in the table 1. It could be observed from the result that lack of proper diagnostic facilities is ranked first by the veterinarians followed by lack of sufficient infrastructure facilities, lack of transport facilities and inadequate supply of quality medicine were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 1:** Constraints perceived by the SRCMPU veterinarians on shortage of infrastructure

SN	Infrastructure/ Facilities Shortage	Total	Average Score	Rank
1	Inadequate supply of quality Medicine	618	41.20	4
2	Lack of transport facilities	722	48.13	3
3	Lack of sufficient infrastructure facilities	732	48.80	2
4	Lack of proper diagnostic facilities	928	61.86	1

#### 3.2 Issues related to human resource development

Constraints perceived by the veterinarians on human resource issues are given in the table 2. Lack of adequate skilled subordinate staff is ranked first followed by lack of adequate

training for providing the livestock services, lack of hazard allowance and lack of adequate number of qualified veterinary doctors in an institution were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 2:** Constraints perceived by the SRCMPU veterinarians on human resource issues

SN	Human Resource Issues	Total	Average Score	Rank
1	Lack of adequate skilled subordinate staff	853	56.86	1
2	Lack of adequate number of qualified veterinary doctors in an institution	703	46.86	4
3	Lack of hazard allowance	715	47.66	3
4	Lack of adequate training for providing the livestock services	729	48.60	2

#### 3.3 Issues associates in policy

Constraints perceived by the veterinarians on issues associates in policy are given in the table 3. Poor pay and incentives from the organizations for veterinarians were ranked first followed by lack of education of farmers and adherence to

taboos in utilization livestock service delivery, inadequate budget allotment for provision of livestock service delivery and heavy burden of administrative work were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 3:** Constraints perceived by the SRCMPU veterinarians on issues associates in policy

SN	Issues associates in policy	Total	Average Score	Rank
1	Heavy burden of administrative work	647	43.13	4
2	Inadequate budget allotment for provision of livestock service delivery	703	46.86	3
3	Poor pay and incentives from the organizations for veterinarians	865	57.66	1
4	Lack of education of farmers and adherence to taboos	785	52.33	2

#### 3.4 Administrative and miscellaneous issues

Constraints perceived by the veterinarians on administrative and miscellaneous issues are given in the table 4. Lack of feedback from farmers about the outcome of the case is

ranked first followed by lack of coordination between different livestock service delivery agencies, lack of cooperation from superiors as well as sub ordinate staff and political interference were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 4:** Constraints perceived by the SRCMPU veterinarians on administrative issues

SN	Administrative and Miscellaneous Issues	Total	Average Score	Rank
1	Lack of coordination between different livestock service delivery agencies	749	49.93	2
2	Lack of feedback from farmers about the outcome of the case	882	58.80	1
3	Political interference	606	40.40	4
4	Lack of cooperation from superiors as well as sub ordinate staff	715	47.66	3

#### 3.5 Educational issues

Constraints perceived by the veterinarians on educational issues are given in the table 5. Insufficient avenue for continuing veterinary education (CVE) programme were ranked first followed by very little opportunity to engage in

CVE programme on extension subject, unfavorable attitude of administration to depute officers for continuing veterinary education(CVE) programme, high emphasis of existing CVE programme on clinical subjects were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Table 5:** Constraints perceived by the SRCMPU veterinarians on educational Issues

SN	Educational Issues	Total	Average Score	Rank
1	Insufficient avenue for continuing veterinary education (CVE) programme	981	65.40	1
2	Unfavorable attitude of administration to depute officers for continuing veterinary education (CVE) programme	681	45.40	3
3	High emphasis of existing CVE programme on clinical subjects	587	39.13	4
4	Very little opportunity to engage in CVE programme on extension subject	751	50.06	2

The major constraints perceived by the veterinarians of SRCMPU were lack of subordinate staffs for the delivery of livestock services, lack of diagnostic facilities and lack of feedback from the farmers about the outcome of the cases. As the majority of the veterinarians appointed purely on temporary basis hence incentives provided to them are being neglected. The findings are in line with the findings of the Biradar (2009) <sup>[1]</sup> and Sashidhar *et al.* (2000) were partly supported with the findings.

#### 4. Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that decentralized veterinary units are facing the major problems such as lack of infrastructure facilities, lack of diagnostic facilities, lack of qualified veterinarians and subordinate staffs. Hence there is need to improve the quality of livestock services by addressing the above constraints by the concerned authority.

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