

# Veterinary Education: Is it a Prime Career Choice in Pakistan?

Mehran Khaliq, Muhammad Imran Rashid\*

Department of Parasitology, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore, Pakistan Corresponding Author: <a href="mailto:lmran.rashid@uvas.edu.pk">lmran.rashid@uvas.edu.pk</a>





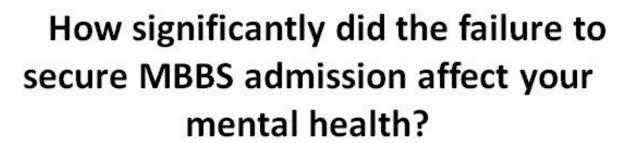
## Introduction

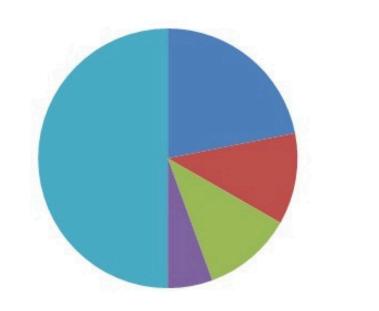
• The veterinary profession in Pakistan is one of the leading fields in terms of job opportunities and entrepreneurship; however, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) is often preferred due to its sociocultural recognition and family expectations.

#### **Materials and Methods**

22 Questions were designed through google survey form. A total of 233 students from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year at UVAS participated voluntarily in the survey. Data were analyzed through SPSS using descriptive statistics, and Chi Square Analysis.

Figure 1:





Not at allSlightlyModeratelySignificantly

■ Total

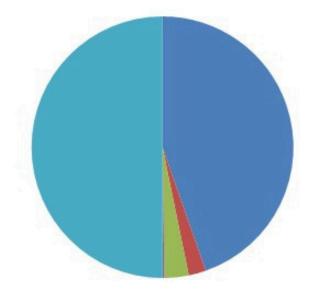
#### Results

- 50.6% had already attempted the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) twice.
- Only 23.6% of students chose the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program by choice, while 41.2% selected it as their second choice after MBBS.
- Failure of MDCAT negatively impacted the mental health of 56.2% of students as shown in Figure 1.
- Male students (78.8%) felt more trauma studying at the Ghora (Horse) Hospital than female students (21.2%).
- Only 6.9% of students said they would choose MBBS if given the chance even after completion of DVM as shown in Table 1.

Table: 1. If you were given a chance to get admission in MBBS after completing DVM, would you consider it?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	6.9	6.9	6.9
	No	196	84.1	84.1	91.0
	May be	21	9.0	9.0	100.0
	Total	233	100.0	100.0	

Figure 2: What do you think there should be proper counselling about the DVM program before admission?



YesNoMayUnstTota

## **Conclusions**

• Many students did not initially choose DVM as their first option. However, most students (84.1%) chose to continue in veterinary medicine after completing their DVM, showing retention, progression, and the development of professional identity.

## **Future Directions**

• Future directions should emphasize structured pre-admission counselling to help prospective students make informed decisions about the DVM program (Fig. 2).

#### **Contact Information**

Muhammad Imran Rashid
University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
(UVAS), Lahore, Pakistan
Email: Imran.rashid@uvas.edu.pk
Website:https://www.uvas.edu.pk/
Phone: +92-42-99-213-697

#### References

(Zaneb, H., & Armitage-Chan, E. (2022). Professional identity of Pakistani veterinary students: conceptualization and negotiation. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, 50(6), 685-693).

(Abbas, S. A. (2014). Brand management of higher education institutions in Pakistan)

# Acknowledgements

We are thankful to DVM students studying in UVAS who actively participated in this survey and university administration which allowed us to conduct this survey