

## Feasibility Study of Veterinary Services Privatization in Rural Sector, Case of Lorestan Province, Iran

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**Abstract:** Veterinary services are among the most essential needs of rural and even urban society. These services play a vital role in nutrition, hygiene and food security of society. Due to the geographical dispersion of villages, services variation, the execution of privatization policy and delegation of veterinary activities in the rural section this activity appears necessary. In Iran conditions Veterinary Council (IVC) as a non-governmental organization is a potential for implemented it. The purpose of this research is to possibility and the assessing fields using the IVC in the rural sector. This applied research was done by surveying. The statistical population consists of all members Lorestan province VC (BS and higher degree); the samples were selected by stratified sampling method. Data was collected through questionnaire that its validity confirms by expert panel and its reliability was measured by Cronbach's alpha that for any parts was obtained  $>0.9$ . The results showed the most functions for using the VC in rural sector are administrative, supervision, research and educational functions, respectively. Factor analysis of educational function can explained 79.65% total variances with names: consultative, training, extension and demonstration education.

**Key words:** Privatization, veterinary, rural areas, Iran Veterinary Council (IVC), consultative

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### INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly, development and economic growth of any country depend largely on the development and growth of the agriculture section, especially livestock sub-section and the demand for livestock products is growing worldwide (IFAD, 2004). Animal husbandry is a critical issue for many developing countries (Braun, 2010). Livestock productions are very important from different aspects. Due to provide daily protein requirements; they have an important role in the human physical health (Braun, 2010).

In this regard the livestock is a food source and in particular the protein for the human diet (Braun, 2010). Also this subsector of agriculture can be effective in the employment and in this way it affects income creation, sustainable, livelihood and eradicating poverty of society (IFAD, 2004; FAO, 2001). In addition to the mentioned effects and animal sector has a role in ensuring the environmental sustainability in terms of the production of the organic fertilizers (Swanepoel *et al.*, 2010).

For developing the animal husbandry sector delivery of livestock services quality and its availability are necessary (Imanazar *et al.*, 2010). There are causes for the need for veterinarians and the suitable and enough veterinary services. Since the livestock farmers do not benefit from the ability of experienced experts and skilled livestock farmers, new techniques for exploitation of

natural resources and lack of application the hygiene tips and management related to livestock, unfortunately a huge amount of exchange is spent for importing food from other countries (Rezvanzar and Darabi, 2006).

Almost all of these cases are removable with on time intervention and guidance of veterinarians. With proper supervision and guidelines and training that they provide to the livestock farmers, veterinarians are able to take needed actions for observing hygiene principles in order to nurture healthy animals, improve the quality of the livestock breeds, providing the balanced and proper diet, prevent the prevalence of infectious diseases among livestock for reducing livestock losses, surgery, conduct the experimental researches for treating diseases of livestock (QAA, 2002), observe hygiene for producing healthy food (Bousfield and Brown, 2011) and as a result providing the food security of world (Braun, 2010). According to FAO (2001, 2012) also the veterinary services are provided in the following four groups:

- Clinical services (treatment of sick animals and controlling and limiting disease)
- Preventive services (preventing the prevalence of disease)
- Preparation of medicine, vaccines and other products (artificial insemination)
- Protecting human hygiene through inspection of the market animal products