

Role of Women Veterinarians in Wild Life Management in India

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INTRODUCTION

Women today are no less than men when it comes to working in field jobs like in Forest Department for Wildlife Health Management by Women /Lady Veterinarians. In India, the history of women in Veterinary Profession goes back to 1948, when

Madras Veterinary College at Vepery, Chennai, opened its portal for admission to girls for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science course. Dr Sakkubai Ramachandran, the first woman Vet of India graduated in 1952 and later assumed many prestigious posts and retired as Scientist from IVRI, Bangalore in 1971.

Despite this increasing number of women Vets in India, only a few opted to work in the wildlife sector but the last decade has seen a significant increase in the number of women wildlife veterinarians.

AIM: To acknowledge and project contribution of Women Veterinarians working in forests for treatment of Wild Animals

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

In India there are presently 105 National Parks, 51 Tiger Reserves, 553 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 18 Biosphere Reserves & 72 zoological parks. A prospective study was conducted in various tiger Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Zoological Gardens and Rescue & Rehabilitation Center of India and was documented how many women Veterinarians are working there and what kind of services are they providing.

RESULTS:

Around 30 Women Wild life Veterinarians are presently working in various Tiger Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves, Zoological parks, Rescue & Rehabilitation Centers under control of Government. Apart from this around 10 Women Veterinarians are working with Non-Government Organizations working for Wildlife Management.

They are well qualified and 60% of them have completed their post-graduation and some have even done PhD also. At least 10% of these Women Wildlife Veterinarians have completed short and long courses from abroad and are well versed in most advanced techniques and tools of Wildlife Health Management and Wildlife Capture & Rehabilitation.

CONCLUSIONS:

According to the results of this study, the Women Wildlife Veterinarians were found to be catering-in their services for wild free ranging as well as captive Wild animals. They are handling almost all wildlife species available in India e.g. Mega herbivores, Herbivores, Carnivores, Ungulates, Antelopes, Aqua Fauna etc. Number of Women Wildlife Veterinarians is increasing year by year.

KEYWORDS: Women Veterinarian, Wildlife Management, Women Empowerment

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Aditi Sharma is a Senior Veterinary Officer in a Tiger Reserve in India with a specialization in Advanced Wildlife Management. She had completed her Bachelors in Veterinary Sciences in 2001 & Masters in Veterinary Surgery & Radiology in 2004. She is a person with very high operational excellence. She has successfully completed 6 International Wildlife Courses, presented 16 papers in National & 11 papers in International Conferences. She has received 12 awards till date. She is an Author of 2 articles and Co-author of 2 publications & one Gene Bank submission. She has taken the oath to ensure Health & Welfare of animals and do value the lives of Human beings at par at the same time. She has an experience of almost 2 decades & treat her patients with great love & care. She is known to mitigate human wildlife conflict with great courage & humanity... She is Life Member/Member of 12 International & National Associations/Committee. Additionally she contributes in social programs for Women Empowerment & women Safety.

