



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Evaluation in terms of various parameters the Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine graduates opinions

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Received:16.04.2019, Accepted: 29.06.2019

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Selçuk Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesi mezunlarının görüşlerinin çeşitli parametreler açısından değerlendirmesi

Eurasian J Vet Sci, 2019, 35, 3, 114-121

DOI: 10.15312/EurasianJvetSci.2019.234

Öz

Amaç: Selçuk Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesi 1982 yılında eğitim-öğretim hayatına başlamış olup, günümüze kadar binlerce veteriner hekimi mezun etmiştir. Çalışmada Selçuk Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesi'nden mezun olan veteriner hekimlerin statülerinin belirlenmesi, istihdam alanlarının araştırılması ve profillerin ortaya çıkarılarak çeşitli parametrelere karşı görüşlerinin ortaya konulması amaçlandı.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Katılımcılara uygulamak amacıyla "Bilgi Derleme Formu" hazırlandı ve bu form aracılığıyla veriler toplandı. Verilerin değerlendirilmesinde SPSS 25 istatistik paket programı kullanıldı. Değişkenler, medyan (IQR), yüzde ve frekans değerleri kullanıldı. Kategorik veriler Fisher's Exact Test ve Ki Kare testi ile analiz edildi.

Bulgular: Katılımcıların %45.70'inin bir yıl içerisinde çalışma hayatına başladığı; %64.40'ının fakülteyi bilinçli bir şekilde tercih ettiği; %86,50'sinin şu anda çalıştığı işinden memnun olduğu; %73.10'unun eğitimi sırasında mesleki ve etik sorumluluk anlayışını edindiği belirlendi.

Öneri: Sonuç olarak Selçuk Üniversitesi Veteriner Fakültesi'nin, kurulduğu günden bugüne kadar verdiği mezunlarla mesleğin hemen hemen her sektöründe ülke hayvancılığına önemli katkılarda bulunduğu; çalışmanın ülke genelinde diğer veteriner fakültelerinden mezun olan veteriner hekimlere uygulanması ile mesleki standartların daha yüksek seviyelere çıkarabilmesi için gerekli çalışmaların yapılmasına yardımcı olabileceği ileri sürülebilir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Mezun, Selçuk Üniversitesi, veteriner hekimliği, veteriner hekim.

Abstract

Aim: The Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine started to education in 1982. The thousands of veterinarians graduated from Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine since then. The present study aimed to identify the status of the veterinarians that graduated from Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, inquired into their areas of employment, constructed their profiles and presented their opinions according to various parameters.

Materials and Methods: An "Information Collection Form" was drawn up via to implement and distributed to the respondents. SPSS 25 was used to evaluate the collected data. The median (IQR), percentage and frequency values of the variables were used. The categorical datas were analysed by Fisher's Exact Test and Chi-Square Test.

Results: It was found that 45.70% of the respondents had started career within one year, 64.40% had made an informed choice to enter the faculty, 86.50% were satisfied with their current job, and 73.10% had gained an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility during their education.

Conclusion: Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has made significant contributions to the animal husbandry in almost all industry of the profession since its establishment. The present study can help raise the professional standards and pave the way for future studies required for this purpose if it is applied to the veterinarians that graduated from other veterinary faculties across the country.

Keywords: Graduate, Selçuk University, veterinary medicine, veterinarian.





Introduction

In Turkey, scientific veterinary education began with the establishment of the Military Veterinary School in Istanbul in 1842. Godlewsky from Prussia was commissioned to establish the school in which the soldiers from the military units would be educated to diagnose and treat the diseases of the army's horses and to treat the diseases of the horses in the military units in and around Istanbul (Godlewsky and Sommer 1972, Erk 1960).

Selçuk University made significant moves as of 1982 (Anon 1986). It was decided to reorganise the Higher Education Institutions according to the provisional article 28 of the Law no. 2547 on Higher Education, and to establish Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVMSU) within the framework of the reorganisation of universities as per the Decree Law no. 41 (Official Gazette 1982) adopted on June 22, 1982, by the Council of Ministers under the authority granted by the Law no. 2680 on Authority Concerning Establishment and Reorganisation of Functions and Powers of Public Institutions of June 17, 1982 (Official Gazette 1983, Yaşar 1995).

Following the inauguration of Prof. Dr. Hümeyra Özgen as the founder Dean on August 31, 1982, one Associate Professor, one Assistant Professor, and three Research Assistants took office on November 1, 1982, and started educational activities with 50 students. The faculty graduated 28 veterinarians in 1987 (Yaşar 1995). The total number of graduates until the end of the 2017-2018 faculty year was 3,413.

It is important to identify the status of veterinarians after graduation, inquire into their areas of employment and construct their profiles (Yiğit et al. 2014). In this context and the present study aimed to identify the opinions of FVMSU graduates according to various parameters.

Materials and Methods

The material of the study consists of 104 veterinarians who graduated from FVMSU between 1989 and 2015. An "Information Collection Form" was drawn up via to implement and distributed to the respondents. Between March and June 2018, this form was applied by face to face interview method. SPSS 25 (IBM Corp. Released 2017. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 25.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) was used to evaluate the data. The median (IQR), percentage and frequency values of the variables were used. The categorical data were analysed by Fisher's Exact Test and Chi-Square Test. In cases where the expected frequencies were lower than 20%, evaluation was made by "Monte Carlo Simulation Method" to include those frequencies in the analysis. The significance level of the tests was assumed to be $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$.

Results

In the study, 88 male and 16 female respondents were contacted 97.10% (n=100) of the respondents stated that they had started their career within specific processes (Table 1). It was found that 64.40% (n=67) of the respondents had made an informed choice to enter the faculty, 86.50% (n=90) were satisfied with their current job, and 73.10% (n=76) had gained an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility during their education (Table 2).

Discussion

Veterinarians are obliged to comply with the minimum wages specified in the employment contracts drawn up by the Chamber of Veterinarians of which they are a member and approved by the Central Council of the Turkish Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) (Official Gazette, 2006). Under the constitutional principle of "equal pay for equal work", the wage to be paid to a full-time veterinarian working in the private sector for the period 2017-2018 "shall not be less than that of a veterinarian that has just started working in the public sector with a degree of 8/2" (TVMA 2016-2018b). In their study, Özen ve Ateş (2003) found that 87% of the veterinarians that participated in the study were paid a salary below the poverty line. Another study noted that the poverty line for a family of four was 6,328 TRY in 2018 (CTTU, 2018). In the present study, 49.50% (n=51) of the respondents earn between 3,001-5,000 TRY and 45.60% (n=47) earn 5,001 TRY and above (Table 1). It would not be wrong to say that the salaries of the veterinarians working in the private sector are, significantly preserved the wages determined by the Chamber of Veterinarians. However, it is important that the veterinarians working in both the public and private sector earn above a certain level, and it is essential and important that they should have better economic conditions, considering the level of the poverty line.

A study found that 63.20% of the proportion of veterinarians thought the veterinary education in Turkey was "slightly efficient" and that the veterinarians practicing in their profession had a more negative opinion of the efficiency of the education than the veterinary students (Özen et al. 2012a). In the present study, 63.50% (n=66) of the respondents think that their education was satisfactory, and 60.60% (n=63) believe that it met their expectations (Table 2). It can be said that one of the reasons why the percentages are higher than those in the study by Özen et al. (2012a) is that FVMSU is a well-established faculty that has completed its academic development to a large extent.

Yüksek et al. (2008) found that 30.90% (n=13) of the veterinarians had randomly chosen the veterinary faculty. Özen and Ateş (2003) found that 41.50% of the respondents made an uninformed choice when choosing a veterinary faculty.



Table 1. Distribution of the respondents by the commencement of their career after graduation, income status, area of employment and job descriptions

		n	%
Gender	Female	16	18.1
	Male	88	81.8
When did you start working as a veterinarian after graduation?	Within 0-3 months	29	28.2
	Within 4-6 months	6	5.8
	Within 7-12 months	12	11.7
	More than 1 year	53	51.5
	I have not started working yet.	3	2.9
What is your monthly income level in your current job?	0 - 1,650 TRY	1	1.0
	1,651 - 3,000 TRY	4	3.9
	3,001 - 5,000 TRY	51	49.5
	5,001 - 10,000 TRY	33	32.0
	10,001 - 20,000 TRY	11	10.7
	20,001 - 30,000 TRY	1	1.0
	30,001 TRY and above	2	1.9
Which of the following categories does your workplace/you are working in?	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (including TIGEM and ESK)	37	37.0
	Local Administration / Municipality	1	1.0
	University / Academic	8	8.0
	Other Public Institutions (TUBITAK, DPT, Police Dept., etc.)	2	2.0
	Clinical Veterinarian (clinic, polyclinic, veterinary hospital)	33	33.0
	Food Industry	6	6.0
	Poultry and Aquaculture Industry	4	4.0
	Pharmaceutical Industry	2	2.0
	Feed Industry	6	6.0
	Other	1	1.0
If you are working in the private sector, are you a founder, entrepreneur or partner?	Yes	45	62.5
	No	27	37.5
Please mark the job description that fits your position in your workplace.	Senior Executive / Manager	19	20.2
	Technical Director in Charge	6	6.4
	Clinician	32	34.0
	Veterinarian in Food Industry	7	7.4
	Education	4	4.3
	Research and Development	3	3.2
	Other (Please indicate)	23	24.5

Özen et al. (2012b) found that the percentage of the respondents stating that they had selected the veterinary faculty as their top choice was 14.80% among the veterinarians practicing in their profession and 39.0% among the veterinary students. According to the data obtained from the Turkish Sta-

tistical Institute, one of the highest employment rate (83.0%) in 2014 and the top employment rates in 2016 and 2017 (81.30% and 82.30%, respectively) was observed among the graduates of veterinary faculties (TSI, 2018). In the present study, 64.40% (n=67) of the respondents stated that they



Table 2. The frequencies distribution of parameters directed to the participants

Questions to the participants	Yes		Not sure		No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1- Did you make an informed choice to enter the veterinary faculty?	67	64.40	9	8.70	28	26.90
2- Did you have any idea about the features and characteristics of the profession previously?	72	69.20	8	7.70	24	23.10
3- Did your graduation from your faculty play a role in acceptance of your current employment?	68	65.40	7	6.70	28	26.90
4- Are you satisfied with your current job?	90	86.50	9	8.70	5	4.80
5- Is your current job directly or indirectly related to your education at the veterinary faculty?	91	87.50	4	3.80	9	8.70
6- Do you think your education at the veterinary faculty prepared you for your current job?	63	60.60	23	22.10	18	17.30
7- Do you think the quality of your education at the veterinary faculty was satisfactory?	66	63.50	22	21.20	16	15.40
8- Did your education at the veterinary faculty meet your expectations?	63	60.60	20	19.20	21	20.20
9- Do you think the faculty members helped you plan your career after graduation?	43	41.30	20	19.20	41	39.40
10- Did you acquire teamwork skills during your education?	55	52.90	16	15.40	32	30.80
11- Do you think you acquired an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility during your education?	76	73.10	16	15.40	11	10.60
12- In retrospect, would you choose the veterinary faculty if you had the chance to make a choice again?	73	70.20	8	7.70	22	21.20
13- In retrospect, would you choose Selçuk University Veterinary Faculty if you had the chance to make a choice again?	70	67.30	12	11.50	22	21.20
14- Would you recommend your child or anyone you like to go to a veterinary faculty?	72	69.20	15	14.40	16	15.40

had made an informed choice to enter the veterinary faculty (Table 2). It is important for the future of the profession that veterinarians make an informed and/or first choice to become a veterinarian according to the data available since 2003, and it may be asserted that the increase in employment rates has played a role in the increased percentages.

In the study by Özen et al. (2012b), found that the percentage of the respondents that answered “very little” to the question “How much did you know about veterinary medicine?” was 52.20%. In the present study, the percentage of those who previously declared their opinions about the features of the profession was determined as 69.20% (n=72) (Table 2). The increase in the rate of the respondents that had an opinion

about the profession is important, and it may be asserted that having an effective undergraduate education and having awareness concerning the profession will contribute significantly to the practising of the profession.

As of 2013, 22 veterinary faculties in Turkey have a “Department of History of Veterinary Medicine and Deontology”, 15 of which have tenured and specialised academic staff that can teach “Ethics and Legislation of Veterinary Medicine” (Yiğit and Yaşar 2013). “Professional Ethics and Legislation Report”, one of the “Commission Reports of the 4th Turkish Veterinary Medicine Convention” that was held in 2018, notes that 15 out of 25 veterinary faculties in Turkey have specialised faculty members that can teach such courses (TVMA

Table 3. Assistance by faculty members in life planning

When did you start working as a veterinarian after graduation?	Do you think the faculty members helped you plan your career after graduation?			Total	χ^2	*p
	Yes	Not sure	No			
Within 0-3 months	n	7 ^a	6a, b	16 ^b	29	
	%	24.1%	20.7%	55.2%		
Within 4-6 months	n	3 ^a	2a	1 ^a	6	
	%	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%		
Within 7-12 months	n	5a, b	5b	2 ^a	12	
	%	41.7%	41.7%	16.7%		
More than 1 year	n	25 ^a	6b	22a, b	53	14.475
	%	47.2%	11.3%	41.5%		
I have not started working yet.	n	2 ^a	1a	0 ^a	3	
	%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%		
Total	n	42	20	41	103	
	%	40.8%	19.4%	39.8%		

* A statistically significant relationship was found between the categories for the questions “the time when started working related to veterinary medicine” and “Do you think the faculty members helped you plan your career after graduation?” ($p < 0.05$). Letters were used to show at which time the planning categories differed. Same letters mean that there is no statistically significant difference between the categories, whereas different letters mean that there is a statistically significant difference between the categories.

2018a). In the present study, 73.10% (n=76) of the participants stated that they had acquired a professional understanding of ethics and responsibility during their education. One of the reasons why the respondents think they gained a professional understanding of ethics and responsibility during their education must be related to the giving education undergraduate and graduate level and the presence of the Department of History of Veterinary Medicine and Deontology in FVMSU since 1992 (FVMSU 2019).

In a study conducted by Babaoğlu et al. (2012) on 145 veterinarians working in Istanbul, 53.80% (n=78) of the respondents answered “Yes” to the question “Would you choose the veterinary faculty if you had the chance again?”. In the present study 67.30% (n=70) of the respondents answered “Yes” to the question “Would you choose Selçuk University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine if you had the chance again?”, and 86.50% (n=90) answered “Yes” to the question “Are you satisfied with your current job?” (Table 2). While the percentages in the study are higher than those among the veterinarians working in Istanbul, both percentages imply that the education provided in the faculty’s and the employability were understood to a large extent after starting to practicing the profession.

The study conducted by Çiftçi (2011) to identify the extent to which the veterinary students benefited from the faculty members found that there was a significant increase in the

number of faculty members between the two periods under consideration, but this increase was not balanced enough to provide sufficiently high social benefits to the students. 1.4% (n=11) of the veterinarians that participated in the study by Özen et al. (2008) concerning the new graduates’ criteria for selecting the employment areas and 2.1% (n=13) of 630 respondents that participated in the study by Aslım and Yaşar (2016) were found to have taken advice from faculty members in relation to employment in the public sector. In the present study, a significantly higher portion compared to the percentages given in the studies by Özen et al. (2008) and Aslım and Yaşar (2016), namely, 40.80% (n=42) of the veterinarians were found to have received assistance from faculty members regarding the planning of their life after their university education (Table 3).

Apart from the social benefits they provide during the students’ education, the opinions, advice, and contributions of faculty members are always crucial for the students during their decision-making process before their graduation, regardless of the period in which they can find a job, and such contributions should increasingly continue to be provided.

Regarding appointment in the public sector, the Civil Servants Law no. 657 contains provisions on “appointment” (Official Gazette 1965). As per those provisions, one of the requirements for being appointed a civil servant is to have an undergraduate degree. Additionally, the candidates are requ-



Table 4. Effect status of graduation from faculty on the area of employment

Which of the following categories does your workplace/area of employment fall into?		Did your graduation from your faculty play a role in your current employment?			Total	χ^2	*p
		Yes	Not sure	No			
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	n	20 ^a	2a, b	15b	37		
	%	54.1%	5.4%	40.5%	100.0%		
Local Administration / Municipality	n	1 ^a	0 ^a	0a	1		
	%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%		
University / Academic	n	5 ^a	0 ^a	3a	8		
	%	62.5%	0.0%	37.5%	100.0%		
Other Public Institutions (TUBITAK, DPT, Police Dept., etc.)	n	0 ^a	1 ^b	0a	1		
	%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%		
Clinical Veterinarian (clinic, polyclinic, veterinary hospital)	n	27 ^a	3 ^a	3b	33		
	%	81.8%	9.1%	9.1%	100.0%		
Food Industry	n	4 ^a	0 ^a	2 ^a	6	34.724	0.031
	%	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	100.0%		
Poultry and Aquaculture Industry	n	3 ^a	0a	1 ^a	4		
	%	75.0%	0.0%	25.0%	100.0%		
Pharmaceutical Industry	n	0 ^a	1b	1a, b	2		
	%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%		
Feed Industry	n	5 ^a	0a	1 ^a	6		
	%	83.3%	0.0%	16.7%	100.0%		
Other	n	0 ^a	0a	1 ^a	1		
	%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Total	n	65	7	27	99		
	%	65.7%	7.1%	27.3%	100.0%		

* A statistically significant relationship was found between the categories for the questions "Your current workplace/area of employment" and "Did your graduation from your faculty play a role in your current employment?" ($p < 0.05$).

ired to take a competitive examination named Public Personnel Selection Examination, held by the Assessment, Selection and Placement Center (ASPC 2019). According to Law no. 6343 on Execution of the Veterinary Medical Profession and the Establishment and Tasks of the Turkish Veterinary Medical Association and Veterinary Chambers, one is required to have a degree from higher education veterinary faculties, veterinary faculties or any other veterinary faculty that is equivalent to them to practice veterinary medicine as a self-employed veterinarian (Official Gazette 1954). The present study found that 54.1% of the veterinarians working in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and 81.8% of the self-employed veterinarians thought their graduation from the veterinary faculty was necessary for their current job (Table 4). Although it is known that the most essential criterion for working in both the public and private sectors has an un-

dergraduate degree, it may be asserted that the percentage of those working in the public sector is low because they are required to pass the Public Personnel Selection Examination and the functions carried out in the public sector are not regarded as the direct practice of veterinary medicine.

Conclusions

In conclusion, considering the areas of employment and job descriptions of the veterinarians that FVMSU has graduated since its establishment, FVMSU has made significant contributions to the country in almost all industry of the profession. Additionally, it can be said that there is a positive relationship between the informed choice of faculty and job satisfaction. The present study can help raise the professional standards and pave the way for future studies required for this purpose



Table 3. Assistance by faculty members in life planning

Please mark the job description that fits your position in your workplace		Did your graduation from your faculty play a role in your current employment?			Total	χ^2	*p
		Yes	Not sure	No			
Senior Executive / Manager	n	15 ^a	0 ^a	4 ^a	19		
	%	78.9%	0.0%	21.1%	100.0%		
Technical Director in Charge	n	3 ^a	1 ^a	2 ^a	6		
	%	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	100.0%		
Clinician	n	24 ^a	3 ^a	5 ^a	32		
	%	75.0%	9.4%	15.6%	100.0%		
Veterinarian in Food Industry	n	6 ^a	0 ^a	1 ^a	7		
	%	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%	100.0%		
Education	n	3 ^a	0 ^a	1 ^a	4	28.934	0.004
	%	75.0%	0.0%	25.0%	100.0%		
Research and Development	n	0 ^a	2 ^b	1 ^a	3		
	%	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%		
Other (Please indicate)	n	10 ^a	1 ^{a, b}	11 ^b	22		
	%	45.5%	4.5%	50.0%	100.0%		
Total	n	61	7	25	93		
	%	65.6%	7.5%	26.9%	100.0%		

* A statistically significant relationship was found between the categories for the questions "Your area of employment" and "Did your graduation from your faculty play a role in your current employment?" ($p < 0.05$).

if it is applied to the veterinarians that graduated from other veterinary faculties across the country.

Acknowledgements

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