

# Dr Miftahul Islam Barbaruah

BVSc&AH (AAU), MBA (TU), Master in Development Management (AIM, Philippines)  
Assam Veterinary Council Regd. No. ASM-1604/97, IVPR No.2416 (1998, Page 352)  
Director, Vet Helpline India Pvt Ltd  
International Consultant (Animal Health, Veterinary workforce development, and Performance Evaluation of Veterinary Services)

To:

18th May 2024

## **The esteemed practicing veterinarians in India.**

Sub: My work for practicing veterinarians and request for support for my VCI Election 2024 campaign.

Dear colleagues,

I have been managing a veterinary consulting company as a promoter director for 23 years. I am a life member of the Small Animal Practitioners Association (SAPA-Northeast) and have collaborated with practicing large animal veterinarians nationwide for various projects.

### **MSVPR and Practicing Veterinarians**

I have been trying to protect the interests of practicing veterinarians and have suggested the following as a recommendation for the Minimum Standards of Veterinary Practice Regulation (MSVPR), 2016, proposed by the Veterinary Council of India (VCI)

1. We should make accreditation voluntary and driven by demand. A private clinic will benefit from accreditation only if it helps in market differentiation and thus creates demand for the services it offers.
2. VCI should incentivize and focus on creating value around the accreditation scheme so that private clinic owners voluntarily pay to get accreditation.
3. The VCI should invite innovative proposals from private parties regarding the accreditation scheme's implementation. A multidisciplinary team is vital for the success of such an initiative. The system should be transparent, and private practitioners should not face red tape.
4. The VCI should also not make the 'Guidelines for the Veterinary Practice Institutions' mandatory for all. These guidelines, however, may be considered for granting accreditation to any individual or institution that voluntarily applies for it.
5. Fixing CE credit hours for renewal of council registration is a common practice worldwide, and professional associations of practicing veterinarians are already active in organizing regular CE programs supported by private companies. VCI must facilitate an environment where various accredited CE programs (online/offline) are available in the marketplace for Veterinarians to choose from based on their interests. No specific CE program should be made mandatory for private practitioners.

I have formally shared the above suggestions and many other aspects of MSVPR 2016 with concerned institutions and published a detailed note.

The note is available at <https://www.vethelplineindia.co.in/commentonmsvprindia/>

### **Addressing unplanned growth of paraprofessionals and quackery in veterinary practice**

I strongly advocate enforcing regulations to stop quackery in veterinary practice. I have contributed my suggestions to DAHD as a consultant of Brooke Hospital for Animals -India to make the supervision of paraprofessionals (VPPs) by registered veterinarians effective and efficient on the ground.

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Veterinarians supervising VPPs must also get incentives and legal protection while performing supervision per an accepted framework using technology to document the point-of-care activity of VPPs and share it with supervisors easily. Another action area I am proposing is electronic verification of council registration of practicing veterinarians for the benefit of the public, who are often exploited by quacks. Increased availability of skilled veterinarians and designed communication to educate animal owners can help stop quackery.

As a consultant of the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), I have developed National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Veterinary Clinical Assistants (for clinics & hospitals), Veterinary Field Assistants, and Livestock Service Providers to make them skilled in real sense to assist veterinarians. More NOS specific to occupations like pet grooming, animal handling, etc., now available in the public domain for training providers, will help veterinary practitioners who look for quality human resources to expand their operations.

To stop the uncontrolled growth of less-trained personnel, I have advocated for government and private agencies to align any training with developed national occupational standards. The unplanned growth of such players in service provision is already jeopardizing public health and animal welfare. Lately, I have been supporting the advocacy to address the mushroom growth of paraprofessional training institutions nationwide.

## **Continuous education and skilling exclusive for practicing Veterinarians**

I have been actively advocating for establishing simulation-based clinical training facilities in veterinary colleges (refer to the initiative undertaken at Madras Veterinary College). Access to such facilities should be given to active practitioners and other veterinarians who want to return to active clinical practice after long years of service with administrative and regulatory functions. For the continuous education of practicing veterinarians, I have proposed a concept of e-gurukul to various stakeholders. The idea revolves around setting up franchisee private practice-oriented skilling and finishing school for graduate fresh and mid-career veterinarians under accomplished veterinary practitioners' direct supervision and guidance. I have also shared notes for a competency-based learning management system (LMS) tailored to the Indian context.

I have highlighted my select works, addressing only a few issues relevant to practicing veterinarians in India. I know the increasing hardship of setting up private clinics with new municipal regulations in many cities. We also need to look for the inclusion of veterinary practice under a similar act like the Prevention of Violence Against Healthcare Professionals and Clinical Establishments Act, 2022.' Many more issues need consultation/advocacy.

**Effective management always means asking the right question (Robbert Heller). I request you vote for me during the forthcoming VCI election scheduled for 8 June 2024. I wish to ask the right questions and lead the discussion at VCI by properly analyzing issues affecting practicing veterinarians.**

You may also refer to my core campaign video on 'VCI-The unique pillar of the profession,' which is available at: <https://youtu.be/HBT8vzb-BJU>.

Yours Sincerely,




Dr Miftahul Islam Barbaruah)

Candidate No.51, VCI Election 2024

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