



GENDER EQUALITY IN THE VETERINARY PROFESSION IN KENYA

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Context

The Kenya Women Veterinary Association (KWVA), a specialized branch of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), was formed in 1993 and currently comprises approximately 156 members, representing women veterinarians in various sectors.

KWVA has developed numerous initiatives to empower women veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) through its core areas of focus including One Health, animal welfare, gender inclusivity, and environmental governance.

Methods / Descriptions of activities

KWVA's objectives include promoting gender equality in the veterinary profession, improving access to professional opportunities for women, addressing gender-based barriers, and supporting the welfare of animals. Additionally, KWVA seeks to empower women through community-based projects that integrate gender-sensitive approaches.

Results / Monitoring and evaluation of results

- **One Health Program:** Since 2022, 795 dogs have been vaccinated, 196 surgeries conducted, 200 children educated, 3 women's groups supported through beading of dog collars, and 50 trees planted for environmental conservation.
- **Animal Welfare:** KWVA is a corporate member of the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of animals.
- **Gender Inclusivity:** KWVA has organized a fundraising drive, Adopt a Girl, donating over 500 packets of sanitary towels to needy students.
- A 2023 study on gender equality revealed that 58% of respondents felt that gender influenced their missed opportunities for advancement, while 73% believed more needed to be done to improve gender diversity.

Conclusions and recommendations

KWVA's initiatives serve as a model for integrating gender-sensitive approaches into veterinary services and community outreach, while promoting professional growth and addressing gender barriers.

The organization's holistic approach highlights the importance of gender inclusivity in advancing both animal and human health outcomes.

