Department Name: Department of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology

In 1966, course for food hygiene was introduced along with Department of Veterinary Pathology. Facilities of Pathology department were being used for undergraduate teaching. Along with time, the subject-matter developed, and horizons of the subject widened. By that time, leading institutes took initiative and established Veterinary Public Health as a subject. The institute was among the first to adopt the change and established "Department of Veterinary Public Health" in 1975. The department was established with a laboratory and a poultry packing plant. The department started offering post-graduate programme in 1979. Veterinary Council of India (VCI) established curriculum for Veterinary Public Health (VPH), and department broadened its education services to undergraduate studies. In 2008, Veterinary Epidemiology subject was brought under the umbrella of Veterinary Public Health, along with new VCI curriculum. Since then, department is renamed as "Department of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology".

Goals:

The department aspires to lead in various aspects of veterinary public health and have been working on them with these goals in its sights:

- 1. Offer courses and teaching of undergraduate to doctoral students.
- 2. Carry out research works in various aspects of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology including zoonotic aspects of various diseases and infections.
- 3. Zoonoses and food-borne diseases have been recognized as the major cause of morbidity and mortality in man. The department has therefore decided to undertake future research projects on important animal diseases, which are directly or indirectly communicable to human beings.
- 4. Milk, meat, and other animal food products are often incriminated as etiology of many food-borne outbreaks. Hence the microbiological investigation of all the animal food products will be tried to help in prevention of such outbreaks, which are occurred because of ingestion of contaminated food products.
- 5. To prevent the fraudulent practices in meat and meat foods, the rapid differentiation of origin of meat species is important. The work will be undertaken to differentiate the meat of different animal species by using latest molecular tools.
- 6. Spread the research findings and suggestions to farmers and scientific community. Educate people about zoonoses, public health importance of various diseases through various modes.
- 7. Provide consultation to Government, private institutions, and help form effective policies regarding various public health aspects.

Research Area and Projects Brief:

Title: Modernization of Diagnostic Facilities: Zoonotic Diseases and Campylobacteriosis

Funding Agency: Government of Gujarat

Primary Investigator: **Dr. M. N. Brahmbhatt,** Professor & Head, Department of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology

Co-Primary Investigator: **Dr. J. B. Nayak**, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology

Research Publications:

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- Dubey, S., Brahmbhatt, M. N., Nayak, J. B., Thakur, S., Mistry, U., Chauhan, K., & Patel, R. (2022). COVID-19 and animal infection: A review. *The Pharma Innovation*, **11**(6): 1531-1539.
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