

Accreditation of B.Sc. (Hons.) Poultry Science Degree

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Having seen an article by **Dr M Jassar Aftab**, I am compelled and obligated to say a few words in this regard and to throw light on some of the belated but real facts. Dr Jassar seems to have met a surprise to learn that BS (Hons.) Poultry Science degree has to be accredited by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) at HEC, Islamabad.

The B.Sc. (Hons.) **Animal Husbandry (AH) degree** was closed through an administrative order by the honorable Chancellor on **October 4, 2003** at Governor House, Lahore. This closure was done on the request and recommendation of PVMC without any thoughtful discussion, debate or realizing the after effects of this closure. This degree was a part and parcel of the first schedule of Section 9 of PVMC Act 1996. The then Dean FAH and Vice Chancellor, UAF protested at the spot but they were not given any heed. The Pakistan Animal Husbandry Council (PAHA) wrote letters (FAH/219 dated Oct 21, 2003 and PAHA/220 dated Nov 21, 2003) to Chairman HEC to intervene regarding abolishing of AH degree and initiation of 5 year unified (composite) DVM degree at UAF. The PAHA also reminded him the mandate of PVMC which is a regulatory body of veterinary practitioners and should take care its given mandate. It was further emphasized that personal differences of some people should not debar people seeking education in Animal Husbandry - a discipline well recognized all over the world.

Our faculty as well as UAF was in a state of confusion, upset, distress and were forced to do as said in the orders and to hand over the admission applications (~

500) to the next Faculty for processing. It was realized to many that these fishy and illegal efforts will have a deleterious and damaging effects on animal science education, research and in both sectors of animal production and health in the country.

Afterwards the UVAS, Lahore came with the idea of starting five (5) new degree programs including **B.Sc. (Hons.) Poultry Science**. In the presence of whatever the reasons or justifications, this was against the spirit of the decision made by the Chancellor and stand of the PVMC itself. The B.Sc. (Hons.) AH was closed with

the assumption that one **Five (5) Year Unified (composite) DVM Degree** graduate will be sufficient in the field to cater the needs of the Animal Health and Production Sectors. The PVMC didn't bother and also didn't speak a single word on the initiation of these degrees of B.Sc. (Hons.) (in Poultry Science, Dairy Technology, Applied Microbiology, D Pharmacy and Bioinformatics), while these degrees were not a part of the **First Schedule of their Act 1996.** *This was the first time to think about the repercussions of such a decision?*

When UAF Sub-Campus Toba Tek Singh was in making, it was asked to start the degree of **B.Sc. (Hons.) Poultry Science.** Interest of the poultry sector big guns and local politicians also wanted this degree to be launched as Toba Tek Singh. As Toba Tek Singh, Kamalia and Samundri were one of the important hubs of poultry business. On June 5, 2005, the Chancellor inaugurated this UAF Sub-Campus and the degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) Poultry Science (**BS Poultry Science**, name recently changed in UAF Syndicate meeting on 22.10.2019) was initiated. *This was the second time to think about repercussions of such a decision?*

The honorable Vice Chancellor, UAF wanted to start the B.Sc. (Hons.) Animal Husbandry at the Faculty in 2007. Although he knew the mandate of PVMC very much, he was respectfully briefed that we shouldn't start this degree at Faculty as the case of this degree was **Ress-subjudice.** However, on the demand of many stakeholders, he asked FAH to start a degree in Animal Science. We prepared and planned this degree in 2007-2008. So the degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) Animal Science (**BS Animal Science** name changed recently in UAF Syndicate meeting on 22.10.2019) was approved at UAF on July 21, 2008.

After launching the Animal Science degree at FAH, UAF, I asked the PVMC in 2009-10 to accredit this degree and bring this under the umbrella of PVMC Act. *This was the third time to think about the repercussions of such a decision.*

Having got refusal from PVMC, we approached the NAEAC, at HEC to accredit this degree. **The NAEAC AIC made a zero visit to FAH for external evaluation of our degrees at Dept of Livestock Management at our Campus for this accreditation on July 26-27, 2011.** The committee made a complete and comprehensive evaluation of the Dept facilities, Faculty, labs & farms facilities and submitted its detailed report for accreditation of B.Sc.(Hons.) Animal Science degree and

postgraduate programs (M.Sc.(Hons.) and PhD) to HEC, Islamabad. Next visit of NAEAC accreditation committee (AIC) visit was held on Dec 17-18, 2018 at UAF Campus to complete this process. Furthermore, it was also recommended to accredit B.Sc. (Hons.) Dairy Science proposed for 2019.

Some of our colleagues started the same degree at UOS, Sargodha though they were reluctant but University management insisted to start this degree. Anyway this B.Sc. (Hons.) Animal Science degree at University of Sargodha (UOS), Sargodha was initiated in 2010. The MS program was launched in 2012 and the accreditation of these programs took place on April 29, 2014. The AIC of NAEAC pointed out some limitations and weaknesses during their visit. The UOS was smart enough to fulfill the legitimate needs of the NAEAC (HEC), Islamabad and these degrees were evaluated and accredited in a visit on Dec 13-14, 2016. The Committee further recommended to accredit BS Poultry Science at Toba Tek Singh operating there since 2005.

As stated above, when we asked the PVMC to place this degree under their umbrella, they refused. Rather the then Secretary PVMC asked me to use my good office to stop the initiation of B.Sc. (Hons.) Animal Science at UOS, Sargodha. The PVMC also wrote some letters to UOS (PVMC-SGD-2014/1019 dated Sep 23, 2014) on this subject. I could not do so at that time rather I replied to him that UOS had the same compulsion and reasons to initiate this degree as the management of UVAS, Lahore had at the time of the start of five degree programs other than a 5 yr unified (composite) DVM degree. Lot many other things, comments, commentaries, worries and concerns are reserved for any other time.

Later, UVAS executed (2007) the development of CUVAS and B.Sc. Poultry Science (later changed to BS Poultry Science) was initiated at Bahawalpur. This was the fourth time to think about the repercussions of such a decision. Other than UVAS, Lahore; UAF Sub-Campus Toba Tek Singh and CUVAS, Bahawalpur, the degree of PS has also been initiated at BZU, Multan; MNSUA, Multan; Gomal University, DIK; IUB, Bahawalpur; Riphah International University, Lahore and Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences, Lahore and is likely to be initiated at other institutions as well. Even at this stage students are being absorbed by the poultry sector. Once this accreditations are completed Government's livestock and poultry production wings are likely to accept this and other degrees. That clearly speaks of

the need and necessity of the production degrees in the country. They can't keep their eyes closed.

Under the current state of affairs, when PVMC has become a purely veterinary health body, Agricultural Council is the only option for HEC to get this and other production degrees accredited. The 5-year composite DVM degree decision was basically wrong and few bulldozed (degree) this decision for their vested interest? When PVMC allowed UVAS for initiation of five degrees realizing that Universities can't survive financially with a degree or two, it's too late to ask who should accredit degrees other than DVM. Let's acknowledge that knowledge is expanding and more degrees at many places are deemed to come in future.

Now under this scenario, NAEAC has any link with these degrees or not, is a debatable issue? These come under their domain or not, are arguable or dubious concerns? I hope these will be clarified by time and space very soon (IA)? **BUT** if PVMC had (i) closed the B.Sc. (Hons.) AH degree forcefully (Oct 4, 2003) which was a part and parcel of the first schedule of Sec 9 of PVMC Act 1996, (ii) could not stop the UVAS, Lahore for other five (5) production degrees against a 5 yr Unified (composite) DVM degree program, (iii) could not wait to see the effects and performance of unified graduates and (iv) was not ready to include these BS degrees (in Animal, Dairy and Poultry Sciences) under its Act, where these degrees will go for accreditation?

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