

# Mind the gap: An assessment of scope for collaboration between public and private veterinary services for effective disease management in Bangladesh's poultry sector

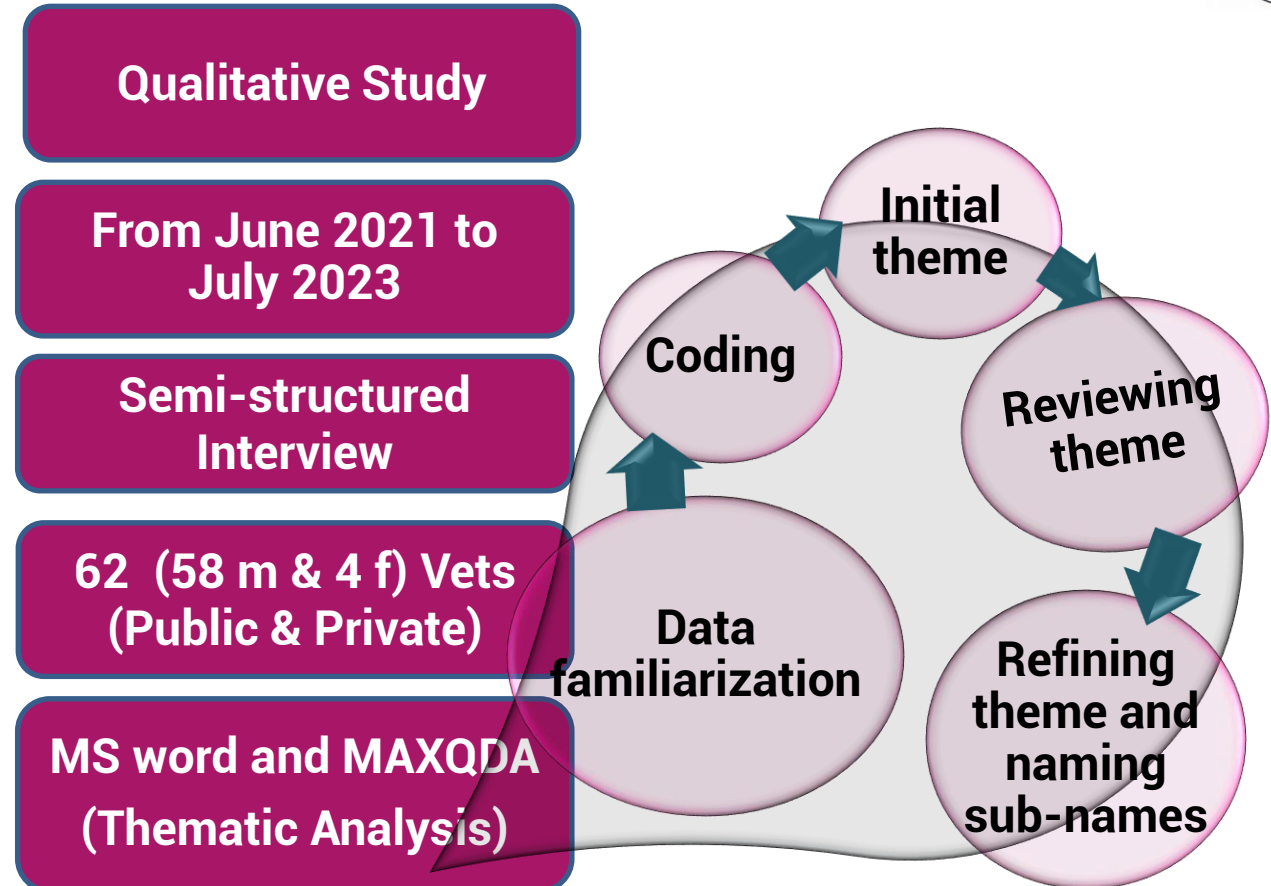
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## Introduction

- **National Poultry Development Policy 2008:** almost dormant, leading to farmers' hurdles, unsafe poultry products, AMR, and future pandemics
- Bangladesh's poultry sector is a good fit for the public-private partnership (PPP) between different veterinary providers as both government and private companies contribute to the sector
- **Therefore, with an aim to enhance collaboration, this study evaluates** - veterinarian engagement with their services, identifies implementation areas and challenges of PPP and related policy recommendations

## Methods



## Key themes

**Theme-1:**  
affiliations and  
key differences  
between  
veterinarians

**Theme-2:**  
the role of non-  
veterinarians in  
veterinary  
provision

**Theme-3:**  
opportunities  
and challenges  
for public and  
private sector  
collaboration

## Results and Discussions

Poultry veterinary provision in Bangladesh differs with the variation of the veterinarians available: private (recruited by feed and DOCs production companies, pharmaceutical companies at field level or their associated farms and labs) and public (recruited in upazila livestock office and veterinary hospitals or government research centers and laboratories)

Private vets are more involved in poultry veterinary service than public vets, although their service and recommendations are shaped by what benefits the company they work for

Public vets are not bound to benefit any particular individual or company. However, they are stretched thin with requirements to service large areas and complete assigned duties that include both technical (e.g., veterinary provision) and administrative tasks (e.g., municipal coordinating meetings).

Private poultry consultants provide standard poultry health care and they are highly respected and influential among poultry farmers, despite lack of access to remote farms and costly veterinary charge

## Results and Discussions

Official obligations and other factors (e.g., lack of ethics) create a gap between farmers and veterinarians, which is often filled by informal veterinary service providers (IVSP) (e.g., dealers, sales representatives, vaccinators, assistants of veterinarians, and neighbouring farmers).

Bangladesh's poultry sector faces limitations due to the lack of data-sharing and exchange of reporting of disease outbreaks at the field-level, remote farm access, sustainable farmer training, lack of national prescription guidelines, and coordination between public and private veterinarians. A PPP could bridge these gaps and create a more cohesive sector.

Both private and public veterinarians in the poultry sector can collaborate by referring cases, increasing communication, holding monthly meetings, and promoting cooperative work.

Government reward schemes, improved veterinary legislations and mediating roles of academia and non-profit poultry organizations can accelerate this PPP approach to the poultry sector

### Future directions:

To explore the views regarding PPP in poultry sector of:  
**Higher administrative authority from both sectors, farmer and IVSPs** in Bangladesh, **Foreign delegates, Risk assessment of the PPP with interventions**

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