

A STUDY ON THE PERCEPTION OF PEOPLE ON VIVISECTION

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ABSTRACT

Vivisection is a study that is been conducted on any living organism. Vivisection is also known as the practice of animal experimentation. Vivisection is the live sectioning of an animal for experimentation. Around 50-100 million living organisms are used for animal testing as a part of the experiment annually. Vivisection as a process is ruthlessly sharp and has detailed analysis. The United States of America practices the highest amount of vivisection. Around 15-25 million mice and rats are been used for experimentation purpose. Approximately 50-100 million vertebrate animals are used in experiments annually. In India, there is an Animal Protection Act that has various amendments and it works towards ensuring that vivisection as a process is eradicated. Most scientists and experimentalists state that vivisection may cause suffering to animals but should be carried out when necessary. Alternatives of vivisection can be performed to investigate test compounds using recent technological advances and finally creating treatments that are unique to patients without performing vivisection and without harming or killing animals. Simulators, Computer programs and other alternatives for vivisection are being used to replace animal dissection in teaching and training exercises. The purpose of this study is to find out the awareness of vivisection amongst people. This research will also help in understanding the perception of people towards vivisection. This paper also discusses alternatives for vivisection and the role of media in eradication of vivisection.

Keywords: Vivisection, Animal Testing, Experiment, Living Organism, Vertebrate

INTRODUCTION

Vivisection is also known as V-Section. It is an experiment that is conducted on living organisms that have a central nervous system. This experiment is performed to view the internal structure of living organisms. Most animals used for vivisection are euthanised after being used in an experiment. Most animals used for vivisection are sourced, while a majority of the them are caught in the wild or supplied by dealers. The Institute for Laboratory Animal Research mentioned that animal research cannot be replaced by sophisticated computer models because these models are unable to deal with major complex interactions between the molecules, cells, organs and the environment. Vivisection is mainly practiced in medical schools, pharmaceutical companies and commercial facilities that provide services to the industry.

Vivisection as a process is opposed by many stating that it is a cruel behaviour towards animals and on the contrary there are people who support vivisection on the ground that it advances medicines. Vivisection as a process focuses on two types of research - pure and applied. When an experimentalist focuses on developing fundamental knowledge of organism it is pure research whereas an applied research will focus on answering questions of practical importance such as finding cure to a disease. Many people also believe in opposing over the unnecessarily cruel behaviour towards animals and recommend people to use alternatives when necessary. The development of alternative methods for vivisection has led research organisations to ban these tests.

There are animal right organisations such as PETA and BUAV that question the need to experiment on animals and argues that it is extremely cruel and poor that the medical process is actually held back by unethical or misleading animal models that cannot be relied on to predict effects in humans. These animal right organisations also mentions that animals have the right not to be used in experiments or harmed during study. There are non-animal research methods like computer simulation and mathematical modelling which will investigate and give results without using animals for experiment purpose. The purpose of this study is to find out how aware are people about vivisection and also understand the perception of people towards vivisection.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Vivisection initially implied the dismemberment of a live creature, normally to educate or examine. Verifiably, the word came additionally to mean the utilisation of a live creature in any analysis. Vivisection is being practiced since many years and still continues to be practiced. Vivisection was being introduced as a method of performing experiments and testing surgical procedures before applying them on human patients. Society at large allows the process of vivisection because they are convinced that it is necessary evil and it is important in finding cures for human diseases and also to make other products safe. Galen is known as the father of vivisection. Galen used to dissect pigs and goats for experimentation. Greek writings on animal testing can be found dated as early as 500BC. Earlier, Vivisection as a process was practiced on human criminals, but people prohibited the mutilate of the human body and this made animals a substitute for humans.

The experimentalists believed that animals weren't intelligent and therefore justice or injustice could not possibly apply to them. Experimentalists were interested in studying animals when they were alive and even after they were dead. Experimentalists did surgeries on animals without anaesthesia and claimed that animals did not feel any pain. Millions of animals like dogs, cats, rats, mice, pigs, reptiles are sacrificed only for experiments. Animals are used for testing the safety of a products.

The testing of certain chemicals on animals still occurs. Earlier experimentalists believed that arteries contained air, but an experiment by Galen on animals demonstrated that arteries contain blood. Vivisection came into existence to develop the theory of human anatomy and pharmacology.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper is,

1. To study the awareness of people on vivisection
2. To understand the opinion of people on vivisection.
3. To find out the relationship between marketing tools and its impact on awareness

HYPOTHESIS

H1- There is significant awareness of vivisection

H0 - There is no significant awareness of vivisection

METHODOLOGY

In this research paper an attempt is being made to know the level of awareness of people on vivisection and to understand the perception of people on vivisection. This research takes primary research as well as secondary research into consideration for data collection. The data was being collected with the help of a google form where a questionnaire was being circulated to collect data from desired sample. Secondary data sources such as journals, books, periodicals and websites were also considered while collecting data.

SAMPLE SIZE

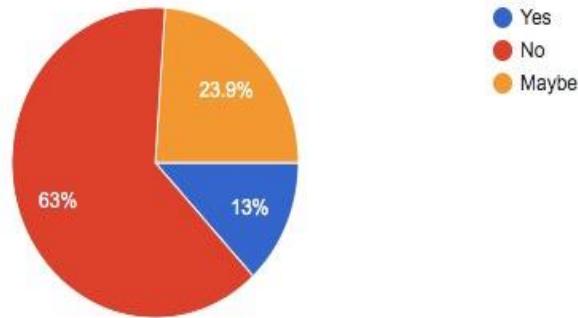
The sample size is 92, collected from a primary data in the form of questionnaire

ANALYSIS OF DATA

All the questions were being framed to study the awareness of people on vivisection and to understand the opinion of people on vivisection.

1. Do you think vivisection should be allowed?

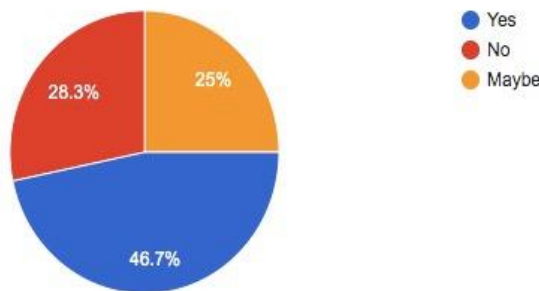
92 responses



Inference: 63% of the people believe that vivisection should not be allowed. 23.9% of the people think that vivisection may or may not allowed. 13% of the people believe that vivisection should be allowed because there are restrictions when research is being done on alternatives of vivisection.

2. Do you think that the practice of vivisection should be eradicated completely?

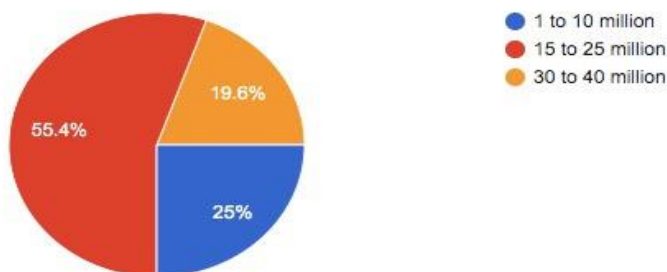
92 responses



Inference: 46.7% of the people believe that the practice of vivisection should be eradicated completely. 25% of the people are not sure. 28.3% of the people believe that the practice of vivisection should not be eradicated completely because they don't trust the results obtained from alternatives of vivisection.

3. What do you think is the amount of mice and rats used for vivisection?

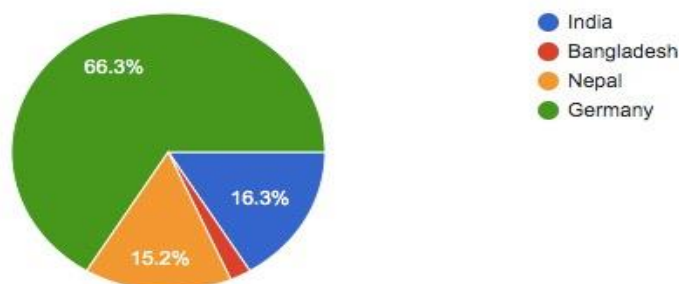
92 responses



Inference: This question was a part of the research to find out whether people are aware about vivisection facts. Only 55.4% of the people knew the amount of mice and rats used for vivisection.

4. Which country was the first one to ban vivisection?

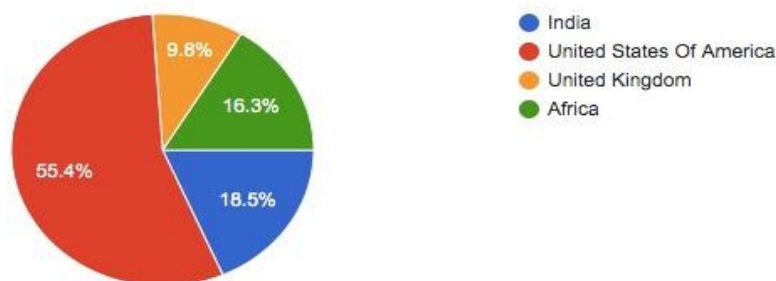
92 responses



Inference: 66.3% of the people knew about the country that was the first one to ban vivisection where as the remaining 33.7% of the people didn't.

5. Which country according to you practices the highest amount of vivisection?

92 responses



Inference: Only 55.4% of the respondents knew the country that practiced the highest amount of vivisection where the remaining 44.6% of the respondents didn't.

FINDINGS

1. Earlier, Experiment was practiced on human criminals and later animals were being taken for experiments.
2. Media can play a huge role in making the people aware about vivisection.
3. Some people believe that animals with terminal disorders should be used for vivisection.
4. 55.4% of the people believe that the federal law doesn't ensure that animals used for research are being treated humanly.
5. 52.2% of the people believe that legal protection of animals against vivisection is rhetorical.
6. Eradication of vivisection will not be accepted by people until the media helps in making the people aware.
7. Society is convinced that it is necessary evil and is important to cure diseases.
8. People believe that vivisection as a process should not be eradicated because alternatives of vivisection cannot be reliable.
9. But, Some people believe that the traditional practice of vivisection should be replaced by AI or any other sophisticated alternative which is not evil.

SUGGESTIONS

Vivisection cannot predict how humans respond to drugs or any other chemicals that are being given to them. Vivisection is about as reliable as tossing a coin and is totally unacceptable in today's time. Vivisection is ineffective and unethical experimentation process and should be replaced with non-animal

methods of experimentation. Everyone reading this can help in preventing the suffering the animals are going through and be a part in the eradicating vivisection completely by buying cruelty-free products, requesting schools to use alternatives of animal dissection, by donating to charities that are against vivisection, and demanding the implementation or usage of alternatives of vivisection, effective non-animal tests by government agencies and corporations. Guessing that there is still some humanity left and vivisection will be eradicated completed by law.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to know the whether people are aware about vivisection and also to understand their perception on vivisection. What I found out throughout the study is that people are ignorant and unaware. There is no significant awareness of vivisection. Vivisection as a process is being taken very lightly by people, maybe because they are not well aware or because there is zero media coverage being given to this topic. Vivisection is not just a fight for animals but for humanity as well. The process of vivisection should be eliminated because it violates the rights of animals and causes pain to the experimental animals and makes them suffer. Animal rights protectionist should work to ensure that only sensible and productive experiments are being carried out on animals. Some people believe that vivisection as a process can be done on animals with terminal disorders to obtain results whereas others believe in eradicating vivisection as a process completely. There are experimentalists who don't care about the suffering they are inflicting on the animals they experiment on. Media can play a huge role in eradication of vivisection by creating awareness. Media's high reach should be used to educate people by telling them alternatives to this inhuman activity. Strict laws should be amended to ensure that vivisection is being eradicated completely. People are not aware significantly about vivisection and even when they know about vivisection, they don't take it seriously. The perception of people is very different from one another. Some believe in eradicating vivisection completely because of the harm it does to animals while some think that vivisection is necessary to cure disease and test various other products in terms of safety. There are also people who don't really care about the existence of vivisection.

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