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A Critical Literature on Animal Welfare

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Abstract: In many countries, the issue of farm animal welfare has become increasingly of quintessence. The conditions in which farm animals are kept is a big concern for farm animal welfare. In most of the systems, animals are kept in imprisonment for most of their lives. There should be some commonly accepted principles on how to treat animals and how they will be used by humans for their purposes. Animal welfare played a huge role on use of an ethical basis for animal welfare excellence. Animals have boundless capacity to feel the real state of emotions, to gain from their experiences, to learn new things, to adapt new places, to face the challenges and to suffer from the basic needs. It is the right time to expand relations between humans and animals. It is the time to move forward and to take the real action so that the lives of farm animals will improve. World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has developed some standards for both earthbound and aquatic animals. According to OIE, animal health is an important component of animal welfare. It is very much necessary to change the public thinking about the importance of good animal welfare. In developing countries, legislative actions are necessary where the poor animal welfare is enormous and production management failed to fulfill substandard.

Keywords – Animals, Welfare, Behaviour, Freedom, Health.

I. INTRODUCTION

The physical and emotional state that is influenced by the environment in which the animal lives and works, human attitudes and practices and resources available to it is termed as animal welfare. Welfare is an ever changing condition in which following are the factors can cause welfare to oscillate between good, moderate and worst basis. Farm animal husbandry has undergone an escalation in developed countries. It results in higher effectiveness. But it is also a concern for the people about the welfare of farm animals [1]. In farm animal welfare, enhancements are linked to the rise in production cost and decline in productivity. So, it is important to have some policies to restrict import of livestock products by exhorting on domestic animal welfare standards risks breaching international trade agreements [2]. In Africa, Ethiopia has highest livestock population [3]. According to the survey done by Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] in 2011, they had 25.5M sheep, 22.8M goats and 53.4M cattle [4]. It is important that we must be knowledgeable whenever we decide about animal welfare as a career or as individual [5]. There are so many corporations, consumers, veterinarians among others who are using this term “Animal Welfare”. This term differs from man to man that what they think and what they assume about this term [6]. So many researchers are there who are focusing on this topic using different parameters that how animals deal with environment, how they behave and other necessary points [7]. It is very much important to meet all levels of needs to improve the animal welfare. If these needs will not be fulfilled then, animal welfare remains poor [8].

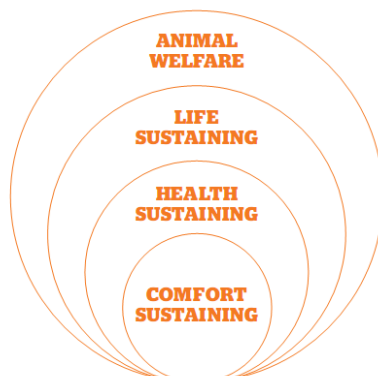


Fig: Levels of Need

II. PUBLIC CONCERN OVER ANIMAL WELFARE

It is important that we should follow science, morals and laws within the regulations of animal welfare. We need to take care of the issues seriously because according to laws, proof leads to evolving moral views to ensure what is right.

1. Legislation takes place in some countries to protect animal welfare and it is basically a permissible requirement to fulfill the needs of animals.
2. Just as being humans, we expect to be paid or obtain some personal benefit from full day of hard work, animals equally deserves the same. This will make our lives better and also secures our livelihood and this is what we can do for them in return.
3. Animals played a huge role in our lives as they contributed much for us. They have the emotions too. They can feel pain, fear and stress also along with the positive vibes. So, it is our right for the fellow community that we can corroborate happy, healthy and peaceful community.
4. Animals that are used for domesticated purposes, works hard so that we can obtain important things from them that are necessary for us to survive and thrive. The important things that we get from these domesticated animals are meat, milk, draught powder, dung, eggs etc. So, it is important for us to provide them the basic needs so that they can live good quality life.

III. Concepts of Animal Welfare

There are so many concepts of animal welfare and these are as follows-

1. THE FIVE FREEDOMS-

The concept of five freedoms was given by the Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1979 [9]. It includes-

- a. **Freedom from hunger and thirst:** by providing healthy diet and access to fresh water so that health will be maintained
- b. **Freedom from discomfort:** by providing suitable environmental conditions which includes shelter and secure resting area.
- c. **Freedom from pain, injury or disease:** by providing rapid diagnosis of disease and necessary treatment.
- d. **Freedom to express normal behaviour:** by providing enough space, good facilities and company of their own species
- e. **Freedom from fear and distress:** by ensuring proper conditions and required treatment which avoids mental issues.

2. Physical, Emotional, Natural-

The P.E.N. (Physical, Emotional, and Natural) concept was given by Fraser in 1997 [10]. It includes-

- a. Animals mental experiences are concerned with quality of life. Illness and injury cause troublesome problems such as pain, confusion and stress. So, health is an important factor of animal welfare.
- b. Quality of life circumscribes more than health, however, it includes positive and negative experiences such as joy, frustration and anxiety which may be spawn by how the animal is cared for (Parker and Yeates, 2012).
- c. It is judged over time and takes into the account possible expectations for what they require (survival) and want (alternative)
- d. The P.E.N. (Physical, Emotional, and Natural) framework joins all of these elements. E.g. pain and discomfort are psychological experiences and due to this many physical problems incorporate emotional component due to extreme pain.

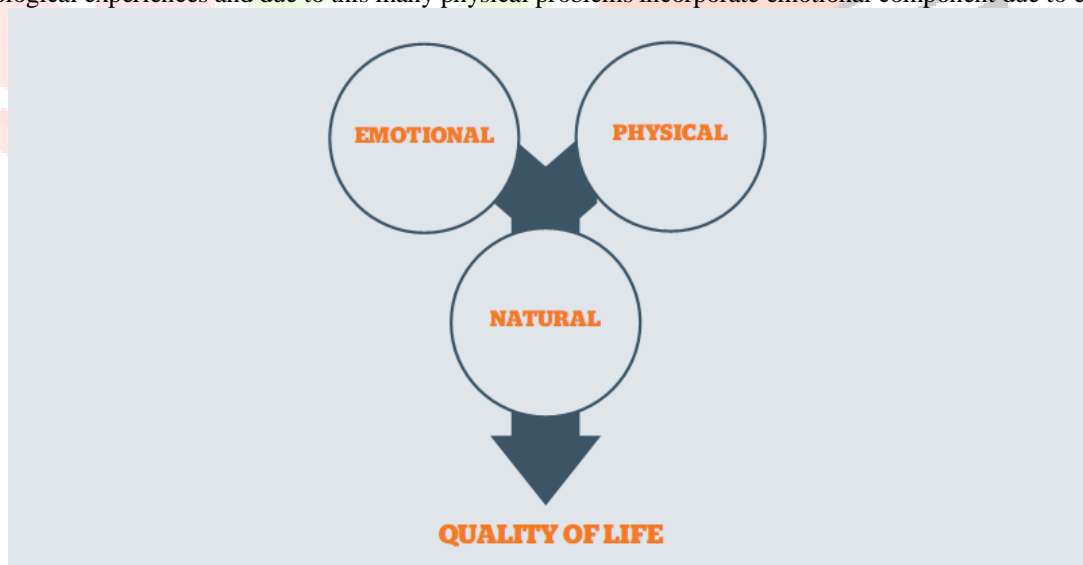


Fig: P.E.N. (Physical, Emotional, and Natural)

3. Influence of Human, Animal, Resource and Environment

This concept of animal welfare well defined various factors which affect animal welfare [11]. These include-

- a. Human attitude and practices (e.g. myths)
- b. Animal itself
- c. Resources available-
 - Physical (e.g. shelter)
 - Human (e.g. farriers)
 - Info/knowledge (e.g. prevention)
- d. Environment animal lives and works (the surrounding area)

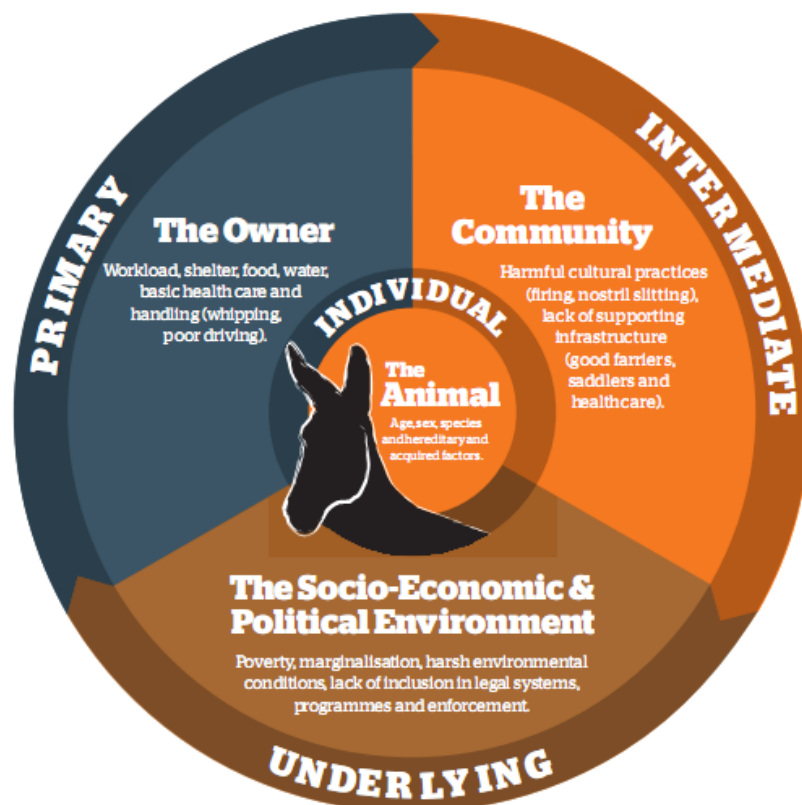


Fig: Influence of Human, Animal, Resource and Environment

4. **Animal Welfare Domains:** This concept was given by (Welfare Quality 2010, AWIN 2014, Mellor and Beausoleil 2015) [12].
- This concept was developed from earlier frameworks to shift the centre of attention towards positive states of welfare and it is necessary to minimize the negative thoughts towards animal welfare.
 - Nutrition, environmental and health province shift the centre of attention towards physical problems.
 - The behaviour domain focuses on the surroundings (e.g. environment, humans and other animals) that limit expression of natural behaviour or give rise to confront an animal reaction.
 - All of these characteristics feed into the 'Mental States' domain. The sentiments of animal are the feeling which expresses the status of animal welfare.
 - For animals, fulfilling the maximum manor is much important than improvement in few distinct indicators.

IV. Assessing Animal Welfare

If we consider the case of North America, the existing settlement between human interests and the three aspects of animal welfare is being reappraised. The fast food industry in US now require large amount of welfare standards in the farms where eggs and other alliances are supplied through 3rd party welfare examine [13]. This action is merchandise driven and due to this no sufficient framework for national rectifies the animal welfare standards. In case of Canada, the food industries and others are also discussing the achievability of welfare auditing for food animals. According to Auditing, the welfare of animals should be calculated in a practical way but we noticed that welfare is complex.

V. Conclusion

The issue of Animal Welfare achieves great importance in several countries especially in developed countries in past few years. Importance of informal appraisal of animal welfare allowed individuals to maintain some skills to know the difference between good and bad welfare. It inspires people to keep in touch with the non priority welfare issues. It also allows how to learn from failure through discussions and avoids focusing on the quantity of results over quality of results. There are so many concerns about farm animals that how they are kept, management operations specially in those systems where animals are kept in imprisonment for the much duration of their lives. It is necessary to use an ethical approach and have some principles that how to treat animal and how they have been used by humans for their own benefits. The scientific research shows that animals possess multiplex blend of physiological, behavioral, and neurobiological characteristics. The research also shows that animals have high range of emotions and feelings. The use of behavioral characteristics should increase efficiency of livestock handling and decreases animals stress. Once the stress being reduced from the animals, improvement in weight gain, good reproductive performance and the overall health of these animals should be improved. Change in thinking and mentality of people towards animals is necessary to have good animal welfare and legal actions should have been taken against those who immense bad animal welfare specially against the production houses.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests about the publication of this paper.

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