

AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF ABUSE: ANALYSIS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY IN DAIRY INDUSTRY IN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION:

The dairy industry in India has long been a pillar of the nation's economy, providing livelihoods to millions of farmers and contributing to the nation's food security. However, the rapid growth and modernization of the industry has come at a steep cost to the welfare of dairy animals. Despite animal welfare laws and regulations in place, animal cruelty in the Indian dairy industry remains widespread, with millions of cows and buffaloes subjected to inhumane conditions and practices.

From the moment they are born until they are sent to slaughter, dairy animals in India are caught in an endless cycle of abuse. They are confined to small and overcrowded spaces, denied access to clean water and food, and subjected to painful and invasive procedures. In addition, the transportation and slaughter of these animals are often carried out in a cruel and inhumane manner, causing immense pain and suffering.

This cycle of abuse not only causes immense harm and suffering to the animals involved, but also has far-reaching implications for public health, food safety, and environmental sustainability. It is therefore imperative that we take a critical look at the Indian dairy industry and the ways in which it exploits and mistreats animals.

Through a comprehensive analysis of animal cruelty in the Indian dairy industry, we can identify the root causes of these issues and propose solutions that prioritize the welfare of animals while also promoting economic and social development. By working together, we can build a more humane and sustainable future for India's dairy industry.

THE ISSUE OF ANIMAL CRUELTY IN THE INDIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY:

Calf separation: In the dairy industry, cows and buffaloes are typically separated from their calves soon after birth. This practice is cruel and traumatic for both the mother and calf, as they are biologically wired to form strong bonds and rely on each other for survival. The calves are often sold for slaughter, while the mothers are repeatedly impregnated to maintain milk production. This process of artificial insemination and calf separation perpetuates the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Inadequate housing and management: Many dairy animals in India are housed in cramped and unsanitary conditions, often without access to clean water or sufficient food. They are also subjected to painful and invasive procedures, such as tail docking and dehorning, without anesthesia or pain relief. These conditions and practices lead to a variety of health problems for the animals, including lameness, mastitis, and respiratory infections.

Transportation and slaughter: Transporting dairy animals to slaughterhouses is often done in overcrowded and poorly ventilated trucks, with little regard for the welfare of the animals. Once they arrive at the slaughterhouse, the animals are subjected to brutal and inhumane methods of slaughter, such as being beaten, electrocuted, or having their throats slit without proper stunning.

Consumer demand: The demand for cheap and abundant dairy products in India has driven the growth of large-scale commercial dairy farms, which prioritize profit over animal welfare. However, consumers can play a critical role in shaping the future of the industry by choosing to support farms and cooperatives that prioritize animal welfare and sustainability. By educating themselves about the impact of their choices and demanding better standards for animal welfare, consumers can help bring about positive change in the dairy industry.

Overall, the issue of animal cruelty in the Indian dairy industry is complex and multifaceted, with numerous social, economic, and cultural factors at play. However, through education, advocacy, and policy change, we can work towards a more ethical and sustainable future for dairy production in India.

AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF ABUSE- ANALYSIS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY IN DAIRY INDUSTRY IN INDIA:

Animal cruelty in the dairy industry is a major concern in India, where milk production is a major source of livelihood for many people. The demand for milk and milk products in the country is increasing rapidly, leading to the expansion of the dairy industry. However, this expansion has come at a cost, as animals are often subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment in order to maximize profits.

One of the main issues in the dairy industry is the use of battery cages, which are small and cramped enclosures that do not allow animals to move around freely. These cages are often used to confine calves, which are separated from their mothers shortly after birth. This separation is traumatic for both the mother and the calf, as they are deprived of the natural bond that exists between them.

In addition to confinement in battery cages, animals in the dairy industry are often subjected to other forms of cruelty, including physical abuse, inadequate food and water, and lack of veterinary care. Female cows are repeatedly impregnated to ensure a steady supply of milk, and are often milked excessively, leading to physical exhaustion and pain.

The dairy industry in India is largely unregulated, and there is a lack of adequate legislation to protect animals from cruelty. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which is the primary legislation governing animal welfare in the country, does not provide adequate protection to animals in the dairy industry. The law is vague and open to interpretation, and there is a lack of enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the law is being followed.

The cycle of abuse in the dairy industry is an endless one, with animals being subjected to cruelty in order to meet the demands of consumers. However, there are solutions to this problem. One such solution is to promote the use of alternative, cruelty-free products, such as plant-based milk and milk products. Another solution is to promote the use of humane and sustainable farming practices, such as free-range grazing and natural breeding methods. The issue of animal cruelty in the dairy industry in India is a complex and multifaceted one. It requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including consumers, farmers, and policymakers, to ensure that animals are treated with respect and dignity, and that their welfare

is protected. By promoting cruelty-free and sustainable farming practices, we can help to break the cycle of abuse and create a more humane and compassionate world for all.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY AS PER INDIAN LAWS?

Animal cruelty is defined under the Indian law as any act of commission or omission that causes unnecessary pain, suffering, or harm to any animal. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is the primary legislation in India that deals with the prevention of cruelty to animals.

The Act defines animal cruelty as any of the following acts:

- Beating, kicking, over-riding, over-driving, torturing, causing unnecessary pain or suffering to any animal.
- Employing any animal which, by reason of its age or any disease, is unfit for work.
- Carrying any animal in such a manner or position as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering.
- Keeping any animal chained or tethered in such a way as to cause it unnecessary pain or suffering.
- Mutilating or killing any animal in a manner that causes unnecessary pain or suffering.
- Administration of any injurious drug or injurious substance to any animal.
- Confining any animal in a cage or any other receptacle which is too small for it or which does not provide adequate ventilation, light or space for it.

Anyone who is found guilty of any of the above acts of animal cruelty may be punished with imprisonment for a term that may extend to three months or with a fine, or with both. The punishment may vary depending on the nature and severity of the offense.

HOW DAIRY ANIMALS ARE SENT TO SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN INDIA?

In India, dairy animals are sent to slaughterhouses once they are no longer considered useful for milk production or breeding. The process of sending them to slaughterhouses can vary depending on the location and the specific practices of the owner or dairy industry.

In some cases, the animals are sold to middlemen, who transport them to slaughterhouses. The transportation can often be inhumane and stressful for the animals. They may be cramped into trucks or other vehicles, without adequate food, water, or rest.

Once they reach the slaughterhouse, they are subjected to various forms of stress, such as overcrowding, noise, and unfamiliar surroundings. The animals are then killed for their meat, hides, and other by-products.

It is important to note that the slaughter of cows, which are considered sacred by many Hindus, is illegal in several Indian states. However, the slaughter of other animals, such as buffaloes, is allowed in many states.

It is essential to ensure that animals are treated humanely throughout their lives, including during transport and at the time of slaughter. Several animal welfare organizations in India are working towards improving the conditions for dairy animals and advocating for their rights.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SCENARIO OF ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS IN INDIA?

India has a range of animal protection laws that are aimed at preventing cruelty to animals and improving animal welfare. Some of the key laws related to animal protection in India are:

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960: This is the primary law related to animal protection in India, and it prohibits the cruel treatment of animals and sets out penalties for various offenses. It also establishes the Animal Welfare Board of India, which is responsible for promoting animal welfare and advising the government on animal-related issues.

- **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** This law provides for the protection of wild animals and plants, and regulates activities such as hunting, poaching, and trade in wildlife.
- **The Indian Penal Code, 1860:** This law contains provisions related to animal cruelty, such as section 428 and 429, which criminalize the killing, maiming, or poisoning of animals.

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transport of Animals on Foot) Rules, 2001: These rules provide guidelines for the transport of animals on foot and prescribe minimum standards of care during transport.
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001: These rules regulate the operation of slaughterhouses and prescribe standards of care for animals during the slaughter process.

While India has a range of animal protection laws in place, there are concerns about the enforcement of these laws and the treatment of animals in various industries such as dairy, meat, and leather. There have been instances of animal abuse and cruelty that have come to light in recent years, including in the dairy industry where animals are often subjected to inhumane conditions and mistreatment. However, the new Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 2021 is a positive step towards improving animal welfare and preventing cruelty to animals, and it remains to be seen how effectively it will be enforced and whether it will lead to meaningful change in the treatment of animals in India.

WHAT IS THE 2021 ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL OF INDIA?

India passed a new animal protection law in 2021, called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 2021. The new law amends the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and includes several new provisions aimed at strengthening animal welfare and preventing cruelty to animals. Here are some key provisions of the new law:

- Increased penalties: The new law increases the penalties for animal cruelty, with fines of up to Rs. 5 lakh (approximately USD 6,800) and imprisonment for up to 5 years for certain offenses. This includes offenses such as the killing or maiming of animals, the use of animals for baiting or fighting, and the poisoning or blinding of animals.
- Animal markets: The law prohibits the sale of animals for slaughter at animal markets. This provision is aimed at preventing illegal trading and improving animal welfare standards, as animals traded at markets are often subjected to inhumane conditions and treatment.
- Transport of animals: The law includes new provisions for the transportation of animals, including requirements for vehicles used to transport animals and guidelines

for the treatment of animals during transport. This includes provisions such as ensuring that animals are provided with adequate space, ventilation, and protection from the weather during transportation.

- Dog breeding: The law requires dog breeders to obtain a registration certificate, follow certain standards of care, and submit annual reports to the Animal Welfare Board of India. This is aimed at regulating the breeding and sale of dogs and improving their welfare, as there have been concerns about the mistreatment of dogs in puppy mills and other breeding facilities.
- Animal research: The law includes new provisions for the use of animals in scientific research, including requirements for ethical review and approval of research projects. This includes provisions such as ensuring that animals are used only when necessary and that alternative methods are explored before using animals in research.

The new animal protection law in India is a significant step towards improving animal welfare and preventing cruelty to animals. The increased penalties for animal cruelty, prohibition of the sale of animals for slaughter at markets, and new provisions for the transportation of animals are particularly notable. However, the effectiveness of the law will depend on its enforcement and the willingness of authorities to take action against those who violate the law. Additionally, there may be concerns about the resources and capacity of the government to effectively implement and enforce the new law.

WHAT ARE THE LACUNAS IN ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS IN INDIA?

There are several lacunas or gaps in animal protection laws in India, which leave animals vulnerable to cruelty and abuse. Some of these lacunas are:

- Limited scope: The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, which is the primary legislation governing animal welfare in the country, has a limited scope and only covers a few species of animals. This leaves many other animals, such as fish and crustaceans, without any legal protection.

- Inadequate penalties: The penalties for animal cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act are relatively low, and often not commensurate with the severity of the offence. This leads to a lack of deterrence, and allows perpetrators of animal cruelty to escape with minimal punishment.
- Lack of enforcement: There is a lack of enforcement mechanisms to ensure that animal protection laws are being followed. The police and other law enforcement agencies often lack the resources, training and motivation to enforce animal protection laws effectively.
- Ambiguity and loopholes: The language of animal protection laws in India is often vague and open to interpretation, which makes it difficult to prosecute offenders. There are also many loopholes in the laws, which allow for practices such as animal sacrifice and bullfighting to continue.
- Lack of awareness: Many people in India are not aware of animal protection laws, and do not understand the importance of animal welfare. This leads to a lack of public pressure on policymakers to improve animal protection laws, and allows animal cruelty to continue unchecked.

In order to address these lacunas, there is a need for stronger animal protection laws in India, with clearer language and stricter penalties. There is also a need for greater public awareness and education about animal welfare, to create a culture of compassion and respect for animals. Finally, there is a need for better enforcement mechanisms, including increased resources for law enforcement agencies and stronger collaboration between animal welfare organizations and government agencies.

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