

## “IS IT MORALLY ACCEPTABLE TO EXPERIMENT ON ANIMALS TO DEVELOP PRODUCTS AND MEDICINES THAT BENEFIT HUMAN BEINGS”

### LIVE AND LET LIVE

We Indians believe in the concept of *Ahimsa*, so the idea of subjecting innocent, unsuspecting mute animals to experiments in labs is simply obnoxious and generates repugnance. How would we feel if technically advanced aliens torture us likewise? It is common knowledge that the medicine that is prescribed to us is first extensively tested, for its efficacy, on rats, rabbits, monkeys, etc. It is clear that countless animals have to pay with their lives before the drugs are deemed fit to be administered to humans. Unfortunately, nobody is bothered about their sufferings and sad plight. For development of medicines some other humane method should be evolved.

**Dr Shiv Kumar,**  
Jaipur, Rajasthan

### LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES

The rapid growth of industries and growth of human population has caused alarming shrinking of forest area. Consequently many species of animals and birds have already gone extinct and many are on the verge of extinction. In this critical situation when animals are struggling hard for their survival, it is not at all morally acceptable to torture them further giving them tremendous pain for experiment of drugs to benefit human beings. Therefore we should think of an alternative tool for the

experiments the rather than torturing innocent animals.

**Sanjog Nanda,** Berhampur

### ABANDON CRUEL TREATMENT

From biological viewpoint basic physiology is similar in all vertebrates. Thus; the effect of chemicals on experimental animals simulates the possible effect in human body. However if



we look at the moral aspect we will find a sad picture – deaths of experimental animals due to cruel behaviour and untrained or unpractised handling. So, these points should be taken care of by the firms developing products and medicines.

**Mithu Banerjee,** Sonebhadra,  
banerjee\_mithi@rediffmail.com

### HARSH REALITY

Human being is on the top of the trophic level. Humans have the ability to think, manage, integrate, coordinate and change the environment. So it is very necessary to maintain the wellness of human beings even if it is at the cost of the lives of a few animals. Because sacrificing a few lives for the sake of too many people is not so bad. If human are in good health and power, they can preserve the lives of many endangered species by employing various techniques.

**Shah Alam Warsi**  
Gorakhpur U.P.

### SHOULD BE MORAL

Experiments to develop products and medicines can be carried out on animals. This would help scientists and the researchers get better



knowledge about the products and their consequences on living beings. If an experiment

fails, it will result in the bad health or even death of the animal but it surely will save the life of many humans. The animal species used in the experiments should be flourishing in number so that a single failure may not harm the diversity. Only then we can accept those experiments morally.

**Kunal Aich,** Ramanuj Gupta Junior College, Silchar, Assam  
kunalach.silchar@gmail.com

### NO RARE ANIMALS

Though this idea may offend the PETA, we have no other alternative. We just cannot afford to endanger the lives of millions of human beings who might use the product. Who will come forward to volunteer to test the items on themselves? Some animals like rats, guinea pigs, monkeys are bred for this very purpose. Only when a product is found to be safe should it be launched in the market. But that doesn't mean rare animals should be victimized. Common animals, bred especially for this purpose should be

experimented on to assure safety for the human customers.

**Rituparna Dubey**  
Faridabad, Haryana

### DON'T SHACKLE MEDICAL SCIENCE

Ethically it may not be right to use animals for developing medicines. But at the present juncture there is no other way out. If human pain and suffering has to be decreased and human life-span has to be increased, then, whether we like it or not, the poor animals will have to pay a price for it. As a matter of fact they too stand to benefit in the long run. Man occupies top position in the life pyramid, so according to natural laws his will and interest overrides that of the lowly animals. In spite of the protestations of SPCA or other vociferous groups let us not forget that if medical science prospers so also other allied sciences when so much scientific achievements and discoveries are being witnessed it would be foolhardy to single out and shackle medical science only on moral grounds.

**Shashi,** Indore, M.P.

### ANIMALS HAVE RIGHT TO LIVE

I don't see any reason why products meant for human use should be experimented on animals anymore since now we have far better diagnostic methods. Some justify testing on animals saying that animals are a lot



like humans biologically. Well if that's the case, then why is it morally acceptable to test on them?

If somebody asks me if I would let a hundred rabbits die to save my mother, I'll say that I would even let a hundred humans die. But this will be an emotional decision and can never be justified in front of law. Then why not with animals? Are their lives any cheaper than ours? Animals have feelings too. Animals have the right to life as much as humans do.

**Siddhant Sadangi**  
KIIT University, Bhubaneswar  
maverick.becks@gmail.com

**BENEFIT OF HUMANITY**

Developing anything creative and useful has very little to do with morality. It has every reason and right to go to any extent for the benefit of humanity. This is how modern science has developed. So, experimenting on animals to develop products and medicines that benefit human beings is meaningful.

**Shivam Kumar**  
shvmkumar92@gmail.com

**SACRIFICE FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING**

When your room is full of scary mosquitoes, getting rid of them using coils or sprays seems to be better than suffering from malaria. In this twenty first century when most people never think twice before munching a non-vegetarian extravaganza, sacrificing few rats, rabbits, mice or pigs for saving thousands of lives is both morally acceptable as well as

justifiable provided all the activities related to laboratory animal breeding and research are performed as per the specified guidelines of Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), New Delhi as well as In-house Institutional guidelines under the direct supervision of Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC). Testing of medicines and other products excluding cosmetics is necessary, before it is used by the consumers and for that we take help of animals. It is not for luxury or enjoyment, but for a good cause. I speak in favor of animal testing but at the same time, I firmly condemn hostile and heinous practices like slaughtering of innocent animals done merely to satisfy the greed of some despicable money-minded men.

**Nayanshree Choube**  
UIT-RGPV, Bhopal  
nayan.shree@yahoo.com

**SAVINGS HUMANS IMPORTANT**

The word 'Moral' varies from context to context. Medicines are sold in the market after rigorous and exhaustive experiments.



Experiment can be performed either on human beings or animals. It is immoral to select human beings because the blood of human being is much more costlier than that of animals. Saving human being is far more moral act than killing nominal number of animals.

**Mohd Aquib**, New Delhi  
aquib2jmi@gmail.com

**MEDICINES FOR HUMAN BEINGS**

Since the in-vitro (outside the body) studies of the developed new drug molecule do not give satisfactory result, researchers go for the in-vivo (inside the body) studies, which is now restricted by the Animal Cruelty Prevention Act enacted by Govt of India, not to do the experiments on animals to develop newer medicines. Though it is not morally acceptable to do experiments on animals to develop newer medicines that benefit human beings but for the safeguard of the lives of human beings, the researchers have to sacrifice the lower animals for experiments. For this, Govt should permit the institutions to breed animals to increase their population.

**Manoranjan Hati**, Odisha

**NECESSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS**

Swamiji once refused to help an association of cow's welfare. He argued that when men were dying in famine (in his time) all around, it was a luxury to think stupidly for the welfare of the cows. The Swamiji did it notwithstanding his love for animals. This argument strengthens the fact that human welfare is of greater priority than mere love for animals. Animals are unavoidably used in experiments to develop products and medicines that are essential for saving human beings. It may sound selfish and or sectarian, but modern human beings can hardly afford to close the scope of experiments on animals. Even animals are also benefited from such

experiment for treatment of their diseases. Therefore, it is sheer utopian to reject experiments on animals on moral grounds.

**Rajrup Ghosh**  
Kolkata

**SHOULD BE PUNISHABLE**

The very thing that separates us, the humans, from other animals is our ethics, morality, emotions and wisdom. Our morality teaches us that animals too have right to be treated as animate beings rather than a means to satisfy our never to be satisfied ends. From the scientific point of view also, the experimentation on animals is opposed by many scientists who think of it as an ineffective method. Moreover, there have been lots of errors and failures in animal testing. If experimentation is done on species like Chimpanzee or humans, will our morality allow us to do that? There are alternatives such as tests that can be done on cells or tissues cultured in labs. Morally as well as scientifically, experimentation on innocent healthy animals is to be totally rejected and even punishable.

**Vivek Shrestha**, New Delhi



**KEEP IT TO THE MINIMUM**

Experiments on animals are not only to develop products and medicines but also to carry forward research in many other fields including genetics and biotechnology. Behind every progress, there is some sacrifice. For an honest cause, even a scientist dedicates himself for the suffering humanity.

Experimentation starting from dissection in lower levels to organ-specific trials on animal models is a necessity for medical science. But definitely, the use should be restricted to a minimum. But, who will control the random killing of animals just for human taste? Though experiments are few and the result is for the masses, animal food is only for a section of people. Massacre of animals, be it insects or mammals, creates ecological imbalance and frequent extinction of many species.

**Swapan Rudra**  
Sonamukhi, Bankura  
drsrudra@yahoo.com

**SELFISH MOTIVES**

When it comes to 'morality', experimenting on animals for selfish motives is surely not acceptable. But from a scientific point of view, such experimentations ensure a bright and safe future for mankind.



Experimentation on animals should continue for the betterment of the human race, but it should be done ethically so as to minimize the harm and damage to the animals during the process. Organisations like PETA, working for such purposes should monitor such experimentations and their effect on animals.

**Pramita Roy**  
Barasat Govt. College, W.B.

**VICIOUS CIRCLE**

It is indeed a cruel act to experiment on animals for the benefit of human beings. In their race to compete and survive on earth, humans are developing products and medicines that would help them to stay fit and get rid

of various illnesses. But in this process of experimenting, many animals happen to die. Ultimately this would result in disturbing the equilibrium of our ecosystem, which would be ultimately destructive for the humans.

**Sreyasree Mandal**, West Bengal  
sreyasreemandal@gmail.com

**BAN IT**

Traditionally, laboratory exercises in education in general and medical education in particular have associated use of animals such as Frogs, Rats, Guinea



pigs, dogs, etc and a variety of animals are utilised in preparation of medicines. Due to increase in institutions all over the world and decline in experimental animals, experiments on animals to develop products and medicines should be banned.

**Devi Deen Pandey**  
Dept of Environ.Science & Engg,  
Guru Jambheshwar University of  
Science & Technology-Hisar

**WITHIN LIMITS**

We humans consider ourselves as the most developed animals on earth but we don't behave in that



way. Many species of plants and animals have become extinct due to human activities. If we stop experimenting the medicines or other products on animals, then human lives will be in danger. Thus we can't do so. But we should not ruthlessly kill those animals in the name of experimenting.

Experiments on animals should be kept within limits.

**Bhaskar Mondal**  
Durgapur, bm96@in.com

**MORALITY VS PRACTICALITY**

Tens of millions of animals perish as a result of products being tested on them. Why? Are their lives any less valuable than us? Is it morally acceptable to test products on innocent creatures, who won't be even benefited



from them? But is it not 'practically' better to first test it on animals than humans? So, morally it is not acceptable but practically it is!

**Karina Sharma**  
Convent of Jesus and Mary  
New Delhi

**STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL**

Morally, it is not acceptable to experiment on animals to develop products and medicines that benefit human beings. But scientifically, it is quite acceptable.

Darwin had rightly proposed in his theory "Survival of the fittest" that every species shall struggle to survive at the cost of other species. Hence, human race does so for its betterment.

**Saumya Ranjan Jha**  
Burnpur (West Bengal)  
saumyaranjanjha@gmail.com

**THREAT TO WILDLIFE**

Today science is progressing at a fast pace. Death rate is coming down. But animals are used



extensively in the testing of new medicines and drugs. No development can become a success in the

first trial. This results in the mass killing of innocent animals. Today our scientists must try to develop a technology that can be used to test new products without the need for an animal.

**Utkarsh Rai**  
utkarsh1010@yahoo.com

**ETHICAL ISSUES**

The manipulation of living organisms by human race cannot go on further without regulation. Some ethical standards are required to evaluate the

morality of all human activities that might help or harm living organisms. However, for the bright future of India it is morally acceptable to experiment on animals to develop products and medicines that benefit human beings.

**Jesny V Jose**  
Kerala  
jesnyvjose@gmail.com



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**"All politicians need to be scientifically aware."**

*Be short, crisp and logical. Send in your photo, if you like.*