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A Empirical Study on Ethical Values Incorporated In Dairy Industry with Special Reference to Mistreat of Animals

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ABSTRACT:

With an emphasis on animal abuse, this empirical research explores the moral principles incorporated into the dairy industry's operations. Global food systems heavily rely on the dairy industry, and in recent years, issues about the humane treatment of cows have gained more attention. The main goal of this study is to conduct a thorough ethical analysis of the dairy sector, illuminating the behaviors and viewpoints that either encourage or discourage animal abuse. The main conclusions of this study are meant to provide light on the ethical standards that are currently in place in the dairy industry, with a focus on behaviors that include animal abuse. The data will be used to provide recommendations for raising industry standards of ethics while raising awareness and promoting ethical behavior among stakeholders. In the end, this study adds to the current conversation about ethically and sustainably sound practices in the dairy sector and provides a basis for well-informed policy formation and decision-making. Using a combination of questionnaires, interviews, and observational studies, the project uses a mixed-methods approach to collect data from a wide range of stakeholders, including consumers, dairy farmers, industry experts, and animal welfare activists. Important components of the study include demographic data, knowledge levels, and judgments of ethical standards in the dairy industry. Furthermore, the study evaluates the effects of industry laws, customer choices, and corporate social responsibility programs on the ethical aspects of the dairy sector.

Keywords: Animal abuse, Humane treatment, Ethical standard, animal abuse, welfare activist.

Introduction

The dairy sector is essential to the world's supply of milk and dairy products and is the backbone of agricultural economies. But the moral implications of the industrial processes—especially with regard to how animals are treated—have grown in importance. In light of this, the current study conducts an empirical investigation of the moral principles ingrained in the dairy business, concentrating on animal abuse. Animal welfare in the dairy industry raises ethical questions that consumers, governments, and advocacy groups are paying more attention to. The way animals are treated throughout the production chain—including living conditions, medical care, and general well-being—has come under increased ethical scrutiny. By objectively examining the degree to which ethical principles are integrated into the dairy industry's operations and, crucially, how these principles interact with the possibility of animal abuse, this research aims to further the conversation. Comprehending the ethical terrain of the dairy business is crucial for customers who wish to make ethical decisions, as well as for industry participants, legislators, and farmers who want to match their methods with changing public standards. This study focuses on animal cruelty in order to highlight particular ethical issues that the dairy business faces and to provide a more comprehensive knowledge that will help guide future advancements and regulatory decisions. This study intends to define the present condition of ethical principles within the dairy sector using rigorous empirical research that includes questionnaires, interviews, and data analysis. It also provides insights into the prevalence of animal cruelty and the efficacy of current ethical frameworks. The results are expected to direct stakeholders toward more morally sound, compassionate, and sustainable methods of dairy production, contributing to the current discussion on ethical practices in the dairy industry. This research aims to provide a timely and significant addition to the ethical conversation surrounding the dairy business, as the whole community examines the ethical aspects of food production more closely. Government programs pertaining to the moral principles upheld by the dairy business, with an emphasis on animal abuse, may differ depending on the nation and area. Nonetheless, laws and programs are frequently put in place by governments all over the world to address moral issues in the dairy and agriculture industries.

Regulations pertaining to animal welfare: Governments frequently create and implement laws that control how animals are treated in agricultural environments, such as dairy farms. Aspects including housing conditions, transportation, and humane handling procedures could be covered by these standards. Certification Schemes: A number of governments endorse or accept certification schemes that confirm the dairy industry's adherence to moral and humane treatment guidelines. To show their dedication to moral behavior, farmers and dairy producers can be encouraged to get and display these credentials. Funding for Research and Development: Governments have the authority to set aside money for projects focused on raising the bar for animal care in the dairy sector. Research into healthier agricultural methods, animal welfare, and technology that support humane treatment are a few examples of this. Numerous factors can affect the results and conclusions of an empirical research on the ethical principles used in the dairy sector, with a focus on animal abuse.

Objectives

- To view the awareness about adulteration in Dairy industry.
- To analyze the Primary Ethical concern regarding antibiotic use in Dairy Farming .
- To Study the Main Ethical issue related to the disposal of dairy farm waste
- To Acknowledge the rating of people towards the environmental impact of current dairy farm waste disposal practices.

Review of Literature

(Camille Alexandra 2023), conducted a study on “Evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on dairy cattle farming in Brazil”. This research aimed to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Brazilian dairy cattle farming. The study was conducted from December 2020 to February 2021 via Google Forms platform. Data obtained were tabulated and evaluated using descriptive and multivariate analysis. (Maan Barua 2022) Recent geography and related studies has given considerable attention to the economic ramifications of biopolitics, or the management, regulation, and control of life. A growing body of research, mostly centered in the Global North, contributes to the definition of “lively capital,” which is defined as body worth in motion and is based on accumulation from non-human life. In this study, we contend that, contrary to what previous studies have suggested, the biopolitical process of bringing life into the purview of capital operates in cultural, political, and economic registers. Life is not always translated into capital through biopower-based means. Its varying paths entail hybrids between biopolitical and vernacular behaviors in postcolonial settings. (Min-yen Chang 2022) Food safety, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare have gained worldwide attention. Animal welfare certification marks are becoming more and more relevant for customers when they make purchasing selections because to the development in friendly raising and green consumption knowledge. This study discusses Taiwanese consumers' opinions on purchasing products that support animal welfare and the factors that influence their decisions to buy, using the theory of planned behavior (TPB) as its central tenet and adding variables like moral affection, health consciousness, and trust in certification. This study will help close the gap in the literature by elucidating the consumption behavior pattern of animal welfare-friendly items, which has been discussed but not evaluated in prior research. (Erica von 2022) Numerous activities that provide either passive observation or active engagement with wild, semi-wild, or captive animals are included in the category of animal-based tourism. With modalities of connection with animals that trade on more embodied near experiences with non-human creatures, the multimillion dollar business is expanding internationally today. Animal welfare standards run the risk of declining as new forms of animal-based tourism emerge, such as taking pictures with sloths, going to cat cafés, swimming with sharks, and agri-tourism petting zoos. We combine worries about animal welfare with a consideration of the difficulties confronting animal-based tourism in the upcoming article. Our synthesis is the first to take into account the whole range of this kind of animal-based tourism, spanning both consumptive and non-consumptive limits and encompassing agritourism, hunting, zoo, and safari tourism, to mention a few. (Pol Llonch 2022), conducted a study on “Applied Animal Ethics in Industrial Food Animal Production: Exploring the Role of the Veterinarian”. Current systems for raising food animals are largely geared to produce large quantities of meat, milk, and eggs, at a low cost to the consumer. There are many ethical challenges associated with these methods, which can result in poor animal welfare and animal suffering. The author, through this study, argues that veterinarians, as expert animal health and welfare advocates, should be critical stakeholders and leaders in discussions with producers and the food animal sector, to look for innovative solutions and technology that will address current and future global sustainability and food security needs. (Jordan O Hampton 2021) In post-industrialized nations, making ethical food choices has grown in importance. The effects that different meals may have on animal welfare are of special concern to a lot of people. However, ideas around animal welfare are quickly changing to take into account the needs of all animals, especially nature, under modern paradigms like “One Welfare.” This method necessitates acknowledging that negative effects (damages) can be both purposeful and evident (such as the killing of animals), as well as the often-underappreciated indirect or inadvertent harms that frequently have an adverse effect on wildlife (such as clearing land). This is particularly true in the Anthropocene, when practically all human actions have an influence on non-human life. (Kye-Hye-Lee 2021) People are starting to voice their criticisms of the moral problems related to the usage of animal components as their understanding of ethics has grown. This study examined the shift in consumer awareness toward vegan products around the world and the connection between interest in vegan products and ethical issues like the environment and animals. The Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (Tf-idf) value was retrieved using Python 3.7 from user postings on fake leather and fur that were submitted to Google and Twitter between 2008 and 2019. Additionally, Smart PLS 3.0 was used to assess the volume of worldwide Google keyword searches for each term in order to look into the awareness of consumers worldwide.

(Lindsay Hamilton 2021), conducted a study on “(Re)connecting the food chain: Entangling cattle, farmers and consumers in the sale of raw milk”. This article investigates the growing market for cow's milk sold directly from the farm, often known as ‘raw milk’. Drawing on qualitative research with UK raw milk producers the author adds new insights to the sociology of food by demonstrating how knowledge about the ‘goodness’ and ‘purity’ of cow's milk arises and becomes powerful in producer and consumer groups. (Richard Helliwell 2020) As part of larger initiatives to lessen antibiotic usage in agriculture and address concerns about antimicrobial resistance, the idea of antibiotic stewardship has lately acquired significance in UK and EU policy and practice. The research aims to give preliminary insights into the potential practical implications of antimicrobial stewardship for agricultural animal-human relationships, especially in intensive settings. We do this by first summarizing the expected consequences for animals used for agriculture by various stakeholders. Secondly, we formulate the idea of heterogeneous biosocial collectivities by engaging with the literature on care. Lastly, we apply this idea to an intensive dairy farm case study in order to investigate empirically how the relationship between humans and animals is changing as a result of antibiotic stewardship. (Caroline Winter 2020) Based on a selection of 74 articles from 10 travel publications, an overview of the literature on animal ethics and tourism is provided. There are other ethical stances that have been recognized, such as utilitarian, instrumental, welfare, ecofeminist, rights, and ecocentric. Certain investigations cast doubt on the ontological foundations—speciesism, native/introduced, a continuity between wild and captivity, and domestic animals—and, consequently, the moral acceptability of animals employed in tourism. The damage done to animals and the “animal gaze,” which commodifies animals as things, are two more issues. The ethical stances of travelers, regulatory agencies, and the tourism sector were also noted. All things considered, the papers refute the practice of using animals for amusement and support the need for a growing corpus of study in the area of

animal ethics. (Georgia Koutouzis 2020), conducted a study on “Improving market outcomes: A qualitative assessment of the Greek dairy supply chain”. This study provides a qualitative assessment of the overall outcomes of the dairy supply chain in Greece. Based on the framework of the Taskforce for dairy Markets, a questionnaire survey with in-depth interviews was conducted to farmers, industries and supermarkets in Greece in order to gain knowledge about trading practices, market transparency, risk management, contracts, access to finance and the role of Producer Organizations. (Yamini Narayanan 2019) According to this article, gaushalas, or cow

shelters, are used as rallying points for Hindutva or Hindu ultranationalism in India. According to this theory, the Hindu Indian country is "vulnerable" and requires a "sanctuary" from Muslim men who prey on them. Mother India is also referred to as the "Hindu mother cow." Gaushalas are venues where cows are raised for political, religious, and commercial purposes. They are upheld by the narratives of Hindu patriarchy and "anthropatriarchy," which work well together. All animal agriculture depends on anthropopatriarchy, which is defined as the human enacting of gendered oppressions onto animal bodies. (Michael J Mouat 2018) Animal food items produced without using animals, such lab-grown meat and artificial milk, are soon to be available in stores. The shift from techno-fantasy to a real business might happen over the next five years, given the network of techno-science firms and university laboratories receiving contributions, grants, and venture money. Beyond what's happening in labs, however, the burgeoning animal-free food sector is a place of social and economic innovation. Experiments with the construction of value are being conducted around a specific ethical and moral claim that lies at the core of this industry-in-potential: it promises a food future free from the animal cruelty and environmental degradation of current animal agriculture-led food chains. (Jacqueline M. Bos 2018), conducted a study on “The Quantified Animal: Precision Livestock Farming and the Ethical Implications of Objectification”. This paper discusses the notion that the objectification of animals by PLF influences the developmental pathways of conventional industrial farming. The author conducts a conceptual analysis of objectification by comparing discussions in feminist ethics and animal ethics. Further the author finds that in animal ethics, objectification includes deontological arguments regarding instrumentalisation, de-animalisation, alienation, commodification and quantification of animals. (Mathew Hall 2017) The study of crime victims and victimization, known as "victimology," has advanced significantly during the past 20 years. However, the concept of environmental victimization has received relatively little attention in this subject, much like in its "parent" study of criminology. Similar to criminology, victimology has mostly focused on human victims. In fact, even more recent debates on environmental victims, which were sparked by the emergence of green criminology, have not given enough attention to the victimization of nonhuman creatures. In this work, we use Christie's concept of the "ideal victim" and Boutellier's concept of the "victimalization of morality" to analyze the gaps in the care and discourse around nonhuman animal victims. (Narayanan 2016) In spite of strong moral (and socio-ecological) arguments, the rights of cattle classified as food or farm animals have been ignored in development rhetoric and programs. They're seen as 'resources' to keep growing, which encourages industrial farming and unnatural methods of animal husbandry in food production systems. The study makes the case that the monetization of animals under these policies is unlikely to be accompanied by religion and sustainable development. Interpretations of religion that are motivated by capitalism encourage the objectification of animals. One growth paradigm that is efficiency-driven and addresses the preservation of limited natural resources is sustainable development.

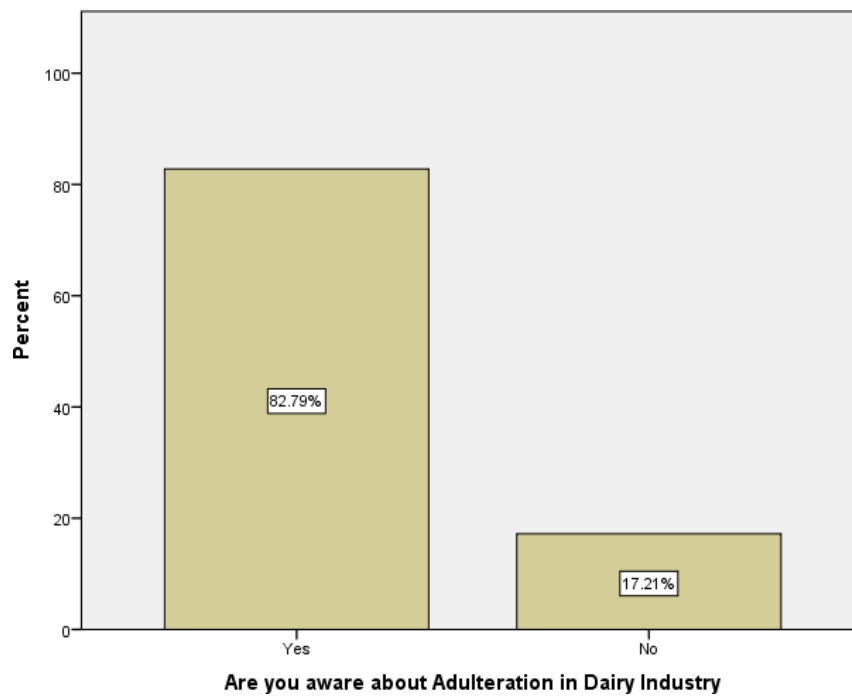
(Helena Hansson 2015), conducted a study on “Identifying use and non-use values of animal welfare: Evidence from Swedish dairy agriculture”. In this study, the author sought to identify the use and non-use values that underlie farmers' decision making with respect to animal welfare, based on in-depth interviews with 50 dairy farmers in Sweden, also the author identified user values related to: being able to continue the business, earning a living from the business, not being tied to the farm (i.e. having time available for other things), product quality, and work environment. (Muhammad Saleem 2015), conducted a study on, “Development of functional yogurt by using freeze-drying on soybean and mung bean peel powders”. Plant-based yogurt has earned much interest in current times due to the rising demand for milk substitutes, which is tied to ethical and health needs. Methods Freeze-drying impact on soybean peel powder (SPP) and mung bean peel powder (MPP) and their use in creating functional yogurt at various concentrations was checked. The author through this study compares between both methods. (T B Mephram 2000), conducted a study on “The role of food ethics in food policy”. Certain developments in the agricultural and food sciences have far-reaching implications for society and the environment, which suggest the need to examine their ethical acceptability as a standard component of technology assessment. Such considerations have led to the emergence of a new academic discipline, food ethics. The present paper describes how ethical theory may be applied to the analysis of the impacts of prospective food biotechnologies to assess potential effects on four 'interest groups', i.e. consumers, producers, treated organisms and the biota (fauna and flora). (J. Barid Callicott 1980) A comparison is made between the moral underpinnings of the "animal liberation" movement and those of Aldo Leopold's "land ethic," which is considered to be the standard for environmental ethics in general. Despite certain surface-level parallels, deeper theoretical and practical distinctions are revealed. The land ethic encompasses not just animals but also plants, soils, and rivers, but the humane ethic views only sentient beings as truly significant. In contrast to the humane ethic, the land ethic does not forbid the hunting, killing, and eating of certain animal species. The humane ethic is based on Benthamite principles, which hold that suffering is the ultimate evil and that morality is reductive or atomistic.

Methodology

The research method followed here is empirical research. A total of 200 samples have been collected out of which all samples have been collected through a convenient sampling method. The sample frame is taken in public areas in and around Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The independent variables are gender, age, educational qualification, occupation and marital status. The dependent variables are awareness about adulteration in dairy industry and Primary Ethical concern regarding antibiotic use in Dairy Farming. The statistical tools used here are Chi square, independent sample t-test and ANOVA test under SPSS and graphical charts such as simple charts and complex charts.

Analysis

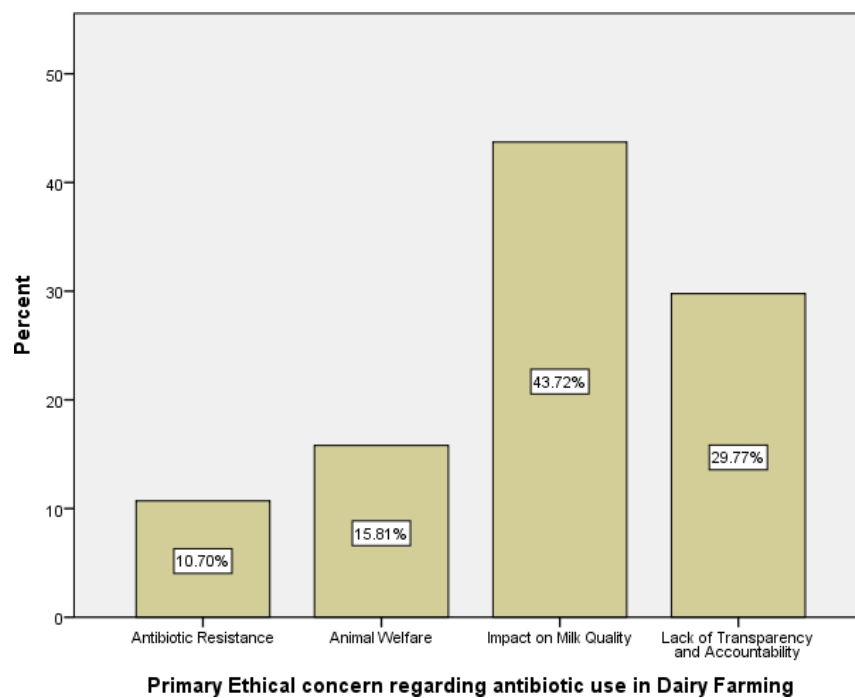
Figure 1:



LEGEND

Figure 1 Shows the awareness about adulteration in Dairy Industry.

FIGURE 2



LEGEND

Figure 2 Shows the Primary Ethical Concern regarding antibiotic use in Dairy Farming.

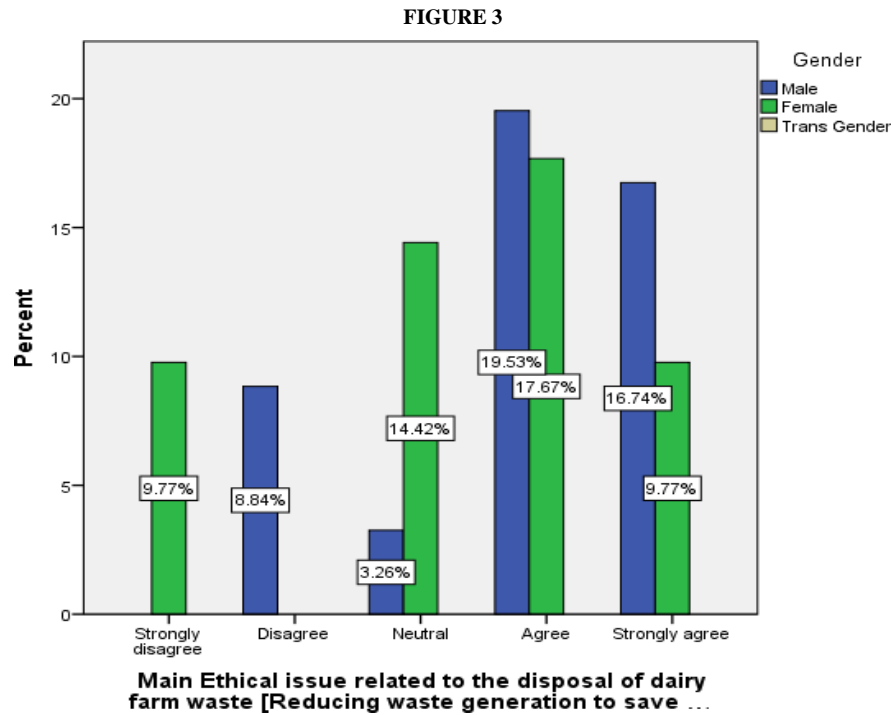
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Figure 3 Shows the main ethical issues related to the disposal of dairy farm waste as reducing waste generation to save costs.

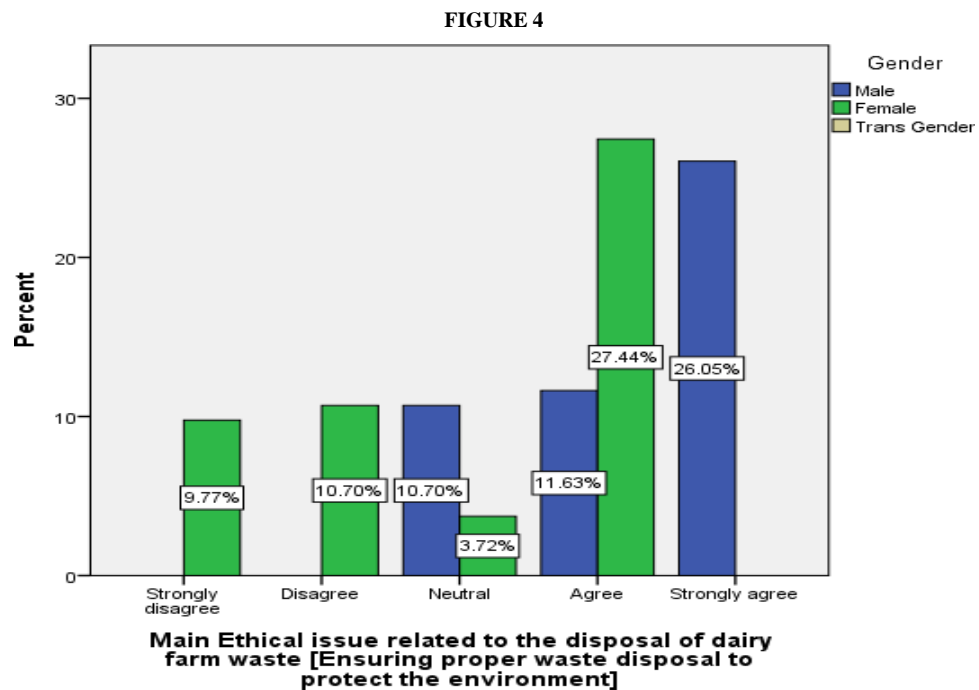
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Figure 4 Shows the main ethical issues related to the disposal of dairy farm waste as ensuring proper waste disposal to protect the environment.

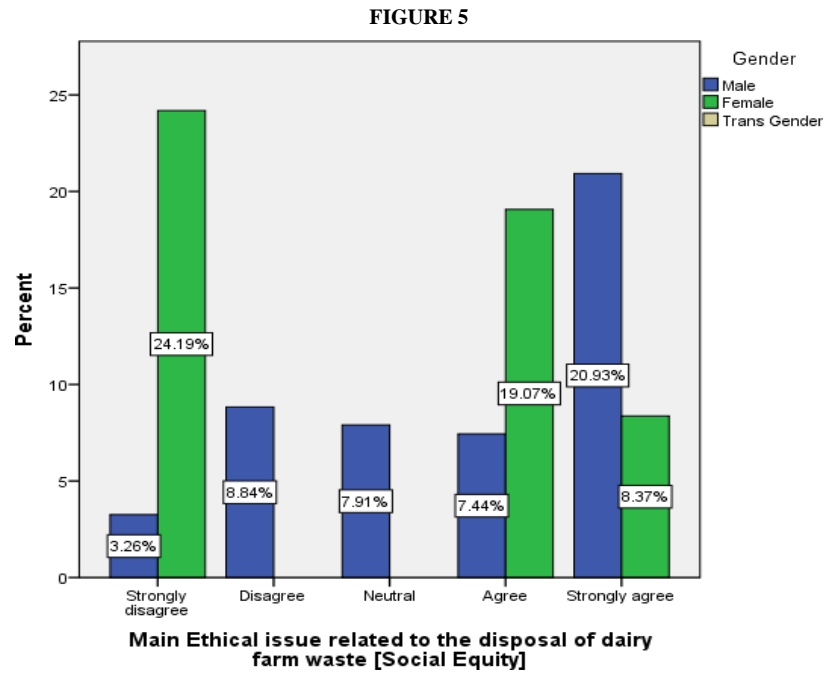
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Figure 5 Shows the main ethical issues related to the disposal of dairy farm waste as social equity.

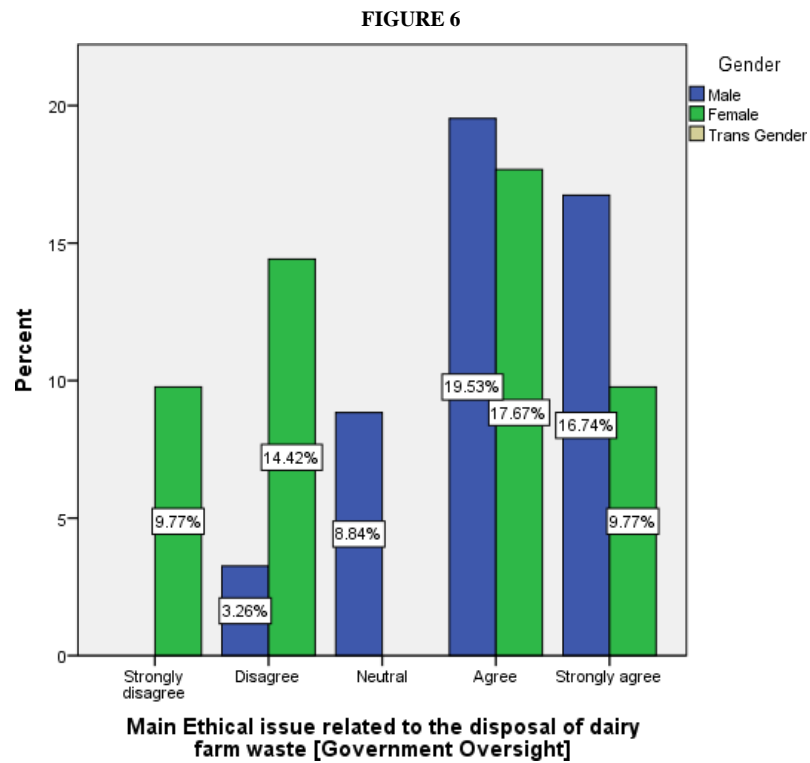
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Figure 6 Shows the main ethical issues related to the disposal of dairy farm waste as government oversight.

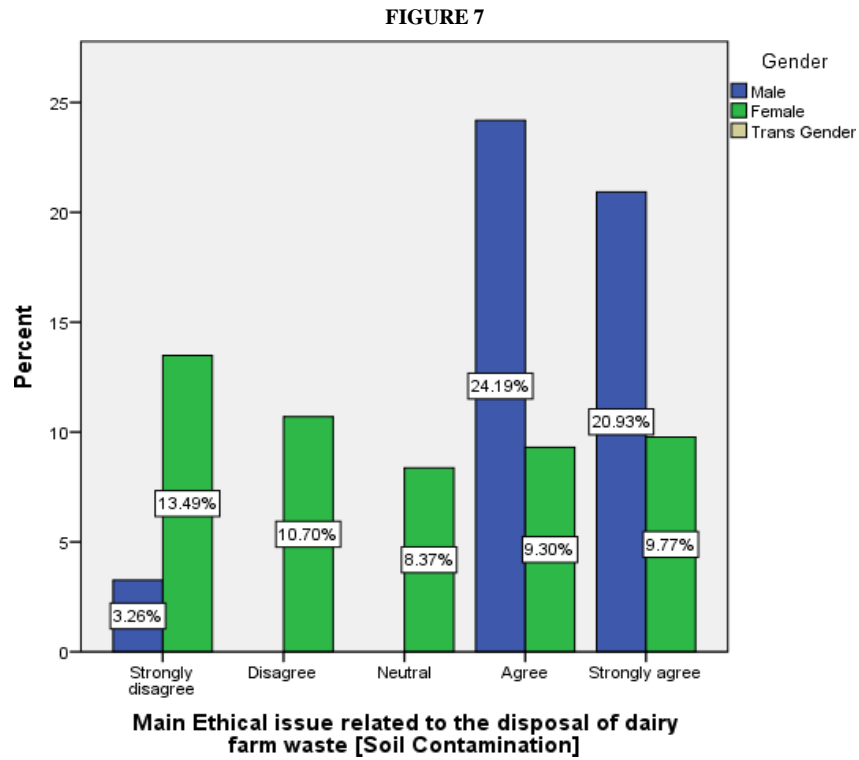
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Figure 7 Shows the main ethical issues related to the disposal of dairy farm waste as soil contamination.

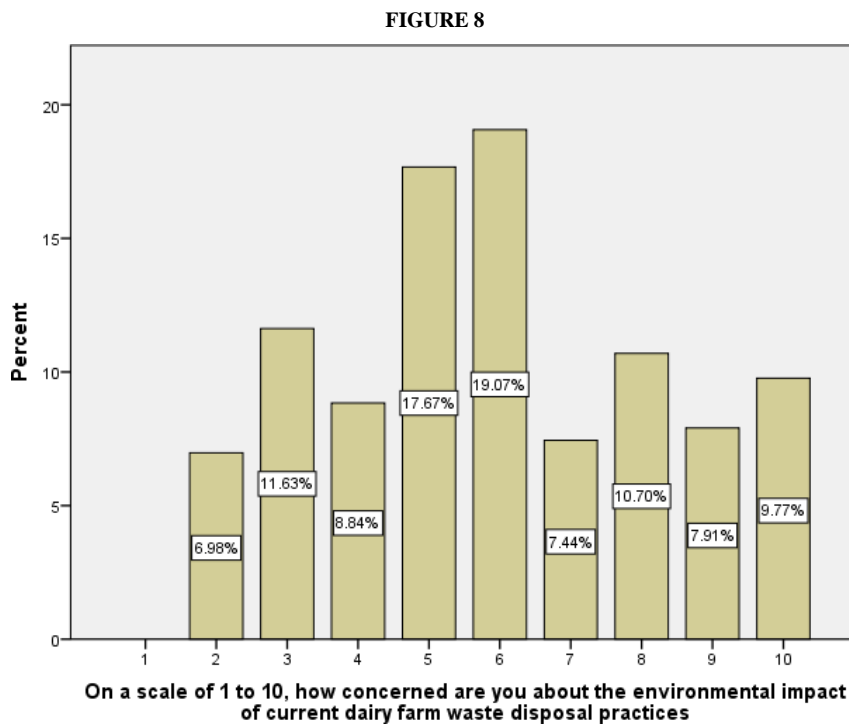
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Figure 8 Shows the rating on scale of 1-10 that how concerned about the environmental impact of current dairy farm waste disposal practices.

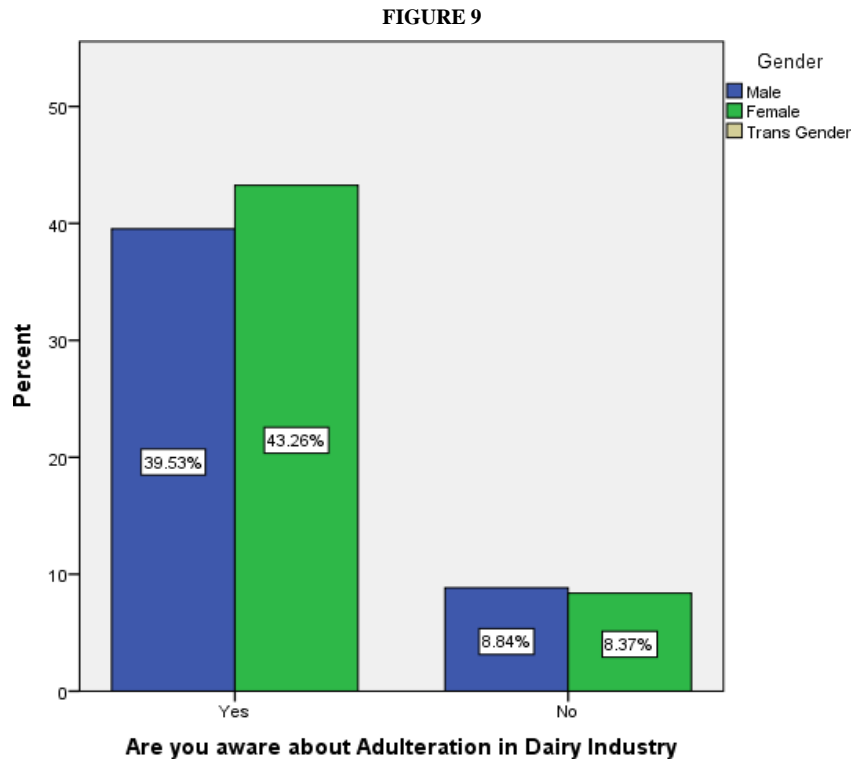
**LEGEND**

Figure 9 Shows the awareness about Adulteration in Dairy Industry.

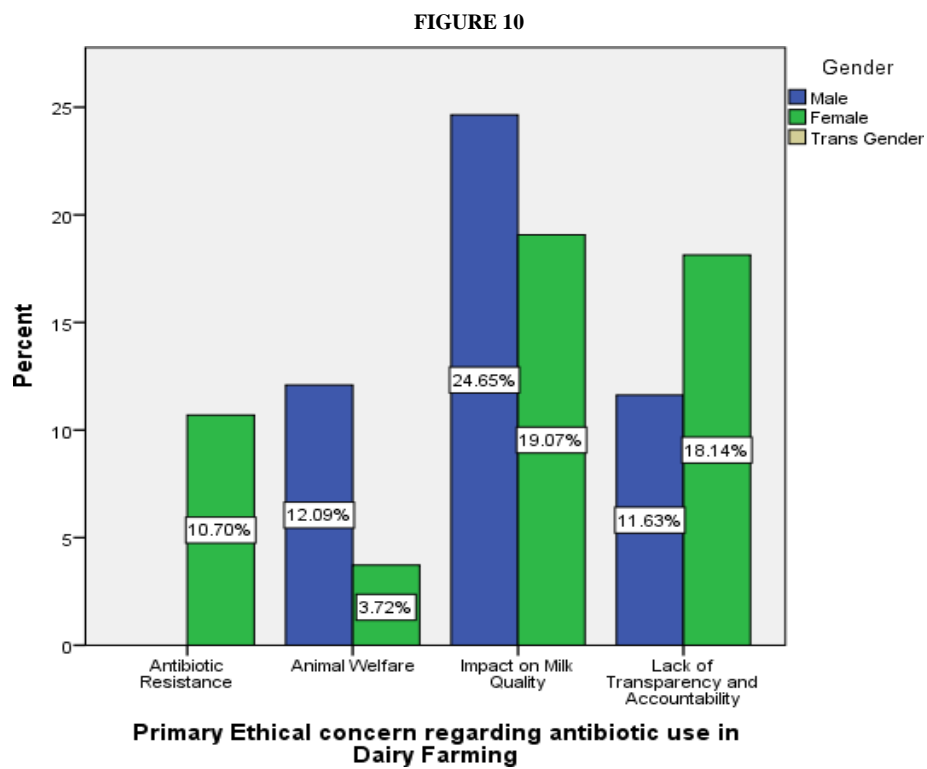
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Figure 10 Shows the primary ethical concern regarding antibiotic use in Dairy Farming.

Results

Figure 1 shows that 82.79% of the people surveyed are aware of adulteration in the dairy industry, while 17.21% are not aware. **Figure 2** shows the Primary ethical concern regarding antibiotic use in dairy farming: Antibiotic resistance: 43.72%, Animal welfare: 29.77%, Impact on milk quality: 15.81%, Lack of transparency and accountability: 10.70% . **Figure 3** graph shows the percentage of people who strongly disagree with the statement "Reducing waste generation to save the environment is the main ethical issue related to the disposal of dairy farm waste" Overall, 19.77% of respondents strongly disagree with the statement. The percentage of people who strongly disagree varies by gender: Males: 19.53%, Females: 17.67% , A smaller percentage of people in each gender category expressed strong agreement with the statement (3.26% to 9.77%). **Figure 4** the graph addresses opinions on the statement "Ensuring proper waste disposal to protect the environment is the main ethical issue related to the disposal of dairy farm waste." **Figure 5** Most respondents across genders don't strongly agree that ensuring proper waste disposal is the top ethical concern for dairy farm waste; Significant agreement exists (26-27%), but further exploration of ethical priorities is needed. **Figure 6** Significant percentages of people across genders disagree that government oversight is the main ethical issue in dairy farm waste disposal; Agreement levels vary, with the highest at 18.84% among females and the lowest at 9.77% among males and transgender individuals. **Figure 7** According to the graph, the main ecological issue related to the disposal of dairy farm waste is soil contamination; This concern is particularly pronounced among males, with 24.19% strongly disagreeing that other issues take precedence. **Figure 8** Most respondents are moderately concerned about the environmental impact of current dairy farm waste disposal practices, with the highest percentage (17.67%) expressing a concern level of 7 out of 10; Concern levels are fairly evenly distributed across the 5-9 range, suggesting a widespread awareness of potential environmental impacts. **Figure 9** The vast majority of people surveyed (82.79%) are aware of adulteration in the dairy industry; However, a notable minority (17.21%) still remain unaware, suggesting a need for continued education and awareness campaigns. **Figure 10** Antibiotic resistance is the top ethical concern about antibiotic use in dairy farming, cited by 43.72% of respondents; Animal welfare is the second-highest concern at 29.77%, reflecting growing awareness of animal well-being in food production. respectively; This suggests that soil contamination is the most statistically significant ecological concern regarding dairy harmful waste disposal.

Discussion

Personal impact and investigative angle: "From watered-down milk to harmful additives, dairy adulteration threatens our health and trust. Share your experiences or concerns, and let's explore ways to ensure safe and ethical dairy consumption." Industry-focused and solution-oriented: "Adulteration casts a shadow on the entire dairy sector. Let's discuss stricter regulations, transparency measures, and technological advancements to combat this menace and rebuild consumer confidence." Antibiotic overuse breeds resistance, jeopardizing human health by creating untreatable infections, while intensive farming practices compromise cow welfare and contribute to antibiotic residues in milk, raising food safety concerns. Balancing animal welfare, food security, and public health demands responsible antibiotic use, exploring alternatives like improved hygiene and vaccinations, and prioritizing ethical farming practices that minimize reliance on antibiotics. Dairy farm waste disposal raises significant environmental concerns, warranting a 7-8 out of 10 on the concern scale. The pollution of water bodies, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil degradation from improper waste management pose threats to ecosystems and public health. While technological advancements offer hope for mitigation, continued vigilance and stricter regulations are crucial.

Limitations

Animal subjectivity limitations: Measuring animal suffering and mistreatment is inherently subjective, leading to potential bias and difficulty in quantifying ethical violations. Focus on specific practices: The study might not encompass the full spectrum of ethical concerns within the dairy industry, potentially overlooking broader issues like environmental impact and worker welfare. Generalizability: Findings from a specific region or set of dairy farms might not be generalizable to the entire industry, limiting the broader applicability of the research. Actionable recommendations: While identifying ethical shortcomings is crucial, the study might lack concrete recommendations for implementing ethical practices and fostering industry-wide change.

Conclusion

Quantify the prevalence of different forms of mistreatment (e.g., overcrowding, confinement, inadequate feed and water, painful procedures) in dairy farms across different regions or production systems; Analyze factors contributing to mistreatment, such as economic pressures, farm size, management practices, and regulatory frameworks. Assess the integration of ethical considerations (e.g., animal welfare, sustainability, environmental impact) into decision-making processes within the dairy industry; Evaluate the effectiveness of existing ethical certification schemes and labeling initiatives in promoting better animal welfare practices. This research could provide valuable insights into the current state of the dairy industry regarding its incorporation of ethical values and its approach to animal welfare. The findings could inform the development of: Policy recommendations: Strengthening regulations and enforcement mechanisms to ensure humane treatment of animals in the dairy industry; Industry best practices: Implementing ethical guidelines and standards for dairy production that prioritize animal welfare; Consumer education initiatives: Raising awareness about animal welfare concerns in the dairy industry and empowering consumers to make informed choices. By conducting a rigorous and comprehensive study on this topic, researchers can contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the ethics of dairy production and promote the development of a more sustainable and humane industry.

The study should be geographically relevant to Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, to provide insights into the local context and challenges of ethical dairy production; It is important to consider the diverse perspectives and stakeholders involved in the dairy industry, including farmers, consumers, animal

welfare advocates, and industry representatives; The research should be conducted in a rigorous and objective manner, using appropriate methodologies and data analysis techniques.

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