
1. From the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences):

(a) Outline the aim of the study. [2]

The aim of the study was to investigate whether sex differences in toy preferences in human children is a result of biological factors like differences in male and female hormones rather than socialisation.

(b) Name two features of the sample used in the study. [2]

One feature was that the monkeys were all rhesus monkeys.

Another feature was that they lived in troops consisting of both adult and infant monkeys.

2. (a) Describe two controls maintained in the study. [4]

One control was that the monkeys were kept indoors as the toys were arranged for any trials. This was done to prevent the monkeys from damaging the toys or displacing them, which would make it impossible to conduct trials.

Another control was that the order of positioning the toys to either the left or right of the outdoor enclosure was counterbalanced across trials. This was done to ensure that only the nature of the toys and not their preference was a cause for monkey's preferences for them.

(b) Two friends, Punj and Raghu, are discussing the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences) in terms of generalising to everyday life.

Punj believes this study is generalisable to everyday life but Raghav believes this study is not generalisable to everyday life .

Outline why you think either Punj or Raghu is correct, using evidence from the study.

[4]

I think Raghav is correct as the findings of the study are largely not generalisable to everyday life. The monkeys included in the study were all from Yerkes National Primate Research Center Field Station. These monkeys live in restricted spaces, limited social groups and lack opportunities for natural foraging and exploration. Thus, due to limited foraging opportunities, the monkeys might have taken a special interest in the toys to overcome their boredom and lack of natural stimulation in the enclosure. This would not be the case with wild monkeys in the jungle.

3. (a) Explain one methodological weakness of this study.

One methodological weakness is that the standardised procedure was disrupted on one trial in which a monkey ripped apart a plush toy. This caused the trial to be shortened to 18 minutes while the other trials in the study were of 25 minutes each, potentially reducing reliability of results.

(b) Suggest one real-world application of this study.

One real-world application of this study is in the designing of toys for children. The findings of the study show that boys are naturally more likely to play with activity-enabling toys, for example. Therefore, to encourage the development of empathy in boys, wheeled toys can be designed such that they have human features like eyes, noses and mouths so that boys think about their 'feelings' when they naturally reach out to play with them.

(c) Give one strength of using animals as participants in this study.

One strength of using animals is that researchers could clearly distinguish whether toy preferences in children come from biological factors like hormones or socialisation. Since animals are not socialised, that is, conditioned to prefer certain types of toys over others, if they showed a certain toy preference according to their sex, researchers could conclude that their preference was due to biological factors only.

4. Explain one similarity and one difference between the study by Dement and Kleitman (sleep and dreams) and the study by Hassett et al. (monkey toy preferences).

One similarity was the support of nature in terms of the nature versus nurture debate in both studies. In the study by Dement and Kleitman, dreaming behaviour was attributed to the rapid-eye movement (REM) stage of sleep. The REM stage occurs universally in every human being during sleep and therefore, increased frequency of dreaming during this stage suggests a natural cause of dreaming. Likewise, in the Hassett et al. study, toy preferences were attributed to naturally occurring hormones like testosterone and oestrogen in males and females respectively. A preference of wheeled toys was explained in terms of desire for greater activity facilitated by testosterone in males and a preference for plush toys was explained in terms of greater passivity facilitated by oestrogen in females.

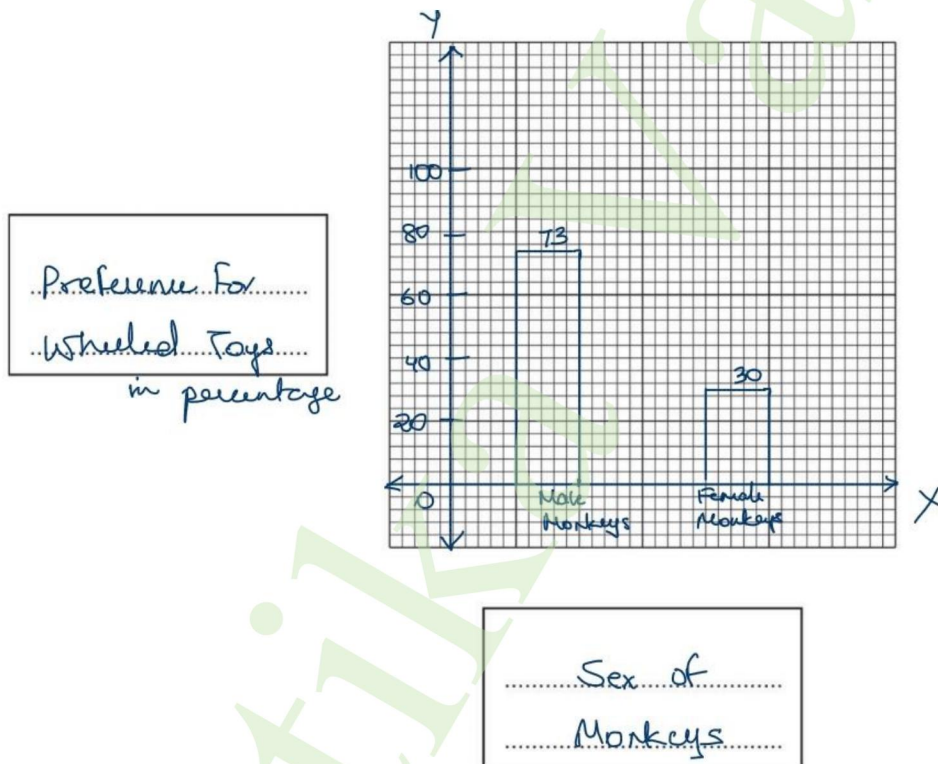
One difference was in the way of measurement of the dependent variable. In the Dement and study, dream content of participants was measured using self-report. Participants had to narrate their dream recall into an audio-recording device from where it was analysed for which stage it was more likely to occur in, its length, direction of activity seen in it, etc. by researchers. In the Hassett et al. study, toy preferences of monkeys were measured using observation. Using structured checklists, two observers independently coded behaviours of monkeys indicative of preference for toys such as holding, sitting on, grabbing, etc.

5. The study by Hasett et al. (toy preferences) measured the toy preferences of male and female monkeys.

The following table represents the data obtained from the study-

(i) Draw a bar chart of the data from table, on the axes provided. You must label the axes.

	Male Monkeys	Female Monkeys
Preference for Wheeled Toys in percentage	73	30



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