

ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF COGNITIVE EXPERIMENTS ON THE WELFARE OF CAPTIVE CHIMPANZEES BY DIRECT COMPARISON OF ACTIVITY BUDGET BETWEEN WILD AND CAPTIVITY

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One goal of captive management is to make the activity budget of captive animals closer to wild counterparts. However, few studies have directly compared the activity budget between wild and captivity. In addition, behavioural consequence of achieving the activity budget in captivity similar to wild remains unknown. We focused on the cognitive experiments conducted on chimpanzees at Primate Research Institute (Kyoto University) since the experiments might serve as a good opportunity for feeding enrichment. We compared the activity budget among three groups of chimpanzees; wild chimpanzees in Bossou (Guinea), captive chimpanzees who participate in the experiments (participant chimpanzees) and who don't participate in the experiments (non-participant chimpanzees). The data from captivity were obtained both in the experimental days (weekdays) and non-experimental days (weekends). In the both field sites, the first author followed the chimpanzees by using focal animal sampling method and recorded the behaviours every one minute. The results showed that on weekdays, feeding time and resting time of participant chimpanzees were almost the same with wild chimpanzees, whereas those of non-participant chimpanzees were significantly different. In contrast, activity budget of the both groups of captive chimpanzees were not different on weekends. These results suggested that the cognitive experiments work as an efficient tool for increasing feeding opportunity. However, we still observed individual variation in the rate of abnormal behaviours and stress related behaviours during and outside of the experiments. Based on the results, we will discuss the applicability and limitation of the cognitive experiments for environmental enrichment.

Keywords: Welfare, Cognitive Experiments, Chimpanzees, Activity Budget