

What do boys and their mothers in my housing society think about street dogs?

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Aged 9 India



My topic

I live in a gated housing society of several blocks of flats in a big city in India. My topic is street dogs. There are many stray dogs in India . Some of them live inside my housing society and others live outside on the street.

I chose this topic because they have their own life. They have their freedom. They don't need to have people throwing stones at them. The people should not kill them but keep them as a pet. Last time I saw a street dog who did not eat food for 3 days. I took him home and gave him half litre of milk and he drank it whole. He was licking the last few drops in the bowl and then I petted him for an hour. He is now my pet and has been inoculated.



Street dogs eating garbage

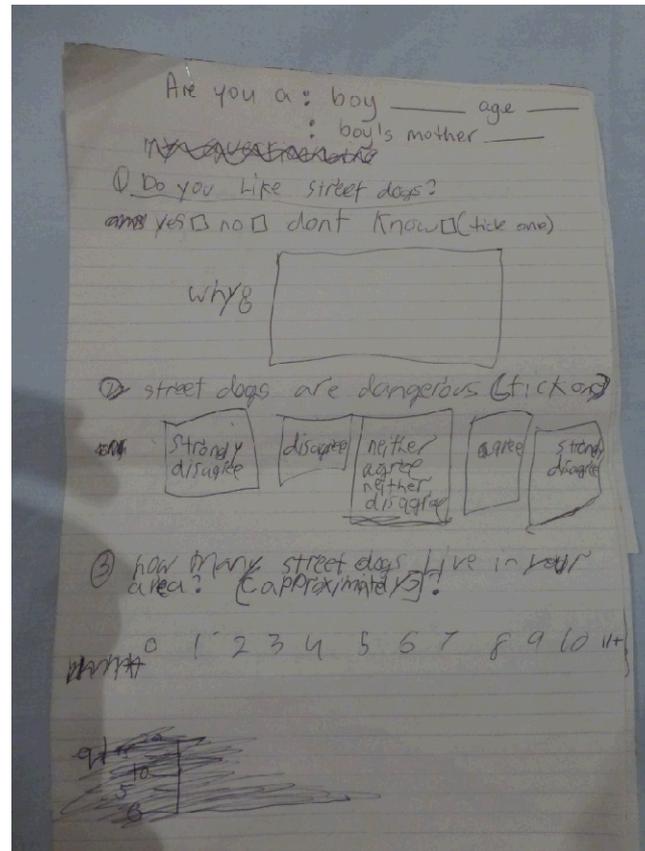
Research Question

- My research question is ‘What do boys and their mothers in my housing society think about street dogs?’
- I chose these people as it is safe for me to go to their homes. I have friends aged 9 from school. I chose mothers as fathers would be working.



Questionnaire

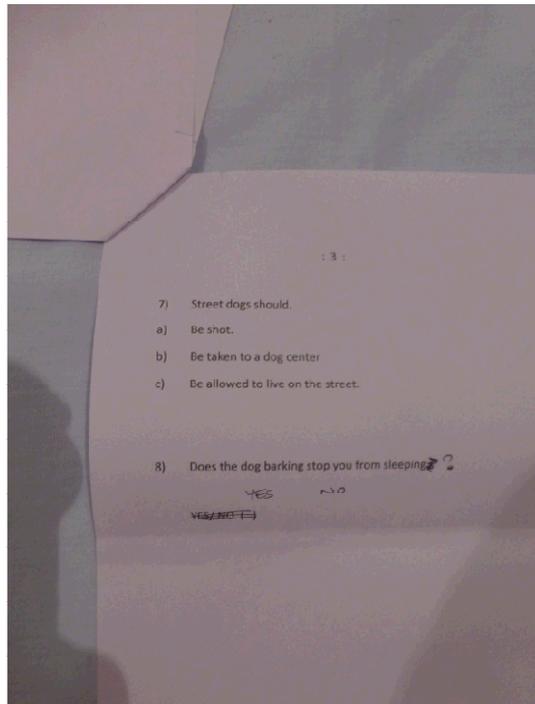
- I made a questionnaire. First I wrote questions on paper:



I learnt about Likert scale questions and some that use yes/no/don't know answers and some that use numbers. Also, I drew boxes where people could write what they want.

Questionnaire 2

- My PC was under repair so my Grandfather took my questionnaire to work and someone typed it for me. They made some mistakes!



Questionnaire 3

My questionnaire questions were:

1. Do you like street dogs? Yes...No...Don't know. Why?
2. Street dogs are dangerous. Strongly agree...agree...neither agree nor disagree...disagree...strongly disagree.
3. How many street dogs live in your area (approximately)? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+
4. Are you scared of street dogs? Yes...No. Why?
5. Do you think there are too many street dogs in our city? Yes....No
6. We should care for street dogs. Strongly agree...agree...neither agree nor disagree...disagree...strongly disagree.
7. Street dogs should a) be shot b) be taken to a dog centre c) be allowed to live on the street
8. Does the dogs' barking stop you from sleeping? Yes...No

Data collection

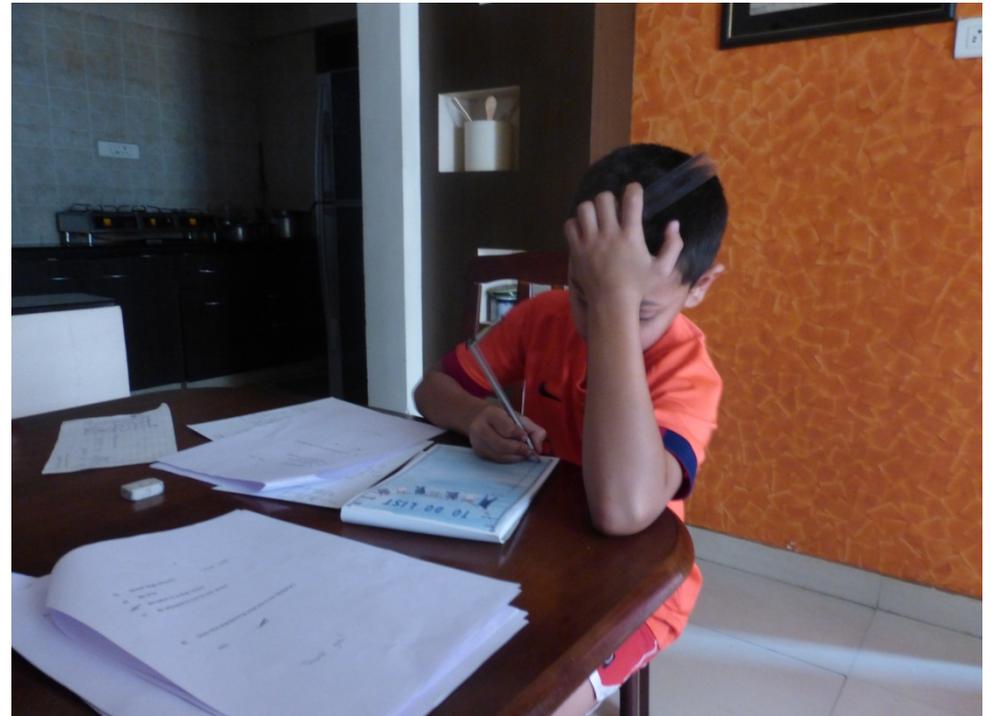
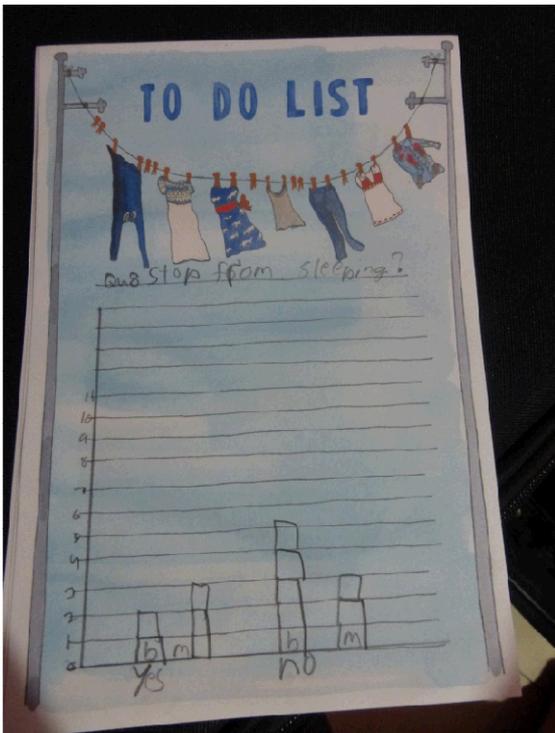
- I went to people's homes after school on two days. Some people were out so I had to go back.
- It took about 1.5 hours. I ran fast!
- 7 boys and 6 mothers did my questionnaires
- Research ethics means I should not threaten them, no blackmailing and respect their opinions. I should not tell others what they say.
- I told them what I was doing and why.

Where I live is a bit like this



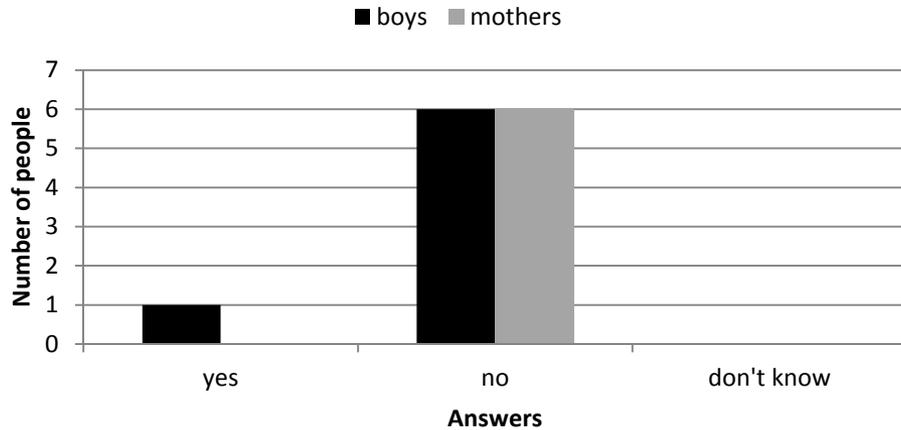
Data analysis

I added up the answers and then drew bar charts on paper:



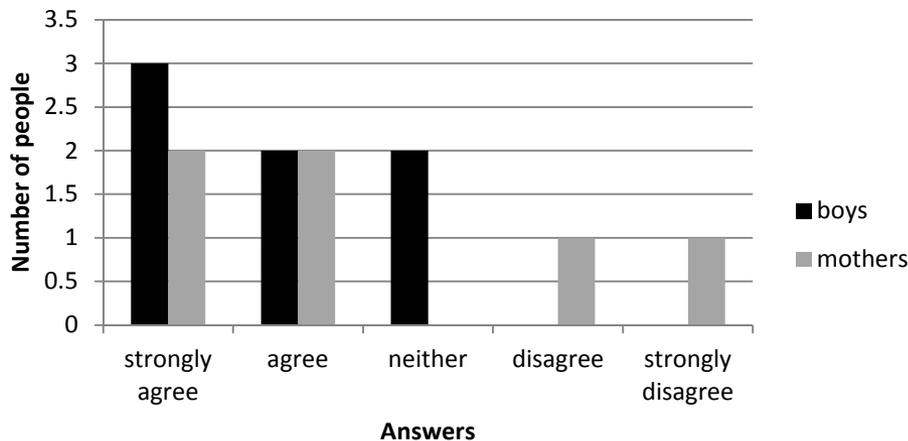
What I found out - 1

Do you like street dogs?



Most people do not like street dogs.

Street dogs are dangerous



Most people think street dogs are dangerous. But some mothers think they are not and some boys are not sure. Boys are more likely to think street dogs are dangerous. This might be because some of the dogs are big and the boys are only children.

What I found out -2

5 boys and 3 mothers said they were **scared** of street dogs

- Mothers wrote that they do not like street dogs because:

They cause panic for the kids. They are dangerous. They do not get vaccine shots and can cause disease like rabies. They can bite us.

- Boys wrote that they do not like street dogs because:

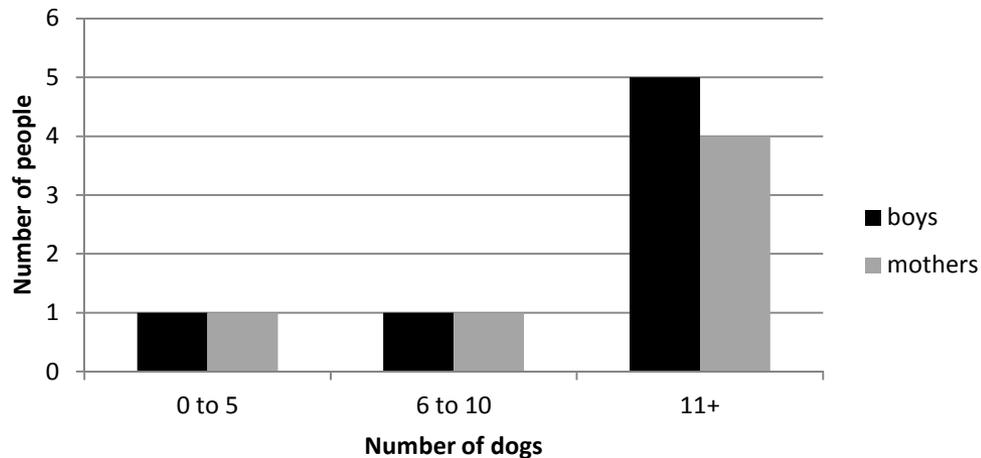
They bite us. They are infected and dangerous. They can cause disease and don't allow kids (small babies) to sleep.

Only one boy said he enjoyed being chased by street dogs.



What I found out -3

How many street dogs live in your area (approximately)?



Most people think there are more than 11 street dogs in the housing society area.

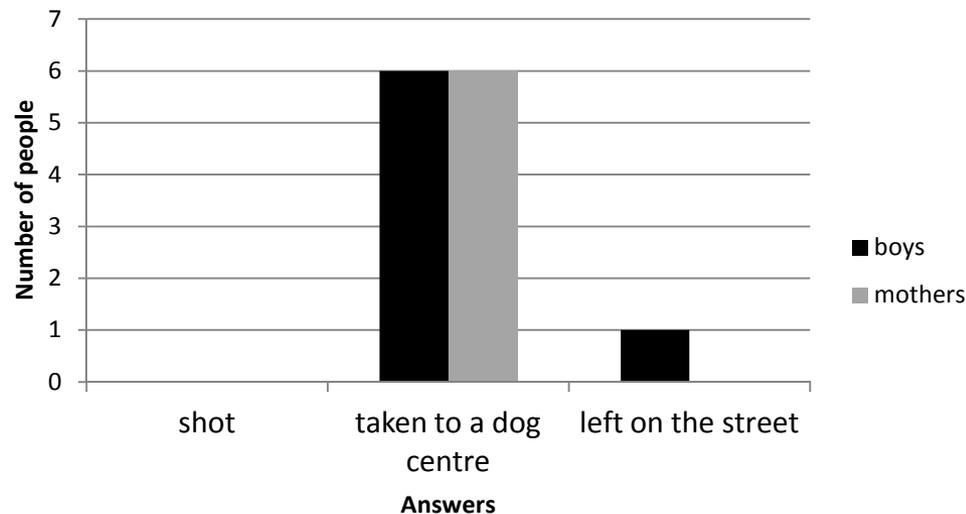
All of the boys and all of the mothers said there are **too many street dogs in their area.**

Only 2 boys and 3 mothers said that the dogs' barking kept them awake at night. There is a lot of barking! I think some people get used to it. I have.

What I found out -4

Everyone agreed that something needs to be done about the street dogs.

Street dogs should be...



Nearly everyone thought that the dogs should be cared for in a dog centre. No one wanted them to be shot.



Conclusion

- Most people who filled in my questionnaire said they don't like street dogs but still say I want to take them to dog centre.
- I have a street dog (baby) who I made a pet.



Me and my dog Leon.