Cow Day & Slumventures

1. The Indian City through the Perspective of a Cow
2. Developed or Undeveloped: Who is Happier?
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Cow Day

Molecules bounce excitedly in a state of high entropy, or become fixed in a rigid lattice in the vice versa situation. In chemistry, a system’s state can be understood by observing how molecules interact with its environment. Likewise, much can be revealed about the state of a changing society by following how its inhabitants “bounce” around its surroundings.

Cows roaming in a city are a phenomenon unique to India. Cows and other livestock have participated significantly in Indian society for thousands of years. But as cities develop at unprecedented rates and cultural mentalities begin to change, the state of the cow is also being affected. I figured following a cow and documenting its reactions to different stimuli may reveal some interesting and relatable insights about the state of the changing Indian society.

I followed three cows in regions demonstrating progressing degrees of development. The first in a rural village in Kutch, India’s most northwest region. The second in Ahmedabad’s Old City, a place that has retained many culture traditions while juxtaposed against an urbanizing setting. The third cow was found in what would be considered the “ideal urban city”. During my journey, I documented the cows’ habits of eating, pacing, defecating, and their interactions with the environment. A comparison between the three regional cows revealed interesting insights about cultural, social, and environmental changes as their interactions respond to the habits of different systems.
Where She Likes
Residential & Commercial

COWTIVITIES
- Eating
- Defecating
- Sleeping
How She Moves
Pace & Traffic

Cow Pace
*Steps per 30 seconds
- Fast
- Normal
- Stalling

Road Width
- 3 Meters
- 6 Meters
- 12 Meters+

Vehicle Typology
*1 Icon= 3 Units
- Rickshaw
- Four-Wheel
- Scooter
- Bicycle
Surverying Happiness
Methodology I went door to door at the slum and asked for their background, mood, and stories. I then asked them to describe their happiness on a scale from 1-10 and gave them that number of commercial districts nearby.

Bhorda
Statue Worker
Gulbai Tekra
6
“The government is going to destroy my home to build a bus stop”

Wathi
Widow
Gulbai Tekra
1
“My husband just died and my child is blind

Vardhan
Office Assistant
Gulbai Tekra
3
“I hate the rain”

Abha
Statue Worker
Gulbai Tekra
10
“I love the rain”

Jagdish
Flutist
Gulbai Tekra
10
“I’ve lived here for 50 years. But I am worried about my home”