

Review of Habitat Displacement on Animal Social Behaviour

Nisha Patil, Department of Zoology, Malwanchal University, Indore

Abstract

Habitat displacement caused by deforestation, urbanization, agricultural expansion, mining, infrastructure development, natural disasters, and climate change has become a major ecological concern with significant consequences for animal populations. This review examines the effects of habitat displacement on animal social behaviour, focusing on changes in communication, group structure, territoriality, mating systems, parental care, competition, cooperation, and predator–prey interactions. The alteration or loss of natural habitats can force animals to move into unfamiliar environments, modify their movement patterns, and interact with new species or neighbouring populations. Such changes may increase competition for food, shelter, and breeding sites and can disrupt established social relationships. Habitat fragmentation may also isolate populations, reduce opportunities for social interaction, and influence reproductive success and genetic exchange. In some species, animals demonstrate behavioural flexibility by modifying their feeding strategies, activity patterns, group size, and habitat use in response to environmental pressures. However, prolonged habitat displacement can result in increased stress, reduced reproductive performance, altered social hierarchies, and greater vulnerability to disease and predation. The impact varies according to species, habitat type, intensity of disturbance, and availability of alternative resources. Understanding these behavioural responses is essential for effective wildlife conservation and habitat-management strategies. Overall, the review highlights the importance of integrating animal behavioural ecology with habitat conservation to minimize the social and ecological consequences of displacement and support the long-term survival of wildlife populations.

Keywords: Habitat Displacement, Animal Behaviour, Social Behaviour, Habitat Fragmentation, Wildlife Conservation, Animal Ecology, Species Interaction, Territoriality, Reproductive Behaviour, Biodiversity.

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