

CONCEPT OF LEARNING



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MEANING AND DEFINITION

Meaning:

To common man learning is a product, a result of some process. however in the mind of the psychologist learning is a process by which some change has come about.

Definition:

Skinner- “Learning is a process of progress behaviour adoption”.



Nature of Learning

- Learning is many sided
- Learning comes only through experience
- Learning is purposeful
- Learning is active
- Learning is dependent on maturation
- Learning is both individual and social
- Learning is universal and continuous
- Learning is spontaneous and deliberate



Types of Learning

1. **Skill learning:** Skill means to do something. When we are trying to acquire a particular skill it implies sensory modification and control in the individual. Speaking, reading, writing and doing a work are the result of skill learning.
2. **Perceptual learning:** For gathering proper knowledge and experience, an individual have to observe, perceive and recognise the things and objects of his surroundings. This happens through the five senses.
3. **Conceptual learning:** It means the knowledge of concrete objects leads to abstract concepts from the structure of whole knowledge.
4. **Associative learning:** The child learns new knowledge in the light of his previous learning.
5. **Attitudinal learning:** This type of learning is based on our likes-dislikes, satisfaction- dis satisfaction etc.



Laws of Learning

According to **E.L.Thorndike**, there are three important laws of learning. They are-

The law of Readiness:

- The common saying 'well began is half done' is applicable to the law of readiness. If the learner mind is ready to act or set on a lesson, he will be able to master it quickly than a learner whose mind is not yet ready to act or learn. If a person is not ready to act, for him to do so is annoying.
- Law of readiness is indicative of the learner's state of mind to participate in the learning process.
- According to Thorndike, readiness is a preparation for action and it does not come automatically with maturation.



The Law of Frequency

- According to this law the more frequently a stimulus - induces response is repeated, the longer it will be retained. Whenever any activity is repeated, it becomes prompt, easy and definite. Exercise strengthens the bond between situation and responses.
- **The law of exercise is divided into two parts-**
 - a. Law of use and
 - b. Law of disuse



Law of use

- Thorndike believed that repetition of response strengthen the connections. This is the law of use. “Practice makes a man perfect” is based on this law.
- “ When a modifiable connection is made between a situation and a response that connection’s strength is other things being equal, increased”.



Law of disuse

- Lack of practice weakens the quality of what we have learned. Any activity that is constantly repeated becomes prompt, easy and definite. On the other hand, any activity that is left un pursued, not used, repeated or exercised for long time tends to be forgotten. This is the law of disuse.
- “When a modifiable connection is not made between a situation and a response over a length of time that connection’s strength, other things being equal, decreased”.



Law of effect

- The law of effect is related with activities which bring pleasure and satisfaction or displeasure or dissatisfaction. In simple words activities which are accompanied by pleasure satisfaction are more effectively and readily learned that activities which bring dissatisfaction, which are unpleasant or annoying. The law of effect is based on feelings.

