

# TRIAL & ERROR LEARNING

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- It may be considered as an extension of conditioning.
- It occurs when an association is built up between a certain action and a reward or punishment.
- Generally it occurs when there is an unsatisfactory response to stimulus.
- In this after responding in indifferent ways, a satisfactory response may be attained.
- If the animal learns slowly after several trials & errors, it is called "trial & error learning".

The experiment sum up the following stages of learning process :-

- ① Drive - (Hunger)
- ② Goal - (To get the food)
- ③ Hurdle / blocks - (Puzzle box - door)
- ④ Random movement
- ⑤ Success by chance
- ⑥ Selection of proper movement
- ⑦ Fixation.

EX: ~~SAATHI~~ TRIAL & ERROR BY MAZE :-

- A rat placed in a maze.
- The simplest form of maze is the "T" - maze or "Y" - maze.
- A rat is placed inside a maze.
- By trying various passageways he eventually finds the one that leads to the food source.
- After a series of trials the rat will eventually learn to run the maze without error.

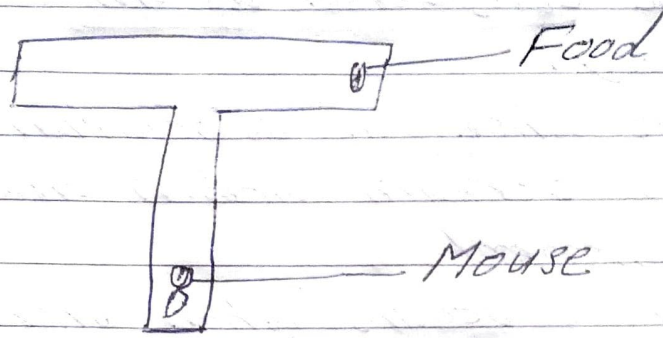


Fig: - Trail & error

⇒ REASONING/INSIGHT/COGNITION :-

- The ability to combine two or more separate or isolated experiences to form a new experience is known as reasoning - **Maier & Schneirla (1935)**.
- Reasoning may be defined as the mental process of drawing an inference from two or more than two statements or happenings.
- It is the highest evolved form of animal behaviour and only found in **Apes & Man**.
- Reasoning is often motivated by the need to reach solutions to problems involving an individual's survival.
- In reasoning, the animal must be capable of some "symbolic process" similar to the language.
- Thought to be also involved in during double alternation test.

- The organism will perceive the immediate situation, call upon past experience, deduce a logical solution and makes response.
- It is essentially a problem solving situation.

EX :-

- A chimpanzee was put in a cage with a bunch of bananas hung out of reach and some boxes were left on the floor.
- The ape had never been in this situation before.
- The chimpanzee looked at the bananas and considered the problem, then it piled the boxes on top of each other, climbed up and reached the bananas.

In such case the animal depends upon previously learned experiences and applies them in a new situation. When an animal is trained in two or more elements necessary for the solution a problem then it is seen that it can combine them satisfactorily to solve a given problem.

- This is an example of intelligence.
- This is of great survival value because it enables an animal to adapt to ever changing circumstances.
- It is developed to a very high degree in man and is the basis of many of his great achievements.