

CHAPTER 7

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Imprinting:

Chickens and ducklings are able to walk almost immediately after hatching from the egg. They recognise their mother because of a behaviour type called imprinting.



Fig. Hen with pullets

Conditioning:

Conditioning is a type of behaviour involving a response to a stimulus that is different from the natural one.

It is a type of learned behaviour.

Ivan Pavlov (1849 to 1936) was a Russian scientist who has investigated conditioning.

He discovered that dogs produced extra saliva when they were offered food.

This is a natural response to a stimulus - food, which makes a dog's mouth watery.

The saliva produced is needed to start digesting food and to make swallowing food easier.

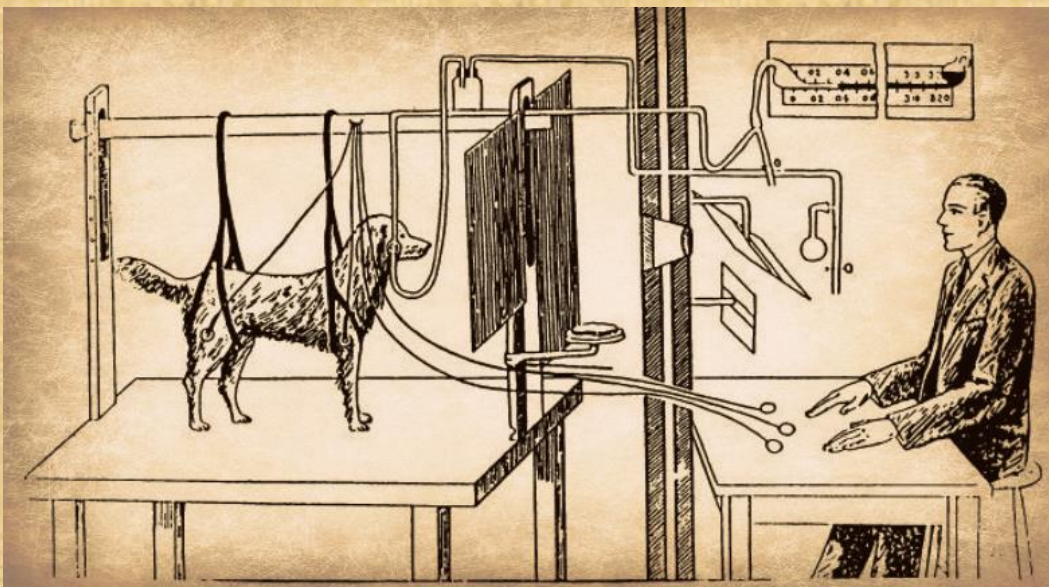


Fig. Dog Experiment

Imitation:

Imitation is a type of behaviour where one animal copies another animal. Humans often imitate each other, often without realising it.

When people talk to each other, they may stand or sit in a similar way, and copy each other's movements.

Scientists think that this happens so that the speakers feel more at ease with other.



Fig. Behaviour of Chimpanzee

Human Behaviour:

Humans show same types of behaviour as other animals. But human behaviour is often more complex because we are more intelligent and aware of ourselves.

Instinct:

Humans have instincts, but it is possible for us to overcome natural urges to follow certain behaviour.

Imitation:

People often imitate each other. This can help them learn something new and useful, such as new skill in lessons, sport or at work.

It can also lead them to show less useful or harmful behaviour.

For example, young people may start smoking, drinking alcohol or taking drugs as a result of copying each other to 'fit in'. But it is very dangerous to our health.

Conditioning

Conditioning can be used to change the behaviour of people.

By associating the product with attractive images the advertisers are trying to set up a conditioned response to their product. People will respond positively and buy the product.

Investigating behaviour:

Behaviour can be investigated in the 'field' or in the laboratory. It can be observed and measured, and experiments can be designed to test how it works.

Human behaviour is affected by many variables.

Investigations in the field

Some scientists spend many hours watching and studying the behaviour of animals.

They may be interested in how the animals live alone, group into families or form large groups such as herds.

Tagging

You have studied about bird migration in the chapter biodiversity and its conservation.

Like birds some other animals also migrate over large distances to find food or nesting sites.

Animals can be 'tagged' by attaching tracking devices to them.

Activity-1

Let us observe the following behaviours of different animals. Identify their imprinting, instinct, conditioning or imitation.

- Our pet dog barks only on strangers.
- Ants which usually go in a line reach sweet kept in a tin.
- Mosquitoes, cockroaches come out of their places only when it is dark.
- Bats and owl move and search for food only during night .

- When you untie the neck of your bull at the time of ploughing, it moves towards plough without any instructions.

