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# Insight theory of learning

P.G. Sem -1

CC -1

Psychology

# Insight theory of learning

- ▶ Gestalt Psychologist developed a new theory of learning popularly known as theory of insight.
- ▶ The word Gestalt in German language means 'whole'.
- ▶ This school believes that the whole is more important than the parts. So learning also takes place as a whole

# Cont..

- ▶ The theory is associated with the name of Kohler who conducted a series of experiments on chimpanzees named Sultan.

# Insight

- ▶ These experiments by Kohler show that animal must perceive the total situation and relationship among all relevant parts of the problem before insight can occur in solving the problem.
- ▶ The individual and his environment form a psychological field. The perception of the field and gradual restructuring of it is insight.

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- ▶ These experiments point out that insight follows a trail and error behaviour on the part of the animal.
- ▶ Once the animal learns to solve a problem by insight, there is every possibility of higher degree of transfer of similar problems.

# Criterion of Learning by Insight:

- ▶ Learning by insight requires full comprehension of the situation as a whole.
- ▶ Insight is sudden.
- ▶ The goal must be quite and clear.
- ▶ Transfer of learning occurs as a result of insight. The principles learnt in one situation are applied to the other situation.

# Cont..

- ▶ Suddenness of the solution is the hall mark of learning by insight i.e., the solution flashes suddenly to the learner.
- ▶ In Woodworth's opinion, insight is sometimes hind sight at others it is foresight.
- ▶ Previous experience is of assistance in insight.



# Principles involved in insight learning

- ▶ 1. Law of figure ground
- ▶ 2. Law of pragnanz
- ▶ 3. Law of continuity
- ▶ 4. Law of similarity
- ▶ 5. Law of proximity

# Criticism

- ▶ Every kind of learning for example, reading , writing, speaking etc., cannot be satisfactorily explained by the laws of gestalt.
- ▶ A pattern of dynamic relationship discovered in one situation may be applied to another. But what exists in common is not identical piecemeal elements but common pattern or relationship.