

## **Quadrant II – Notes**

**Programme : Bachelor of Science (First year)**

**Subject : Zoology**

**Paper Code : ZOG 102**

**Paper Title : Animal Behaviour**

**Unit : Patterns of Behaviour**

**Module Name : Instinct vs Learnt Behaviour**

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### **NOTES**

#### **INSTINCT VS LEARNT BEHAVIOUR**

Instinct behaviour or innate behaviour is a type of behaviour where in an organisms behaviour is entirely genetically based. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines instinct behavior as a largely inheritable and unalterable tendency of an organism to make a complex and specific response to environmental stimuli without involving reason. It is natural response and can be observed in all the animals of the particular species and these are not altered by learning. These behavioral responses are necessary for the survival of the species and are governed by genes. The environmental triggers stimulate the responses of the innate behaviour in animals.

Thorpe's defined learnt behaviour as the process that manifests itself by adaptive changes in individual behaviour as a result of experience. Learnt behaviour is not inherited and an organism acquires it over a period during its lifetime. It has been observed that animals that are isolated, may show different behaviour with respect to its environment and experiences. Learned behaviour can be learned or unlearned during the course of lifetime. It can be progressive, can be refined over the course of life time.

<b>Instinct Behavior</b>	<b>Learnt Behavior</b>
Genetically based	Based on experience
Inherited from parents	Not inherited from parents
Does not depend on the environmental factors	Depends on environmental factors
Behaviour represented by all the members of the species	Behaviour is exhibited by an organism undergone the experience.
Uniform throughout population	Can differ from organism to organism
Present at birth	Develops during life span of organism
Behaviour does not change with experience	Modification can take place as a result of experience
Develops by natural selection	Develops in response to the environment and experience
Increases the chances of survival and reproduction	May or may not increase the chances of survival and reproduction