

(d) Sensitisation →: It is the opposite kind of change where habituation means to become less sensitive to a stimulus, but sensitisation means to become more sensitive to a stimulus. e.g. If an Aplysia, receives an annoying stimulus such as an electric shock on the tail, it then responds more readily to other stimuli it has become more sensitive.

Examples of Habituation :-

(A) A study by Clark (1960) on the Nereis illustrates some of the typical features of habituation. Nereis is an annelid marine worm which lives in burrow constructs in mud. The worms head protrude from the tube whilst it feeds from the surface of mud. At such a time variety of sudden stimulus is caused, the worm to Jerk back rapidly into the burrow, but in the lab. He found that a variety of stimulus such as jarring the basin touching the head of worm a sudden shade passing over would all cause rapid retraction into the tube, but the majority of worms emerged within a minute. So Clark found that habituation occurs more rapidly if stimuli were given to closer together.

(B) Habituation was first reported in 1877 by investigators testing the reaction of spiders to vibrating tuning fork. When the fork was vibrated a spider would drop from its web by a thread to a distance of half meter. It would remain there for a time before returning to the web, with repeated tests and the spider gradually reduce the distance to which dropped and shorten the time of its return remained on the web in spite of vibrations.

(C) Various birds are preyed up on by hawk. Tinbergen has shown that these birds will fly if a hawk silhouette is displayed over head. This shows a verbal of habituation.

Finally it should be stressed that habituation is an important process where by an animal adjusts its behaviour to its environment animal adjusts its behaviour to its environment not all stimuli have their attendant consequence and the animal learns to ignore the neutral stimuli.