

## Rewards and Punishments

Rewards and punishments are the potent and powerful incentives. They can be safely used for the achievement of desired motivation in the classroom situations. Both of these are powerful incentives and try to influence the future conduct or learning of an organism favourably.

- While punishment as a negative motive is based on fear of failure, fear of losing prestige, fame and name, fear of insult, fear of pain and so on.
- The reward as a positive motive seeks to influence conduct and learning favourably by associating a pleasant feeling with the desired act. We should avoid using punishment as a motivating agent.
- Punishment kills resourcefulness, initiative, the spirit of freethinking and adventurous activities.
- On the other hand, the reward should be encouraged as a motivating agent. The reward has psychological value and it creates self - respect, self - confidence, the spirit of creative activities and other feelings of comfort and happiness.

### Effectiveness of Reward and Punishment

The effectiveness of the reward and punishment is based on the personality of the learner as well as of the person who gives them. As a rule or law, we should not avoid punishment always, as sometimes punishment brings more improvement than reward. At the same time, indiscriminate and unqualified use of reward proves harmful and puts an end to the efforts. The punishment immediately corrects wrong doers and warns the other doers not to repeat the same mistakes. The punishment should always be in proportionate to the mistakes done by the individual. Therefore, the teacher should be very careful in using reward or punishment as an incentive or a motive to motivate his students.

### Advantages of Rewards

1. Rewards serve as positive reinforcers.
2. Rewards always associate with pleasurable feelings and motivates the learner to repeat the act.
3. As they provide pleasurable feelings, they generate interest and enthusiasm.
4. Rewards provide satisfaction.
5. Rewards encourage equally talented persons.
6. Rewards appeal to ego maximization and develop high morale.



### Limitations of Rewards

1. Rewards will not motivate all students.
2. As the rewards are extrinsic, they may not develop intrinsic interest in learning.
3. Rewards tempt the learner to get them by any means, sometimes illegally.
4. If anyone fails to achieve rewards he gets disappointment and he tries to put an end to his life or becomes neurotic.
5. Rewards create unhealthy competition among the students.
6. Only a few children may hope to win.

### Advantages of Punishment

1. Punishments serve as negative reinforcers.
2. As punishments always associate with sorrow or painful feelings most of them are afraid of committing mistakes or crimes.
3. They often act as a deterrent of wrong behaviour.
4. Punishment are tools of discipline in the minds of the learners.
5. If the punishments are proportionate to the mistake with proper explanation, they create conducive environment for learning.
6. They are useful, if they appear as natural consequences of an undesirable act.
7. They are useful, if they are used in combination with reward for correct behaviour.
8. Punishments control not only the behaviour of the person who had received punishment but also others who had not received the punishment.
9. They are useful, when the person understands that the act was undesirable and the same punishment would be applicable to all

### Limitations of Punishments

1. The punishments are based on fear and therefore they are not healthy practices.
2. They reinforce the undesirable conduct by overemphasis.
3. They create unpleasant feelings and are associated with failure.
4. The results of punishment are not always permanent.
5. They will create ill feelings towards teacher and society.
6. Punishments that are severe to one pupil may not be severe to another.
7. They lose effectiveness, if the child is not afraid or willing to accept punishments.
8. There is no reliable measure for punishments.

In brief, both rewards and punishments can be used by the tactful and talented teachers for the betterment of the students.

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