Applications of Reinforcement

Psychology 390
Psychology of Learning
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Token Economies

• Is designed to provide secondary reinforcers (tokens) for appropriate behavior.
• Can also be removed for inappropriate behavior.
• Is often used in group homes, educational settings, and institutional settings.

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Usually
• Give tokens for appropriate behavior.
• Remove tokens for inappropriate behavior.

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Tokens
• Tokens can be anything
  • Stars
  • Coins
  • Cigarettes

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Educational Settings
• Can use token economies for early grades to increase student performance
  • Stars
• Can use VI pop quizzes to increase studying behavior for college students.
  • Especially, if the quizzes are worth a lot of points.

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Work Settings
• Applications of reinforcement applications can increase work performance.
  • Bonuses for work completion.
  • Use of FR schedules.
• Use of FI schedules can be ineffective in increasing behavior.
  • Delay is long between reinforcers (every two weeks)
  • Get post reinforcement pauses.
  • Poor work performance on Mondays after Friday paydays.
Medical Settings

- Use reinforcers to for weight reduction, food control for diabetes, etc.
- Good job for flossing,
- Insurance reductions for not smoking, weight control, etc can increase ”healthy” behaviors.

Counseling Settings

- Use of reinforcement is mandatory in making behavioral changes.
- Can be used in family counseling, child counseling, or individual counseling, etc.

Domestic Companions (Pets)

- Use shaping with reinforcement.
- Can modify many types of behavior.

Conclusion

- Reinforcement applications can be used everywhere and generally with everything.