Chapter - III

Problem and Hypotheses

It is evident from the discussion in the preceding chapters that the level of performance improves as a result of feedback in laboratory (Church and Camp, 1965; and Leamon, 1974) and also in the field (Catano, 1976; and Hundal, 1969). These altered levels of performance are the results of the altered level of self-confidence which differs in men and women. Since the women tend to show a lower level of self-confidence, it seems plausible that the effect of feedback on self-confidence of men and women would differ.

This hypothesis was tested by McMahan (1973), and Corbin et al. (1984). They have shown that these differences are eliminated as a result of feedback. However, such results are suspect, since they have come from the studies in which they were not jointly main focuses of attention. The findings must be verified before using feedback as reinforcer for raising the self-confidence of women and men (McCarty, 1986). Keeping this in mind the investigator chose the following problem.
Problem:

To study the effect of feedback on self-confidence of both men and women.

The following hypotheses were formulated:

Hypotheses:

(i) Women would have lower self-confidence than men in no feedback condition.

(ii) Positive feedback would increase the level of self-confidence of Ss.

(iii) There would be a decrement in the level of self-confidence of the Ss given negative feedback.

(iv) The effect of both positive and negative feedback on self-confidence of men and women would not differ significantly.