

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapeeth Lakhisarai

Arun Kumar Gupta

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LESSON 1 Reproduction in Organisms

In animals, species which possess both male and female reproductive organs in same individual are called **bisexual** or **hermaphrodites** (earthworm, sponges, tapeworm etc.) and both having either male or female reproductive organs are called **unisexual** (cockroach, human).

- Gametes are always **haploid**(having half set of chromosome), although organisms may be haploid and diploid. Diploid organisms form gametes by meiotic division. The organisms belonging to algae, fungi, and bryophytes have haploid plant body and pteridophytes, gymnosperms, angiosperms and most of animals are **diploid** (having double set of chromosome)

- In diploid organisms, gamete mother cell (**meiocyte**) undergoes meiosis in which one set of chromosome is present in gametes.

b. Gamete Transfer – in majority of organisms, male gametes are motile and females gametes are non-motile, except in fungi and algae in which both gametes are motile.

- In simple plants like algae, fungi, bryophytes and pteridophytes water is the medium through which male and female gametes moves. The number of male gametes are much more than number of female gametes as most of male gametes fail to reach the female gametes.