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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VI

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Life around us :

Life: It is a process seen only in living objects in the form of growth, movement, feeding or eating, sensitivity, respiration, excretion and reproduction.

Characteristics of the living things: All living things on this earth possess certain basic characteristics. These include the following:

1. **Growth:** It is defined as the permanent irreversible increase in the size and total weight of the living object.

- Animals grow for a certain period.
- In case of trees, growth takes place throughout the life.
- Growth in plants and animals is influenced by several factors like food, climate, life style, etc.

2. **Life Span:** Each animal lives for a certain period. This period is referred to as life span.

3. **Movement:** Change in the position from one place to other is called movement.

- Locomotion: The movement involving change of place in animals is called locomotion.
- Animals use wings (bird), fins (fish), limbs (cow, horse, buffalo, man) for locomotion.
- Plants generally show movements of various parts, e.g., flower buds open, roots grow away from light, when we touch the leaves of mimosa (touch me not), they shrivel up.

Cellular Structure

- Cells constitute plants and animal bodies.
- Cells are organised in various ways in different organisms.
- They help in carrying out various functions like nutrition, respiration, etc.
- They are called structural and functional unit of all living organisms.

4. **Nutrition:** The process of taking food by organisms is generally referred to as nutrition or nourishment.

- Food and water are essential for life.
- Food provides energy that helps in the growth of body and its repair.
- Autotrophs: They are the living forms which can synthesize their own food by photosynthesis, e.g., green plants.
- Heterotrophs: They are the living organisms which cannot manufacture their own food, e.g., all animals.
- Saprophytes: The living organisms which obtain their nutrition from the dead plants and animals are called saprophytes.
- Parasites: The plants and animals that feed on the other living bodies are called parasites.