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STUDY NOTES

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CLASS- VIII (All Section)

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Science

CHAPTER: 9 Puberty and Adolescence

Today's Topic: Secondary sexual characters

Secondary sexual characters:

Apart from a general spurt in growth, there are other physiological changes that take place at puberty. These changes include the growth of facial hair (moustache and beard) and hair on the chest in boys and hair growth under the arms and in the pubic region in both boys and girls. In addition, in girls, the milk secreting or **mammary glands** develop inside the breasts. These features help distinguish between males and females and are called **secondary sexual characters**.

The secondary sexual characteristics are brought about at puberty by the **male hormone testosterone** in men and the **female hormone oestrogen** in women. Testosterone is produced in the testes of males, while oestrogen and progesterone are produced in the ovaries of females. These hormones are also known as **sex hormones**. The production of testosterone and oestrogen is controlled by a hormone secreted by the **pituitary gland**. The

pituitary gland and several other glands make up the **endocrine system**.

Role of hormones in reproductive function:

The pituitary gland is often called the master gland because the secretions from it control a wide range of activities in the body. The pituitary secretes several hormones, one of which makes the ova mature in the ovaries and initiates sperm formation in the testes. Stimulated by the pituitary glands, the testes and ovaries also secrete sex hormones, which are released into the bloodstream and reach particular body parts called target sites. The action of the hormones at the target sites in turn leads to the development of secondary sexual characters.

Mammary glands: Milk secreting organ of female mammals.

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