VIDYA BHAWAN, BALIKA VIDYAPITH

SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHRAM, LAKHISARAI - 811311

STUDY NOTES Teacher's Name: Anjani Kaushik

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Science

CHAPTER: 6 Structure and functions of cells

Today's Topic: Structure and function of cells.

Size of Cells:

Cells are found in different sizes. It can be small as a millionth of a metre (million micrometer) or as large as a few centimetres. Apart from a few, most of the cells are very small and cannot be seen by naked eves. These can be seen only through a powerful microscope. The smallest cell is the bacterial cell which is about 0.1 to 0.5 micrometre. 1he largest cell is the cell of an ostrich. It measures 170 mm = 130 mm.

Are the cells in the elephant or a tall tree larger than the cells in a rat? No! Infact the size of the cells has no relation with the size of the body of the animal or plant. The size of the cells depends on its function. For example, nerve cells in big animals and small animals are long animals branched. They perform the same function i.e, of receiving and transferring messages.

Structure and function of a cell:

You have already learnt that some organs join together to form the organ system. For example in the digestive system, each organ performs different functions. These include digestion, assimilation and absorption. In plants too different organs perform specific functions. The roots absorb water and minerals from the soil. The leaves synthesize food for the plants: The shoot transports food to different parts of the plant.

Each organ is made up of smaller parts called **tissues**. The tissue in turn is made up of cell which perform a specific function.

HOMEWORK (Based on Previous Study Notes)

Now answer the following questions:-

1. Define cell.
2. Define unicellular and multicellular organisms.
3. Define shape of cells.
4. Explain structure and functions of cells.