

# Human Reproduction Class 12

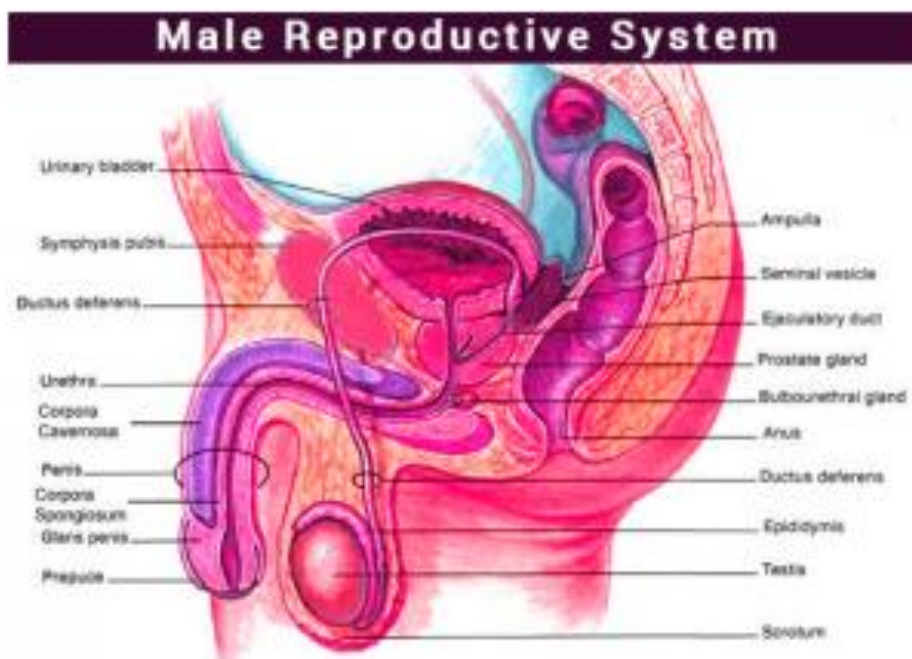
## OUTLINE :

Reproduction is the process of giving birth to their young ones which are identical to their parents. As we all are aware of, the process of reproduction in humans is sexual reproduction, which involves internal fertilization by sexual intercourse.

## Human Reproductive System

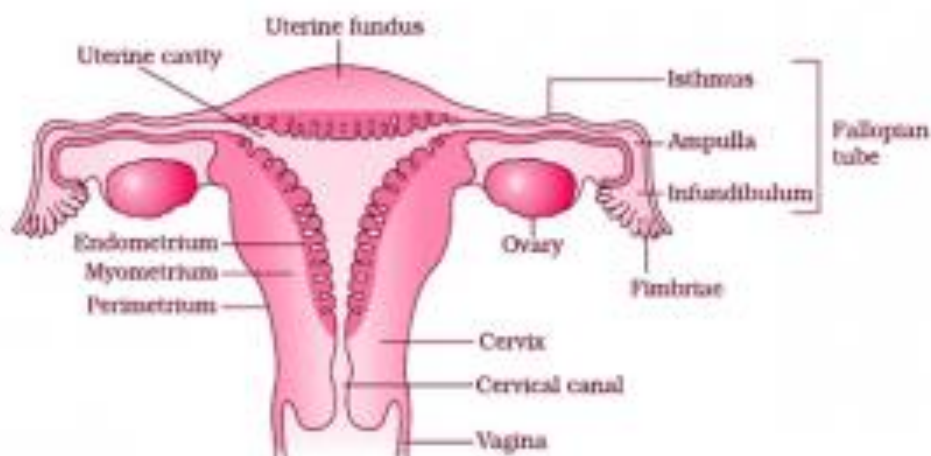
The Human Reproductive System mainly consists of:

### The Male Reproductive System



- The male reproductive system is positioned in the pelvis region and comprises a pair of testes in addition to the accessory glands, ducts, and the external genitalia.
- A pouch-like structure known as scrotum encloses the testes located outside the abdominal cavity
- Each testis has close to 250 testicular lobules (compartments). These lobules comprise 1-3 seminiferous tubules wherein the sperms are produced. The lining of these tubules consists of two types of cells – male germ cells and Sertoli cells
- The exterior of these tubules consist of spaces containing blood vessels and Leydig cells
- Male sex accessory ducts comprises rete testis, vasa efferentia, epididymis and vas deferens
- The urethra opens externally to the urethral meatus
- The male external genitalia, the penis is covered by foreskin which is a loose fold of skin

## The Female Reproductive System



The female reproductive system is made up of the internal and external sex organs, which consists of a pair of ovaries and oviducts, cervix, uterus, vagina and the external genitalia situated in the pelvic region. Along with the mammary glands, these female reproductive organs are combined both structurally and functionally in order to support the complete processes of reproduction including ovulation, fertilization, pregnancy, and the birth of a child.

- The female accessory ducts are constituted by the oviducts, vagina and uterus
- The section closer to the ovary is funnel-shaped infundibulum that possesses the fimbriae – finger-like projections facilitating the assimilation of ovum post ovulation
- The infundibulum directs to a wider section of oviduct known as ampulla.
- The last section of the oviduct, isthmus, has a narrow lumen joining the uterus
- Uterus is also known as the womb
- The cervical cavity is known as the cervical canal which goes onto form the birth canal along with the vagina
- Female external genitalia comprises – mons pubis, labia minora, labia majora, clitoris and hymen

Both the male and female reproductive systems play an important role in the process of reproduction. Other than these reproductive organs, there are sex hormones which are produced by the respective glands and are mainly involved in the development of secondary sexual characteristics and proper functioning of the reproductive tracts.

### Process of Reproduction

The process of reproduction in all humans are carried out phase-wise as discussed below:

- Pre-fertilization – Gametes are formed and transferred
- Fertilization- formation of zygote after a sperm fertilizes the egg

- Post-fertilization- Mitotic division of zygote leading to the formation of an embryo. This reproductive stage is referred to as embryogenesis.

## Duration and Stages of Pregnancy

Human gestation lasts for an average of 266 days or 38 weeks or 9 months and these intervals are called as trimesters.

- 1st trimester (1st 3 months or week 1 – 12) – pre embryonic and embryonic development.
- 2nd trimester (next 3 months: week 13 – 24) – The fetal development begins.
- 3rd trimester (next 3 months: week 25 – birth) – At this stage baby continues to grow and mature.

**Also See:** [Menstrual Cycle: Tears of Uterus](#)

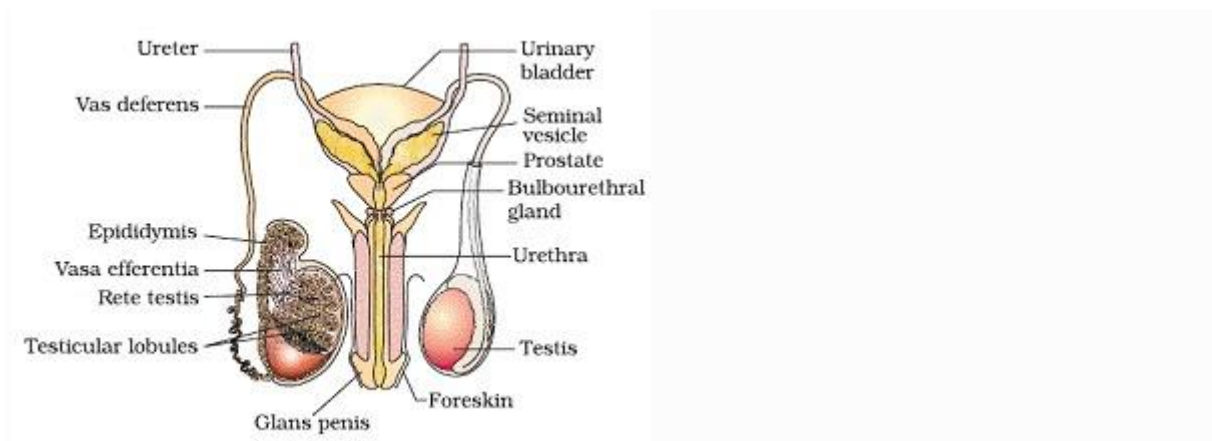
## Few Important Questions

- What are the three stages of parturition?
- What happens during spermatogenesis?
- Describe the structure of a male reproductive system?
- What is the role of sex hormones in the human reproductive system?
- Explain in detail about the female reproductive system with a neat labelled diagram?
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### DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE CHAPTER :

**The Male Reproductive System:** It Chapter consists of:

- Primary sex organs i.e. a pair of testes suspended in a scrotum.
- Secondary sex organs i.e. a pair of ducts each differentiated into rete testis, vasa efferentia, epididymis and vas deferens, ejaculatory duct and the associated glands
- External genitalia
  - The testes are situated outside the abdominal cavity in a pouch called **scrotum**, which help in maintaining the low temperature of testes necessary for spermatogenesis.
  - Each testes has about 250 testicular lobules and each lobule contain highly coiled **seminiferous tubules** in which sperms are produced. Each seminiferous tubules is lined by two types of cells, **spermatogonia** ( male germ cell) and **Sertoli cells**.
  - **Leydig cells** or interstitial cells present around the seminiferous tubules synthesise and secrete androgen hormone.



- Ejaculatory duct store and transport the sperm from testes to outside through urethra which originate from urinary bladder and extend through penis to its external opening **urethral meatus**.
- The penis is male external genitalia. The enlarged end of penis is called the **glans penis** is covered by a loose fold of skin called **foreskin**.
- Male accessory glands include paired **seminal vesicles**, **prostate** and **paired bulbourethral glands**. Secretion of these glands forms the seminal plasma which contains fructose, calcium and enzymes. The secretion of bulbourethral glands also helps in lubrication of the penis.

**The Female Reproductive System:** It consists of :

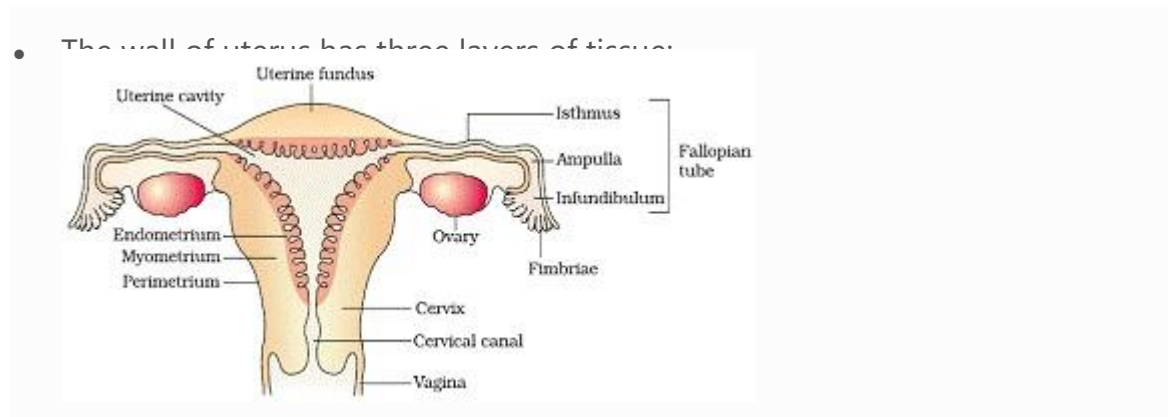
a)The primary sex organ that is a pair of ovaries

b)Secondary sex organs- the duct system consisting of a pair of fallopian tube , a uterus , cervix and vagina

c)External genitalia

d)Mammary glands

- Ovaries are primary female sex organ that produce the female gamete and several steroid hormones. Each ovary is covered by thin epithelium which encloses the ovarian stroma, which is divided into a peripheral cortex and an inner medulla.
- Fallopian tube extends from periphery of ovary to the uterus. The part closer to ovary is a funnel shaped structure called **infundibulum** having finger like projection called **fimbriae**.
- Infundibulum leads to **ampulla** and join with uterus with **isthmus**. Uterus is pear shaped structure also called womb.
- Uterus open vagina through a narrow cervix. The cavity of cervix (**cervical canal**) along with vagina forms the birth canal.



I. Perimetrium- external membrane.

II. Myometrium – middle thick layer of smooth muscles which exhibit strong contraction during delivery of baby.

III. Endometrium – line the uterine wall and undergo cyclic changes during menstrual cycle.

Female external genitalia includes

- Mons pubis – cushion of fatty tissues covered by skin and pubic hair.
- Labia majora- fleshy fold that surround the vaginal opening.
- Labia manora – paired fold of tissue under labia majora.
- The opening of vagina is often partially covered by a membrane called **hymen**. The tiny finger like projection present at the upper junction of two labia manora above the urethral opening is called **clitoris**.

Mammary glands are paired structures that contain glandular tissues and variable fats. Each glandular tissue contains 15-20 mammary lobes containing alveoli that secrete milk. Mammary ducts join to form mammary ampulla.

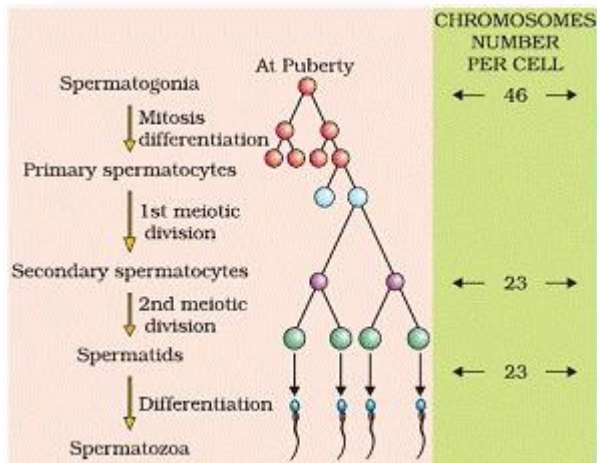
**Gametogenesis:** The process of formation of male and female gametes in testes and ovary respectively is called gametogenesis. It is of two types:

1. **Spermatogenesis** in males
2. **Oogenesis** in females

**Spermatogenesis-** in testes immature, male germ cells (spermatogonia) produce sperm by spermatogenesis that begin at puberty.

- The spermatogonia present at the inner side of seminiferous tubules multiply by mitotic division and increase in number. Each spermatogonium contain 46 chromosomes.
- Spermatogonia forms spermatocyte that undergo meiotic division to reproduce secondary spermatocytes having 23 chromosomes.

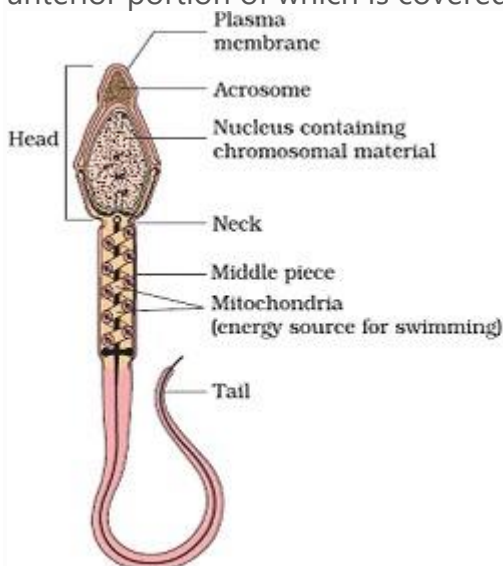
- The spermatids are transformed into spermatozoa by the process called **spermiogenesis**. The sperm heads remain embedded in sertoli cells and are released from seminiferous tubules by the process of **spermiation**.



### Hormonal control of spermatogenesis

- Spermatogenesis initiated due to increase in secretion of gonadotropin releasing hormone by hypothalamus
- Increase in GnRH act on anterior pituitary and stimulate secretion of two gonadotropins, LH and FSH
- LH acts on Leydig cells and stimulates them to secrete androgens.
- FSH acts on Sertoli cells, stimulates secretion of some factors which help in spermiogenesis

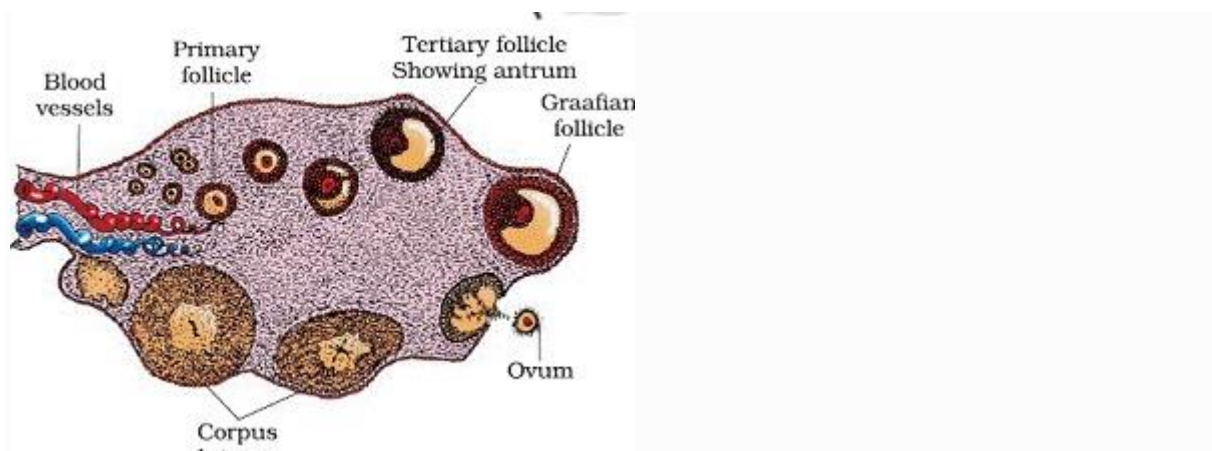
**Structure of sperm-** sperm is a microscopic structure composed of a **head**, **neck**, a **middle piece** and a **tail**. The sperm head contain elongated haploid nucleus, anterior portion of which is covered by cap like structure **acrosome**.



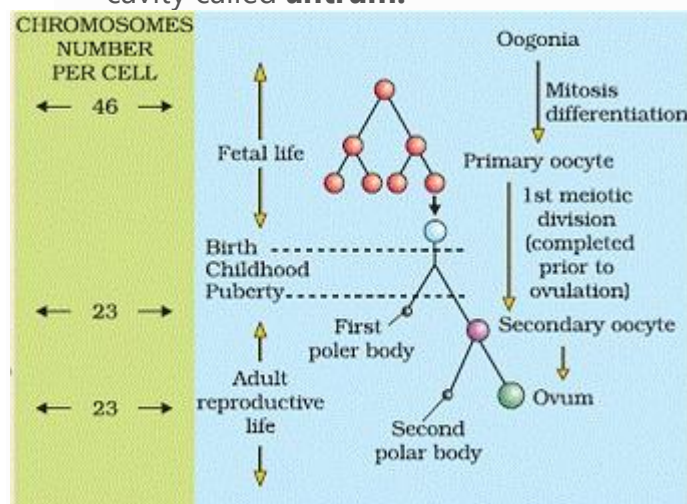
Human male ejaculates about 200-300 million sperms during a coitus. The seminal plasma along with the sperms constitutes the semen. The function of male sex secondary ducts and glands are maintained by androgen hormones.

**Oogenesis** : The process of formation of mature female gametes is called oogenesis. It started during embryonic development stage when millions of oonia (gamete mother cells) are formed in each fetal ovary.

- The gametes mother cells start division and enter into prophase-I of meiotic division and get temporally arrested at that stage called **primary oocytes**.
- Each primary oocyte get surrounded by a layer of granulosa cell than it is called the **primary follicle**.
- At puberty, about 60,000- 80,000 primary follicles are left in each ovary.



- Primary follicle gets surrounded by more layers of granulosa cells called secondary follicle that transform into tertiary follicle that contain fluid filled cavity called **antrum**.



- The tertiary follicles further changes into the mature follicle called **Graafian follicle**, which rupture to release secondary oocytes (ovum) from the ovary by the process of ovulation.

**Menstrual cycle:** The reproductive cycles in female primates is called menstrual cycle. It start at puberty and is called **menarche**.

### **Phases of Menstrual Cycle**

The menstrual cycle consists of following four phases:

#### **(1) Menstrual Phase:**

- (i) In a 28 days menstrual cycle, the menses takes place on cycle days 3-5.
- (ii) The production of LH from the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland is reduced.
- (iii) The withdrawal of this hormone causes degeneration of the corpus luteum and, therefore progesterone production is reduced.
- (iv) Production of oestrogen is also reduced in this phase.
- (v) The endometrium of uterus breaks down & menstruation begins.
- (vi) The cells of endometrium secretions, blood & unfertilised ovum constitutes the menstrual flow.

#### **(2) Follicular Phase:**

- (i) This phase usually includes cycle days 6-13 or 14 in a 28 days cycle.
- (ii) The follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) secreted by the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland stimulates the ovarian follicle to secrete oestrogens.
- (iii) Oestrogen stimulates the proliferation of the endometrium of the uterine wall.
- (iv) The endometrium becomes thicker by rapid cell multiplication and this is accompanied by an increase in uterine glands & blood vessels.

#### **(3) Ovulatory Phase:**

- (i) Both LH & FSH attain a peak level in the middle of cycle (about 14<sup>th</sup> day).
- (ii) Oestrogen concentration in blood increases.
- (iii) Rapid secretion of LH induces rupturing of graffian follicle and thereby the release of ovum.
- (iv) In fact LH causes ovulation.

#### **(4) Luteal Phase:**

- (i) Includes cycle days 15 to 28.
- (ii) Corpus luteum secretes progesterone.
- (iii) Endometrium thickens.
- (iv) Uterine glands become secretory.



### **Hormonal Control of MC**

- (i) FSH stimulates the ovarian follicles to produce oestrogens.
- (ii) LH stimulates corpus luteum to secrete progesterone.
- (iii) Menstrual phase is caused by the increased production of oestrogens.
- (iv) LH causes ovulation
- (v) Proliferative phase is caused by the increased production of oestrogens.
- (vi) Secretory phase is caused by increased production of progesterone.

### **Fertilisation and Implantation**

The process of fusion of sperm with ovum is called fertilisation.

- During coitus (copulation) semen is released into vagina. The motile sperms swim rapidly to reach the junction of isthmus and ampulla of fallopian tube. The ovum also reaches there and fusion of gametes takes place in at ampullary-isthmic junction.
- In this acrosome of sperm undergoes acrosomal reaction and releases certain sperm lysins which dissolve the egg envelopes locally and make the path for the penetration of sperm.
- These sperm lysins contain a lysing enzyme hyaluronidase which dissolves the hyaluronic acid polymers in the intercellular spaces which holds the granulosa cells of corona radiata together; corona penetrating enzyme (that dissolves the corona radiata) and acrosin (which dissolves the zona pellucida). Then it dissolves the zona pellucida.

### **Cortical reaction:**

- (a) Immediately after the entry of a sperm into the egg, the later shows a cortical reaction to check the entry of more sperms.
- (b) In this reaction, the cortical granules present beneath the egg's plasma membrane release chemical substance between the ooplasm and the plasma membrane (vitelline membrane).
- (c) These substances raise the vitelline membrane above the egg surface. The elevated vitelline membrane is called fertilization membrane.
- (d) The increased space between the ooplasm and the fertilization membrane and the chemical present in it effectively check the entry of other sperm.
- (e) If polyspermy occurs, that is more than one sperm enter the secondary oocyte, the resulting cell has too much genetic material to develop normally

- The haploid gametes fuse together to form diploid zygote. As the zygote moves towards the uterus, the mitotic division starts and form cleavage to change into 2, 4,8,16 celled blastomeres.
- The blastomeres with 8 to 16 cells are called morula. Morula divide to change into blastocysts .The blastomeres in the blastocyst are arranged into an outer layer called **trophoblast** and an inner group of cells attached to trophoblast called the **inner cell mass**.The outer layer of blastocyst is called trophoblast that attach with endometrium of uterus, called **implantation** that leads to pregnancy.

### **Pregnancy and embryonic development**

The finger-like projections on trophoblaste after implantation called is called **chronic villi** that along with uterine wall forms functional unit between developing embryo and maternal body called **placenta**. Placenta is attached with fetus with an umbilical cord that transport food and oxygen to embryo.

- Hormones **hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin), hPL (human placental lactogen) and relaxin** are produced in woman only during pregnancy by placenta.
- After implantation, the inner cell mass (embryo) differentiates into an outer layer called **ectoderm** and an inner layer called **endoderm**. A **mesoderm** soon appears between the ectoderm and the endoderm. These three layers give rise to all tissues (organs) in adults. It is important to note that the inner cell mass contains certain cells called stem cells which have the potency to give rise to all the tissues and organs
- In human, after one month of pregnancy the embryo's heart is formed. By the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> month limbs and digits are formed. By the end of 12 months, major organs and external genital organs are well developed. The first movement of foetus is observed in 5 months. By the end of 24 weeks body is covered with fine hair, eye lids and eyeless are formed. At the end of 9 months fetus is fully developed.

### **PARTURITION AND LACTATION**

**Parturition**-the process of delivery of fully developed foetus is called parturition.

- Signals for parturition originate from the fully developed fetus and placenta inducing mild uterine contractions called **Foetal ejection reflex**
- It triggers the release of oxytocin from maternal pituitary

The mammary glands of female, start producing milk, to the end of pregnancy by the process of **lactation**. The milk produced during the initial few days of lactation is called **colostrum**, which contain several antibodies.