

Unit 1: (2nd Part)

Pre-natal Development

(5th Semester)

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Pre-natal Development

- From the conception till birth (approximately 280 days/9 month 10 days)

- Three stages of pre-natal development:

- ✓ Germinal Stage (Fertilization to end of second week):

Cell division & formation of human Embryo

- ✓ Embryonic Stage (end of the second week to end of the second lunar month):

Growth of outer & inner organs

- ✓ Fetal Stage (end of the second lunar month to birth):

Fetal size, weight increases

Brain growth , heart beat, body movement, sensory development etc., begins.

By the end of seventh lunar month, the fetus is well enough developed to survive, should it be born prematurely, and

By the end of eight lunar month the fetal body is completely formed as full-term infant.

Characteristics of the Prenatal Period

- **Six important Characteristics:** (Ref: E. B. Hurlock.(2014). *Developmental Psychology: A life Span Approach*. McGraw Hill Education Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.)
 - **The hereditary endowment**, which serves as the foundation for later development, **is fixed**, once and for all, at this time.
 - **Favourable conditions in the mother's body can foster the development** of hereditary potentials while unfavourable conditions can stunt their development, even to the point of distorting the pattern of future development.
 - **The sex of the newly created individual is fixed** at the time of conception and conditions within the mother's body will not affect it, as is true of the hereditary endowment.
 - **Proportionally greater growth and development take place** during the prenatal period than at any other time throughout the individual's entire life.
 - The prenatal period is a **time of many hazards**, both physical and psychological.
 - The prenatal period is the time when **significant people form attitudes towards newly created individuals**. These attitudes will have a marked influence on the way these individuals are treated, especially during their early formative years.

Factors affecting prenatal development

➤ **Two main factors:**

✓ **Hereditary factors:**

- Gene and Chromosome(46 Pairs)

DNA: Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid

✓ **Environmental Factors:**

- Nutrious food
- Physical health of mother
- Home environment
- Workplace environment
- Mental peace
- Yoga practice
- Emotional security
- Infectious disease
- Age of mother, Use of drugs, X-ray treatment, R-H incompatibility etc.

**THANK
YOU**