

LESSON No. 23



MOSQUITOES AND DISEASES THEY SPREAD

You must have been bitten by mosquitoes. When you have a mosquito bite, you feel a sharp pain. It is because the mosquito sucks blood from your body. Do you know the place where mosquitoes breed ?



Look at the area around your house and find out —

- * Is there any stagnant water in the neighbourhood ?
- * Are there mosquitoes in the stagnant water ?
- * Is there any river or flowing water nearby ?
- * Can you see mosquitoes in the flowing water ?
- * Where do you find more mosquitoes — in the stagnant water or in the flowing water ?

Have you heard of a disease called malaria ? It is spread by a female mosquito known as **anopheles**. Through bloodsucking, malaria is spread by this mosquito. It is a serious disease and can be fatal. Therefore, we must be careful not to have mosquito bites.

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- * In what season do you find more people getting ill with malaria ?
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Do you know any other disease spread by mosquitoes? Have you heard of **dengue fever** and **encephalitis** ? If you read newspapers, you will find articles on malaria, dengue fever and encephalitis. Every year, during the rainy season, dengue fever kills thousands of people in Delhi. In Gorakhpur, many children also die of encephalitis. See, how dangerous these diseases are ! They are all spread by mosquitoes.

- * Is there any means to reduce the mosquitoes in water ?

We can reduce the mosquitoes in stagnant water by applying surface films of oil and larvicides. Application of surface films of oil will clog the larvae's breathing tubes.

ACTIVITY

- 1. Pay a visit to a health worker or a doctor and try to know more about malaria, dengue fever and encephalitis.*
- 2. If you find breeding sites of mosquitoes in your neighbourhood, destroy them immediately.*