

Microorganisms: Friend and Foe

Harmful Microorganism

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The disease-causing microorganisms are called pathogens. It is necessary to protect ourselves from the different diseases caused by microorganism or germs. The commonest mode of entry for these germs is the food we eat and the water we drink. Some harmful microorganisms and

The diseases caused are given in Table:

Table		
Harmful Microorganisms		
Classification	Species/Name	Diseases caused
Bacteria	Salmonella, Clostridium	Food poisoning
	Mycobacterium, etc.	Tuberculosis, whooping cough, cholera, typhoid
Algae	Cephaleuros	Red rust of tea and coffee plants
Fungi	Moulds, mildews	Spoilage of food, rust of wheat, blight of potatoes
	Ringworm, etc.	Fungal infection, athlete's foot
Protozoa	E. histolytica	Amoebiasis, dysentery
	Plasmodium	Malaria
Viruses	Measles virus	Measles
	Polio virus	Poliomyelitis
	HIV	AIDS

Sometimes, disease carrying germs are carried by other organisms. For e.g. The pathogen for malaria is carried by a mosquito (the female Anopheles, mosquito) and enters the body when the mosquito bites. Here, the mosquito acts as a carrier while the human is the host. Since mosquitoes are capable of carrying and spreading many diseases like malaria, dengue, etc. It is very important to control the reproduction or breeding of mosquitoes. Since mosquitoes breed on water, we must ensure that there is no standing rain water or water in coolers, etc. near our homes.