

Evaluation of Physical Growth Status of Boys from Low Income Families of Slums of Kolkata

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ABSTRACT In the context of scanty nutritional data on urban slum children, the present study is conducted to assess the nutritional standard of 9 – 12 years boys from urban slums of Kolkata. Mean height varied between 123.9 for 9 years and 134.9 cm for 12 years with corresponding weights ranging between 22.2 to 29.4 kg. These are much lower as compared to urban children. Prevalence of stunting was higher than wasting ranging between 49 % in 9 years to 59.5 % in 12 years with an overall average of 53 % and showed an increasing trend through ages. Highest prevalence of wasting (48 %) was observed among the 9 year group which declined abruptly to 27 % in the 10 year group. The higher prevalence of wasting in the lower age group may be due to lack of parental care.