

Physical Growth and Nutritional Status of the Lambadi Children of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT The Lambadi is one of the largest scheduled tribes in Andhra Pradesh. Prior to 1976, they were notified as a denotified tribe. They live in exclusive settlements called 'tanda', maintaining their cultural and ethnic identity. Study on growth and development of the Lambadi children was carried out in Nalgonda district in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, to assess the pattern of growth and development of the children aged 6 to 10 years of both sexes in terms of anthropometric characters, i.e., Weight and Stature. The Body Mass Index (BMI), Weight deficit for age and Height deficit for age classification to evaluate the extent of malnutrition prevalent among the Lambadi children. The data were collected from 45 'tandas' spread over 12 revenue mandals, covering 417 unrelated healthy Lambadi children comprising 208 boys and 209 girls, who's parents' subsistence economy is based on agriculture and animal husbandry. Statistical constants were calculated for each anthropometric trait for the interpretation of growth and nutritional status of the Lambadi children.