

Growth Pattern Among the Kaibartta Children of Dibrugarh District, Assam

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KEY WORDS Anthropometric Measurements. Scheduled Caste. Assam.

ABSTRACT The growth pattern among the Kaibartta children (both sexes) aged from birth to 5 years living in the district of Dibrugarh, Assam are included in this paper. In the present study the sex difference is seen in the early and late age group.

INTRODUCTION

The Kaibartta is a scheduled caste population of Assam. Their primary occupation is fishing but now-a-days most of them however, have taken to agriculture and other trade and services. The Kaibartta are met with in all the plain districts of Assam. The community as a whole is endogamous. Physically the Kaibartta are short to medium in stature, their skin colour is dark brown and belong to the Caucasoid group. In the social stratification they were put in the lowest position. They prefer to establish their villages in the river banks and near-beels where fishes are abundant (Mahanta, 1972).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study deals with the pattern of growth among the Kaibartta children, both boys and girls (Boys = 347, Girls = 326) aged birth to 5 years. The data (Height and Weight) were collected from the different villages and educational institutions of Dibrugarh district, Assam. The collected data were arranged in 10 different age groups from birth to 5 years with six month interval. Infants upto 6 months (0.5 year) have been grouped under the age group 0 - 0.5 year, and above 6 months but not more than 1 year old have been grouped under the age group 0.5 - 1.0 year and accordingly other age group have been formed. The measurement were taken according to the methods prescribed by Martin and Saller (1957) during the year 1990-93 and the study is a cross-sectional one. The t-test of significance were applied to find out the sex difference.

The crown heel length of the infants were taken with the help of an infantometer and for the children who can stand properly, the anthropometer was used for taking height. Weight was recorded with the help of a portable weighing machine, but for infants a weight machine with an arrangement for weighing infants was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mean value, standard error and standard deviations and t-values for height and weight of Kaibartta children were given in the table 1. The table shows that the Kaibartta boys are slightly taller and heavier than that of the girls except in first six month of age. In height the girls are slightly taller than the boys in between 2.5 - 3.5 year. A negative growth is observed in the age group 2.5 - 3.0, year in weight in case of boys.

It is clear from the table that there is no sex difference except in the 1.0 year, 4.5 year and 5th year of age in height. But in case of weight the sex difference is observed in 1.0 year, 1.5 year and 5th year and it is highly significant.

It is evident from the table that the height and weight of both sexes are increasing continuously with the increase of age, but not in an uniform pace. It may be because of their food habit and other environmental factors.

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Table 1 : Statistical constants of Length/Height and Weight with t-values of Kaibartta

Age groups (years)	Boys				Girls				t-values
	No.	Mean $\pm$ S.E.	S.D.	No.	Mean $\pm$ S.E.	S.D.			
Length/Height (in cm)									
Birth - 0.5	35	56.70	0.87	4.87	30	58.20	1.07	5.86	1.11
0.5 - 1.0	40	67.95	0.56	3.56	30	65.14	0.65	3.57	3.27 ¹
1.0 - 1.5	30	74.34	0.66	3.65	30	73.06	0.71	3.91	1.32
1.5 - 2.0	32	77.89	0.62	3.53	30	77.10	0.67	3.68	0.86
2.0 - 2.5	35	83.48	0.77	4.58	30	82.20	0.82	4.49	1.13
2.5 - 3.0	32	84.43	0.76	4.34	40	84.85	0.70	4.45	0.40
3.0 - 3.5	33	92.31	0.75	4.32	30	92.60	0.88	4.86	0.25
3.5 - 4.0	40	95.33	0.78	4.97	41	93.70	0.93	6.00	1.34
4.0 - 4.5	33	98.12	0.64	3.68	30	95.83	0.61	3.34	2.59 ¹
4.5 - 5.0	37	102.10	0.73	4.49	35	99.75	0.75	4.48	2.24 ¹
Weight (in kg)									
Birth - 0.5	35	5.02	0.25	1.48	30	5.33	0.19	1.07	0.98
0.5 - 1.0	40	7.93	0.18	1.18	30	6.87	0.15	0.87	4.52 ¹
1.0 - 1.5	30	9.24	0.23	1.26	30	7.96	0.20	1.13	4.19 ¹
1.5 - 2.0	32	9.29	0.26	1.47	30	8.91	0.18	1.02	1.20
2.0 - 2.5	35	10.82	0.26	1.54	30	10.30	0.24	1.32	1.46
2.5 - 3.0	32	10.66	0.18	1.06	40	10.63	0.24	1.57	0.10
3.0 - 3.5	33	12.56	0.26	1.49	30	12.42	0.17	0.96	0.45
3.5 - 4.0	40	13.25	0.26	1.68	41	12.68	0.33	2.15	1.35
4.0 - 4.5	33	13.87	0.26	1.53	30	13.35	0.21	1.17	1.55
4.5 - 5.0	37	14.99	0.24	1.46	35	13.65	0.24	1.45	3.94 ¹

1. Significant at 5%