

Growth Progression and Nutritional Status among Some Tribal Children of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh

B. Dharma Rao, G. Jaikishan and B.R. Busi

Department of Anthropology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530 003, Andhra Pradesh, India

KEYWORDS Growth. Nutrition. Tribal Children. Adolescent Spurt. Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT A cross-sectional study of 234 boys and 234 girls (6+ to 13+ years) was undertaken among tribal children of Chintapalli mandal, Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh. In this paper data on stature, body weight, biacromial and biiliocrystal diameter; transverse and antero posterior chest, upper arm, calf, chest and head circumferences and triceps, biceps, subscapular and suprailiac skinfold sites are presented including patterns of changes in these physical traits and quantitative assessment of nutritional status with advancement age. The study reveal that tribal boy attained maximum mean annual increase between 12+ and 13+ years, while for girls it is 10+ and 11+ years. Tribal boys and girls are more or less similar in body weight and relatively taller in stature with broad hips and longer head circumferences compared to that of ICMR, 1984 Natinal Standards. Both extensive and intensives research is conducted to understand the nutritional deficiency disorders and to suggest programmes and strategies for improvement of the nutritional status, and proper management of health. The results are compared with other tribal population of India.