

Age-Related Anthropometric Changes and Undernutrition among Middle Aged and Older Savar Tribal Females of Keonjhar District, Orissa, India

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ABSTRACT A cross sectional study of 113 Savar tribal women of four villages of Keonjhar District, Orissa, India, was undertaken to examine age changes in anthropometric and body composition characteristics as well as to evaluate their nutritional status. Height, weight, circumferences and skinfolds data collected from subjects aged 41-75 years, along with body mass index and seven body composition variables. Significant negative age trends were observed for all anthropometric and body composition variables and indices. Correlation studies of age with these variables and indices revealed significant negative correlations. Linear regression analyses revealed that for all variables, age had a significant negative impact. Studies on the nutritional status of Savar women revealed that 53.1% belonged to the undernutrition category. In conclusion, this study showed that among these women, age was significantly negatively related with anthropometric and body composition variables and indices. Undernutrition was a serious problem in this group.