

Effect of Socio-economic and Demographic Factors on Nutritional Status of Indian Post-adolescent Teenagers: A Set Theoretic Approach

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KEYWORDS Teenage. Nutritional Status. New Approach. States. Zones. India

ABSTRACT The aim of the present study is to assess the effect of socio-economic and demographic factors on the nutritional status of teenagers and to look at the gender differentials in the variation of height, weight and BMI in different states as well as zones of India. For this study, the unit level data on 11734 boys and 21807 girls of 15-19 year of age are taken from National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3), which has been conducted during the year 2005-06. Multiple linear regression is used in this study. In this paper, the researchers have devised a novel approach to find the individual contribution of the explanatory variables towards explaining the percentage variations of the response variables. The regression results show that the effect of almost all the selected socio-economic and demographic variables are significant on the nutritional status of Indian teenagers. Height, Weight and BMI are positively related with age. These results suggest that parents' education and family wealth index are most important predictors for teenagers' nutritional status of both genders.