



Socio-economic and Demographic Correlates of Stunting and Thinness among Rural School-going Children (Aged 5-12 Years) of North Bengal, Eastern India

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ABSTRACT Prevalence of stunting and thinness and their associations with socio-economic and demographic variables were assessed among 619 boys and 643 girls aged 5-12 years residing in Phansidewa block of Darjeeling district, West Bengal, India. Age-gender specific z-scores were calculated to assess stunting and thinness using Anthro Plus. Statistical analyses (descriptive statistics, t-test, ANOVA, Chi-square analysis and binary logistic regression, step-wise multiple logistic regression) were done using SPSS. Overall prevalence of stunting and thinness were 31.8 percent and 27.7 percent, respectively. Prevalence of stunting was lower among boys (31.3%) than girls (32.2%). Thinness was significantly higher among boys (31.0%) than girls (24.4%). Binary logistic regression analysis showed that age, number of sibs and mothers' occupation were significantly associated with stunting. Gender (boys), age, number of sibs, birth order, mothers' occupation and number of income heads of the family had shown a significant association with thinness. Step-wise multiple logistic regression analysis also showed significant association with age, number of sibs and mothers' occupation (in stunting) and gender and age (in thinness) ($p < 0.05$).