

Patterns of Growth and Physiological Variables Among Khond Tribal Population of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh

V.L.N. Rao, B. Dharma Rao, Ch. Seshagiri Rao and B.R. Busi

*Department of Anthropology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 5300 03,
Andhra Pradesh, India*

E-mail: vithala_narasimharao2000 @ yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT A cross sectional study was undertaken on 1525 Khond boys and 1132 Khond girls aged between 0+ to 18+ years in schools situated in the tribal areas of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh (South India) during April- October 2004. In this paper, data on body weight, stature, head, chest, abdominal, upper arm and calf circumferences, skin folds, blood pressure and pulse rate, along with the patterns of change in these physical and physiological traits with advancement of age are presented. It has been observed that there is a progressively increasing trend in all the dimensions with advancement in age. The study reveals that the adolescent growth spurt or highest peak velocity of girls (9+ and 10+) is attained earlier by two years than boys (12+ and 14+ years). Blood pressure and pulse rate increased with advancement in age with few fluctuations. Analysis of the data reveals that all the measurements showed significant differences by sex according to age. Khond boys and girls are shorter lighter with broader chest and head circumference than ICMR (1984) National standards. The growth curves shows as measure of population well being, secular trend, and the much neglected subject of the relation between mental and physical development. The findings of the study can be used as reference material for Khond boys and girls of Visakhapatnam district.