

Growth during First 2 Years of Life among Kashmiri Urban Children

Naheed Vaida^{1*}, Nilofer Khan¹ and Imtiyaz Ali²

*Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal 190 006,
Jammu and Kashmir, India*

**Telephone: 9419007735, *E-mail: naheedvaida@yahoo.co.in*

*²Department of Community Medicine, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences
(SKIMS), Soura, Srinagar 190 011, Jammu & Kashmir, India*

KEYWORDS Crown Head Length. Weight. Income. Weaning. Literacy Status. Birth Order

ABSTRACT Children differ in the rate and pattern of growth and development as a whole and within each field. The importance of studying the growth and development of children hardly needs emphasis. It is a subject which concerns everybody. The immediate cause of growth faltering among pre-school children are an outcome of a complex web of biological, social and economic factors and their relationship, which are location specific. The present study was carried out with an objective of assessing the growth pattern of Kashmiri children and identify the factors which influence their growth on a sample size of 194 children. The study was conducted on a longitudinal basis over a period of two years. The results revealed that growth and its patterns in Kashmiri urban children in first two years of life are quite comparable to North Indian children. Rate for growth follows a pattern which is similar to other well to do children for weight but in case of stature there is a slight lag. Kashmiri children have the potential to catch up to the growth under favorable conditions. Feeding and weaning practices, maternal literacy and working status were found to be the important determinants of growth.