

Growth Pattern in Height and Weight Among the Ahom Children of Dibrugarh, Assam

M. N. Dutta

Department Anthropology, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh 786 004, Assam, India

KEY WORDS Anthropometry. Ahom. Growth.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

ABSTRACT The paper deals with the pattern of growth among the Ahom children (Boys and Girls) aged from birth to 5 years living in the district of Dibrugarh, Assam. The sex difference is observed in the early age group of the present sample.

The data for the present study were collected from the different villages and schools of Dibrugarh district in the year 1992-94. A total of 633 children (Boys 320, Girls 313) were measured for studying their growth pattern (Weight and Height only). The collected data were arranged in 5 different age groups from birth to 5 years with a difference of one year. The study is a cross-sectional one. The data were collected with standardised procedure and for sex difference the t-test of significance were applied.

INTRODUCTION

The Ahoms are one of the major Mongoloid population of Assam. According to historical record the Ahom (Tai or Shan group) migrated to Assam from Burma, in the early part of the 13th century and ruled for about six hundred years (1228 - 1826 A.D.). They are now mostly scattered in different regions of Upper Assam namely in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Sibsagar and Jorhat districts of Assam. They were formerly speakers of Tai language but now-a-days they are linguistically and culturally part and parcel of the Assamese population. They are today mostly engaged in agriculture and in other services.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The mean and standard deviation values for weight and height are given in table 1. It is clear from the table that the male children were heavier and taller than the female in all the age groups. The sex differences in the present study is observed in weight where the differences is

Table 1 : Statistical constants of weight (kg) and height (cm) of Ahom

Age (in years)	Sex	No.	Weight		Difference between Mean age groups (kg)	Height		Difference between Mean age groups (cm)
			Mean	S.D.		Mean	S.D.	
0-1	M	65	7.09	2.08	-	64.10	6.52	-
	F	67	6.15	1.92	-	61.40	6.22	-
1-2	M	65	9.87	1.11	2.78	78.36	3.74	14.26
	F	60	9.17	1.19	3.02	75.60	4.64	14.20
2-3	M	60	11.65	1.16	1.79	85.90	3.67	7.54
	F	60	11.42	1.32	2.25	85.55	5.06	9.59
3-4	M	60	13.30	1.16	1.64	93.80	4.84	7.90
	F	64	12.54	1.41	1.12	92.90	4.53	7.35
4-5	M	70	14.67	1.69	1.37	100.34	4.42	6.54
	F	62	14.54	1.75	2.00	99.74	5.65	6.84

M=Male F=Female

at the age of 1st, 2nd and 4th years and in case height the differences is seen in the 1st and 2nd year only.

REFERENCES

Indian Council of Medical Research : Growth and physi-

cal development of Indian infants and children. *ICMR Technical Report Series No.*, **18** : 94-105 (1989).

Rao, K.V. : Nutritional status of pre-school children and related factors. *Ind. J. Nutr. Diet.*, **15** : 233-244 (1978).

Yarbrough, C, Habicht, J.P., Malina, R.M., Lechtig, A. and Klein, R.E. : Length and weight in rural Guatemalan Ladino children : Birth to seven years of age. *Am. J. Phys. Anthrop.*, **42** : 439-448 (1972).