

A Study of Physical Growth and Nutritional Status Among Savara Tribal Girls of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT A cross-sectional study was undertaken among Savara tribal girls in ITDA schools situated in the Seetampeta mandal of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh (South India) during April, 1992 to January, 1996. The sample consisted of 183 healthy girls aged 6+ to 18+ years. In this paper, data on stature, body weight, upper arm, calf, and chest circumferences and skinfolds at triceps, biceps, subscapular, supriliac, medial calf and fore arm sites are presented including patterns of change in these physical traits and quantitative assessment of nutritional status with advancing age. Analysis of the data reveal that all the dimensions exhibited the maximum mean annual increments between 11 and 12 years. These girls are taller and heavier than the National standards (ICMR, 1984). Thus both extensive and intensive research is conducted among Savara tribal girls to suggest programmes and strategies for improvement of the nutritional status and proper management of health. The findings of the study can be used as a reference material for Savara tribal girls.