

Growth Progression in Physical and Physiological Traits among Madiga Girls of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT A cross-sectional study was undertaken among Madiga girls in rural schools situated in the 4 mandals viz. Visakhapatnam (Rural), Pendurthi, Anandapuram and Bheemunipatnam of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh (South India) during February 1996 to October 1997. The sample consisted of 328 healthy girls aged 0+ to 18+ years. In this paper data on stature, body weight, upper arm, calf, chest, abdominal and head circumferences and skinfolds at triceps, biceps, subscapular, suprailiac, abdominal, anterior thigh, medial calf, fore arm sites and blood pressure and pulse rate are presented including patterns of change in these physical and physiological traits with advancement of age. It has been observed that there is progressively increase in all the dimensions with advancement in age except skinfolds. Analysis of the data reveal that all the dimensions exhibited maximum mean annual increments between 10+ and 14+ years for all measurements. Blood pressure and pulse rate increased with increase in age with minor fluctuations. These girls are shorter and lighter than the ICMR 1984 observations. The findings of the study can be used as a reference material for Madiga girls of Visakhapatnam district.