

## **Influences of Age, Sex and Caste on Goiter Prevalence of the People in Tripura, North East India**

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**KEYWORDS** Goiter. Caste. Food Habit. Environmental Adaptability

**ABSTRACT** Goiter prevalence of selected population in respect of age, sex and caste was evaluated in the conventional iodine deficient Tripura of north east India during post-salt iodization phase. The study was carried out on 10,801 school-children in the age group 6-15 years of both sexes from randomly selected 22 representative localities. In selected localities, children were clinically examined for goiter categorizing them in respect of age, sexes and castes. Obtained results showed goiter was prevalent at endemic level (more than 5%) in all study localities. With advancement age the rate was found to increase up to age of 11 years in both sexes. However in boys, a gradual decline in goiter rate was found and returned to basal level by 15 years while in girls the rate of increase remained steady up to 15 years. Female population was affected more than the male in prevalence and severity. They were exposed under uniform system of iodine supply and dietary goitrogens, however endemic goiter was mostly prevalent in general castes, moderately among scheduled castes and minimum among scheduled tribes. These variations might be due to non-uniform environmental adaptability associated with different dietary practices.