

**Biology of the People of Sikkim:
Comparative Evaluation of Growth Patterns among
Different Caste and Tribal Groups of Sikkim**

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ABSTRACT The present paper is from the series “Biology of the People of Sikkim”, which form one of the part of the research project entitled “Impact of human activities on the ecosystem and vice-versa with reference to the Sikkim Himalayas” under MAB (Man and Biosphere) Programme of UNESCO. In this paper an attempt has been made to study growth and development among various population groups of Sikkim from 8-19 years. A total of 42 biological variables (34 anthropometric and 8 physiological measurements) have been taken on 2,777 boys. It could be demonstrated that respiratory functions can be predicted best from a combination of body weight, projective height measurements, breadth, depth and circumference measurements. In body growth and physiological variables the various population groups show almost similar patterns. Whatever differences have been observed may be attributed to the genetic structure of that population group.