



**Gender Equity in Nutritional Status:
A Study among Muslim and Hindu Children (0-6 Years)
of North 24 Parganas District of India**

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ABSTRACT Gender study is a major area of interest in anthropology. The present research seeks equity in nutritional status among preschool Muslim and Hindu children. Research has been conducted among 2000 Muslim and 500 Hindu preschool children of North 24 Parganas of West Bengal. Anthropometric measurements were collected from the children below 6 years of age and were classified in respect of age and sex by means of WHO standardised reference values and were statistically analysed to observe level of significance in respect of gender ($p < 0.05$). Near about forty percent children were found possessing low height and weight in respect of age as according to WHO cut-off values. Gender discrimination was not found in any statistical analysis between Muslim children but in case of Hindu children height-for-age showed significant high ($p = 0.002$) rate of stunted boys than girls. Gender equity in health status, thus, almost exists among the children under study.