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Anthropometry of the New Born with Special Reference of Birth Weight

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ABSTRACT Two hundred and two infants born to cross-sectional population of semi-urban locale were studied infantometrically with special focus on birth weight by duly considering the mother's age, education, type of marriage, health, parity and sex of the child for proper interpretation of the data. The results of the study indicate that the incidence of low birth weight (< 2.5 kgs) or better birth weight (> 2.5 kgs) is associated with certain life conditions of the mother as well couples. Variation in physical growth characters is also observed through infantometry. Infants born to mothers in the age-cohorts of 20-24 and 25-29, with good educational background and socio-economically well-off are on an average heavier (> 3 kgs weight), larger in size (> 48 crown-heel) and shape (> 33 chest circumference). Incidence of low birth weight is common among infants born to mothers of very young age, that is, 15-19 years and also infants born to mothers who are not healthy. In such cases infants are lighter in weight (< 2.5) kgs, smaller in size (< 44 cms crown-heel length) and shape (31 chest circumferences). The results of the present model indicate that only a marginal section of the society (26%) has the problem of incidence of low birth weight (< 2.5 kgs), while majority of cross-sectional population have improved birth weights (> 2.5 kgs).