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Somatotypes of Urban Meiteis of Imphal, Manipur

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ABSTRACT Anthropometric somatotype of urban Meiteis, ranging in age from 6 to 13 years, are described with a view to assessing the gender and age differences. Cross-sectional data on 340 children (171 boys and 169 girls) was collected from various schools of Imphal town of Manipur State. Each individual was somatotyped with the help of Health-Centre anthropometric protocol using a set of ten body measurements. The average somatotypes for boys and girls were 1.8-3.6-4.2 and 2.1-3.2-4.1, respectively, and are classified as mesomorphic ectomorph. On the whole, the girls were significantly more endomorphic and the boys more mesomorphic; the differences were not significant in ectomorphy. A one-way ANOVA showed no significant sex differences in whole somatotypes, except at 8 years. A one-way MANOVA using Wilk's Lambda as test statistics revealed no significant age differences in somatotypes in both the sexes. The urban Meiteis were more ectomorphic than Gaddi Rajputs and Chamba Brahmins and Rajputs.