

Inter State Comparison of Physical Development of Indian Rural Children

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ABSTRACT The present cross-sectional investigation was carried out in Six State Agriculture Research (ICAR) funded project. The physical development of rural children between 6-18 years for girls and 6-20 years of boys was measured from different agro climatic zones of each state to have true representation of the respective state. A minimum of 100 children of either sex was sampled at each age cohort starting from 6yrs to 18/20 yrs by each centre. Weight and height of each was measured as parameter for their physical development. Along with this the influence factors were also studied through an interview schedule including the socio-economic status of their families. The results revealed that the weight and height of children increased with the increase in age. The difference between the two consecutive readings increased with increase in age. However, the weight and height of children of entire age group was below the ICMR and NCHS standards. Inter-state comparisons revealed significant differences between almost all the centers. The extent of variation brought about by environmental factors was as high as twenty-twenty-one percent among boys.