

Mean Age at Menarche among Four Endogamous Populations of Coastal Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT The age at menarche varies across the populations of the world and depends on various socio-economic, biological and genetic factors. In the present paper an attempt is made to present the distribution of age at menarche of girls belonging to four different endogamous populations of Andhra Pradesh namely, Kapu (peasant caste), Settibalija (toddy-drawing caste), Paki (scavenging caste), and Yerukula (plain area scheduled tribe). Data were collected from women living in rural area of Narasapuram mandal of West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, through personal interviewing. A majority of girls of former three populations attained puberty during 13th year of their age, while among Yerukula tribe, a majority reported the attaining of menarche at the age of 12th year.