

## Letter to the Editor

# Anthropometric measurements to characterize Ethnic groups in Indian Population

## Dear Editor,

Relationships between human groups are generally assessed by anthropometric data. The anthropometric dimensions are genetically determined and is known to be influenced by the environmental variations namely biological, nutritional, economic and cultural factors. Migration of the human race is an important factor that may be responsible for measurable variations that have been observed. There is pronounced brachycephaly observed of the heads of Hawaiian-born children of Japanese immigrants. Hence the changes are not only evolutionary, but also individual responses to the particular environment. Secular trend or long-term changes in a wide variety of traits in successive generations of a population living in the same territories is described. The more affluent have absence of secular trend as they have reached upper phenotypic limit set by their genetic potential. The less affluent have positive secular trend at present as they are moving from middle to upper reaches of genetically determined growth rate and body size range. The agricultural group have a negative secular trend as they are moving from middle to lower reaches of genetically determined range of growth rates and body sizes. The gatherers have positive secular trend as they are rising from the lowest reaches of genetic potential towards the middle of the range of growth rates and body sizes.

Systematic anthropometric studies have been conducted on the Indian population and classify into various 'Racial Types'. Many 'Racial Type' and anthropometric heterogeneity is observed in India. Many regional studies also demonstrate heterogeneity in anthropometric measurements on various races. Studies have used different techniques to measure the body dimensions making comparability difficult. Also, the samples are not homogenous to describe the population in many of these studies.

In view of the various determinants of body anthropometry there is a need to describe the various population groups based on region, race and ethnicity on a periodic basis. Such information

will be useful to anthropologists and researchers to find the origin of these groups, to the forensic experts to identify people and to medical personnel to predict the anthropometry and growth of people from different backgrounds. Literature on anthropometric characteristics of people of Kolar region are not available. There is a need to establish a baseline feature of anthropometric characteristic of people belonging to different groups and community in this part of the country

## References

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