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SUB-DOMAIN: o. GENERAL TRACK

PANEL TITLE: NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous populations are found in most parts of the world. In general, they continue to be socially and economically deprived. The nutritional status and socio-demographic profile of tribal people is an important issue globally due to their marginalization from mainstream population with respect to varied facilities. However, data on their nutritional status and socio-demographic profile are often limited. Anthropometry is a very useful and inexpensive method that can be utilized in determining the nutritional status of an individual. Since the last three decades, various anthropometric measurements and their cut-off points have been utilized in the evaluation of nutritional status. It has been observed that various tribal populations have high to very high rates of chronic energy deficiency (CED) based on their body mass index (BMI) values. These populations are experiencing extreme nutritional stress, which may have severe health implications with respect to morbidity and mortality. Although there is a gradual increase in knowledge about the nutritional and socio-demographic status of tribes for the last few decades, there is still paucity of data and information regarding their bio-social profile. Moreover, recent trends have indicated emergence of a new phenomenon of “dual burden” of malnutrition.

This panel deals with the past, present, and future of anthropometric-related studies on nutritional status of indigenous populations.

Keywords: Indigenous population, tribe, body mass Index, chronic energy deficiency

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