

## **ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF TRIBAL POPULATION OF MAHARASHTRA.**

Dr. Shaunak S.Kulkarni  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Pune, Pune 411 007.

The health of any community is an outcome of the interplay of many factors. Nutrition is of prime importance in the attainment of normal growth development and in the maintenance of health throughout life. Nutrition is the study of food in relation to the physiological processes that depends on its absorption by the body. Malnutrition has been defined as a pathological state resulting from relative or absolute deficiency or excess of one or more nutrients. This state being clinically manifested or detected only by bio-chemical, anthropometric or physiological test.

The tribal groups inhabit in widely varying ecological and geo-climatic conditions in different concentration and are distinct biological isolates with characteristic cultural and socioeconomic background (Basu 1987). Malnutrition has emerged as a major health problem in many tribal population (Sharma 1992). 126

The aim of the study is to assess the nutritional status and compare the level of malnutrition among different tribal groups (Korku, Warli, Mahadeo Koli, Katkari and Thakar) of Maharashtra.

The objectives are

- To measure the individuals with respect to anthropometric dimensions to assess the nutritional status quantitatively.
- To compare the results of the present study with that of the Indian reference values.
- To study the impact of social and economic conditions on nutrition.
- To study the dietary pattern of different tribal groups.
- To assess the level of malnutrition clinically and
- To investigate the prevalence of nutrition related diseases.

e mail: [shaunakak@rediffmail.com](mailto:shaunakak@rediffmail.com)

Contact address: Dr. Shaunak Kulkarni  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Pune, Pune.