

## Nutritional status and food habits of tribal children (1-5 yrs) : A study in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Nutritional status and food habits of 350 children (0-5 years) was assessed in 11 Anganwadis of Udala ICDS project, Mayurbhanj district of Odisha by using random purposive sampling method with the help of pretested questionnaire. Data on anthropometric measurements and food intake were collected by using required tools. Majority of the parents were agricultural labourers with low socio-economic condition. Problem of malnutrition was more among girls in comparison to boys. Mean height, weight, head circumference, mid-upper arm circumference and chest circumference of both tribal boys and girls were found to be lesser than NCHS standard, Wolanski standard and ICMR standard. The mean food and nutrient intake of the tribal children was found to be less than the recommended dietary allowances. The amount of consumption of all foods decreased with the severity of malnutrition. Significant difference in the intake of the different food items was observed between normal and moderately malnourished children and between normal and severely malnourished children.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Malnutrition, Nutritional status, Anthropometric measurement

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