Physical and Mental Health Status of Tribal Girl Children: An Analytical Study of Bansapal Block of Keonjhar district of Odisha

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ABSTRACT:
The present paper is an analytical study of Physical & Mental health status of tribal girl children in Keonjhar district of Odisha. Data has been collected from different schools of Bansapal block of Keonjhar district. Keonjhar is the homeland of four different tribal races that include Juanga, Munda, Pradhan tribes. Girl children constitute the most vulnerable segment of any community. The objective of the paper is to assess the physical and psycho social development of well nourished and malnourished tribal girl children in the study area. The main objective of the paper is to identify the micro environmental factors influencing their growth and development of well nourished and malnourished tribal girl children within the age group of 5-15. The paper seeks to identify the physical and psycho social perspective of tribal girl children. The paper examines that how childhood physical and mental health of the tribal girls impacts their health status in adulthood and their reproductive health.

KEY WORDS: Physical health, Mental health, Gender health, Anthropometric Measurement, Reproductive health, Morbidity, Intellectual disability, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Communities (PVTC)

Introduction
Among various communities inhibiting in India, the tribal communities are the most marginalized and vulnerable. They are neglected and discriminated in terms of income distribution and social status. Most of them are desperately poor, backward generally uneducated and lead a hard and miserable life. The tribal societies in India are undisputedly considered to be weakest sections of the population in view of common socio economic and socio demographic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of developmental faculties, lack of adequate primary health facilities. Despite the protection given to tribal population by the Constitution of India in 1950, they remain as