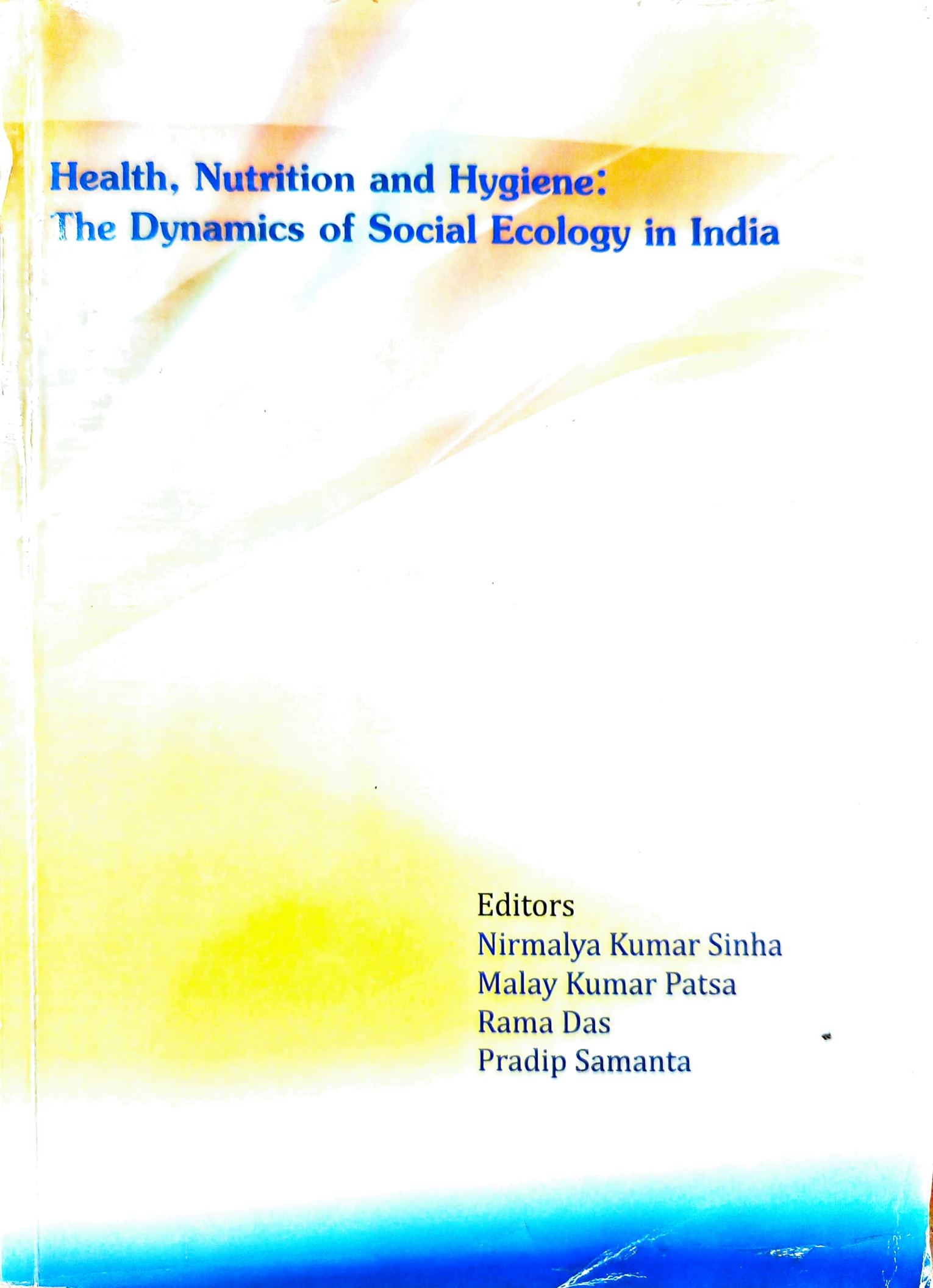




Health, Nutrition and Hygiene: The Dynamics of Social Ecology in India

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ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH STATUS BY UPPER ARM COMPOSITION AMONG BHARIA TRIBAL CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS OF PATALKOT, MADHYA PRADESH

Ajay Ahirwar, Subal Das, Rajesh Gautam

Introduction

During childhood and adolescence, obesity and thinness are major public health problem in both developed and developing countries (Kipping, 2008). Childhood and adolescent period is marked by rapid growth in both fat and non-fat components of the body (Kuczmarski, 1999). During childhood there is increasing risk of developing obesity, as well as the prevalence of obesity is also increasing worldwide among children. In addition, mid-childhood and adolescence are critical and responsive periods for the development of obesity. During these periods, a start of obesity may increase the risk of determined obesity later in life (Monyeki, 2008). Much has been written about the epidemic of child obesity (Lobstein, 2004). But malnutrition, under nutrition in infants, children, and adolescents poses a considerably larger public health problem internationally (Lucas, 1991). It has been estimated that approximately 70.0 % of the world's malnourished children live in Asia, giving that region the highest concentration of worldwide childhood malnutrition (Khor, 2005). In India, given its large population size and widespread poverty, a majority of individuals are undernourished and disadvantaged (Ramachandran, 2007; Antony & Laxmaiah, 2008). Upper arm muscle area (UAMA) and upper arm fat area (UAFA) were introduced for the assessment of nutritional status of children and adults (Frisancho, 1981). The UAFA measures the body adiposity, thus reflecting the body calorie reserve stored in the form of body fat. The UAFA is considered to be the best indicator of body fat among children (Deurenberg, 1990). Skin fold thickness (SFT) measurements are a well-established means of assessing the thickness of subcutaneous fat at all ages; including childhood and adolescent periods (Rodriguez, 2005). India has several socially disadvantaged communities among which scheduled tribe are the most deprived ones. The tribal populations which constitute 8.08 % of total population are characterized by widespread poverty, illiteracy malnutrition lack of drinking water and hygienic condition (Sharma, 2007). Central India is demographically covering after and level to many ills including wide spread poverty and illiteracy; which lead to many health problems among different sections of population. Undernutrition among children is one of such problem which has given least attention (Mitra, 2007). The purpose of the study was to find out the health status of studied