

# **SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS AND ADULT HEIGHTS IN INDIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In recent literature, height has been well documented as a long term measure of wellbeing. Responding to the changes in physical, social and economic environment, it not only reflects the past and present welfare of individuals and groups but also ascertains the future as taller people have been empirically shown to live longer, be healthier and attain better jobs and social status. Data on women of cohorts 1957-86, as recorded in the National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06), is used to assess impact of various factors on height of Indian women. The study shows that as all India level, latter cohorts have gained around 1 cm in height. In Tamilnadu the gain is almost 2 cm. Hindus are generally shorter than other religious groups. Women living in rural areas, poor, uneducated and who had borne children at an early age are shorter than urbanites, wealthier, educated and ones who had pregnancy at a mature age. This thesis adds to our understanding of hitherto unexplored physical, social and economic factors which affects adult female height.