Reviewing Selected Anthropometric Characteristics of the Somatic Development in Children

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REVIEWING SELECTED ANTHROPOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SOMATIC DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN

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Special thanks go to all those who participated in any way in the creation of this monograph and, last but not least, the directors of the selected schools for their cooperation.

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INTRODUCTION

The research objective of the presented scientific monograph responds in certain ways to scientific and research demand for anthropometric measurement of selected anthropometric parameters of different age groups. The presented monograph also contains a set of offprints of original scientific papers and it deals with issues of anthropogenetic and auxologic study of children at younger school age. Growth and development are typical features of the human body indicating changes in body proportions and vital functions and improvement of body organ systems. The processes of growth and development are individual and run at different pace. They are greatly affected by multiple factors and depend specifically on genetic predispositions, external, social and economic environment, nutrition and physical activity. These factors have an impact not only on mental but also on physical development of the child. Thus, regular studies focusing on growth monitoring in children and youth are important for assessment of overall health condition of the child. Many authors provide different body dimension values depending on age and they differentiate between preschool age (3-6 years of age) and younger school age (6-10 years of age). During these periods, body dimensions change significantly and even the sexual dimorphism can be demonstrated, i.e., boys are taller and their weight is higher. Significant deviations from the average are thus an appropriate indicator of the overall health and nutrition of the population.

Social and economic differences between citizens in Slovakia have been confirmed as the partial consequence of migration and arrival of other ethnic groups to our territory. The Slovak Republic is a multi-ethnic country with a high number of ethnic and national minorities (up to 20% of the total population is made up by minorities). Roma people represent the largest minority with 8-9% of the population, and they often live in poverty and insanitary conditions. Currently, the question of Roma people origin has not been answered satisfactorily. Although linguistic studies showed that Roma people came from India, historical linguistics is unable to specify the exact ethnic origin of the first migrants speaking Roma language. The part of India where Roma people came from, castes they belonged to, their social status in India, and why they left India, are not known exactly.

The presented monograph was compiled with the support of the VEGA grant project of the MŠVVaŠ SR and SAV (No. 1/0122/19) entitled: Somatic and Motor Skill Characteristics of and Development Trends in Younger School Age Children with a Special Focus on Children from Marginalized Roma Communities. The research objective of this monograph focuses on the research of selected anthropometric parameters in children. We believe that the method of

addressing theoretical and practical starting points within this monograph may add missing anthropometric data and raise multiple issues for academic and scientific discussion.

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