

Age dynamic of physical condition changes in pre-school age girls, schoolgirls and students, living in conditions of Eastern Siberia

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Abstract

Purpose: to analyze dynamic of physical condition, considering sex (females) and age of the tested, living in region with unfavorable ecology.

Material: we studied pre school age girls (n=1580, age 4–7 years). In the research we did not include children with chronic diseases, who were under observation. We tested schoolgirls (n=3211, age 7–17 years) and girl students (n=5827, age 17–21 years, 1–4 years of study). Girl students were divided into five age groups: from 17 to 21 years. All participants lived in conditions of Eastern Siberia (Irkutsk). This region is characterized by unfavorable ecology and climate geographic characteristics.

Results: in dynamic of physical condition of pre-school girls, schoolgirls and students we marked out three substantial periods of it characteristics' changes. Age 7-8 years is critical (transition from 1st to 2nd stage). The least values of these characteristics are found in older (after 17–18 years) ages. In students we observed relative stabilization of these indicators.

Conclusions: the received results shall be considered in building physical education training process in pre-school educational establishments, secondary comprehensive schools and higher educational establishments.

Keywords: pre school age girls, schoolgirls, girl students, physical condition.

Introduction

Physical education is one of leading criteria, improvement of whose indicators shall witness about health strengthening of rising generation. This criterion is external manifestation of adequacy of growth and development processes to living conditions and age [14]. Its assessment shall be built on comparison of testing results with test requirements and on dynamic of its results' increment. Such assessment shall be realized for every age group [12].

Single studies of morphological or functional indicators permit to assess only physical condition of the tested. These indicators cannot serve as the base for assessment of population physical state [6]. Dynamic observations shall include complex analysis of indicators. It will permit to predict reliably child's development and his/her functional potentials [13]. With it, it is necessary to consider homogeneity of group results, to admit tolerance for age and processes of natural growth and development of children, adolescents and youth [3].

The basis for monitoring of population's physical state (of all age groups) is: unfavorable medical-demographic situation; insufficiently effective system of first medical aid organization; growth of somatic morbidity; harmful habits and negative social phenomena [8]. System of monitoring permits to actually assess harmony of children's adolescents and youth's development [11]. It is the base for working out of correction programs, directed at health strengthening and physical fitness improvement. The main sphere of practical application of monitoring is information servicing of its management [12].

In other studies authors note demand in the following: consideration of youth's individual features in physical culture [21, 27] and sport practicing [24, 26]; choice of optimal loads [30] and adequate motor tests [22, 25] as well as health level [32, 33].

Unfavorable ecological and climate geographic characteristics of Irkutsk region influence negatively on the following: rising generation's physical development and physical fitness [4]; main medical demographic indicators (birth rate, mortality and morbidity). With it, their values in population of Eastern Siberia are much lower than in population of European and central parts of Russia. For children's population of Siberian region's industrial cities some morphological functional peculiarities are characteristic. These peculiarities are connected with living conditions and specific of environmental pollution [7].

In other works it is noted that climatic conditions influence on pre school age children's perception of motor tasks [22]. These peculiarities shall be considered when preparing motor training programs [28]. Besides, it is recommended that members of family, peers and sportsmen were examples in programs of youth's physical activity's increasing (on example of Australia) [34]. Such approach facilitates formation of positive attitude to own health and involves youth in active sports' practicing [29, 31]. It is noted that physical culture teachers shall have certain competences. It was found that application of information-communication technologies is an important factor, which influences on teachers' competences in Turkey [20].

In Irkutsk region specialists in physical culture and medicine rarely analyzed dynamic of children's population's

physical development. Only some weight height indicators of this age group were regarded and compared with average indicators in Russia. Besides, there are practically no scientifically substantiated regional standards of assessment of rising generation's physical health. Only in 2002–2014 the group of scientists, guided by Prof. V.Yu. Lebedinskiy fulfilled work on monitoring of pre schoolchildren's physical development [17], schoolchildren [18] and students [2] of Irkutsk. The authors considered age, gender and typological characteristics of children and youth.

Hypothesis: study of physical development peculiarities of pre school girls, schoolgirls and girl students will permit to raise effectiveness of physical education in municipal pre school educational (MPSEE) and comprehensive schools (MEE SCS) and in higher educational establishments.

The purpose of the research was to analyze dynamic of pre school girls, schoolgirls and girl students, living in region with unfavorable ecology, physical condition.

Material and methods

Participants: pre school age girls. We tested girls (n=1580, age 4–7 years), who attended MPSEE № 75, 79, 148 in Irkutsk. In the research we did not include children with chronic diseases, who were under observation.

Schoolgirls: we tested girls (n=3211, age 7–17 years), who learn in 22, 25, 44 of MEE SCS in Irkutsk.

Girl students: we tested girls (n=5827, age 17–21 years, 1–4 years of study), who study in Irkutsk national research technical university (IrSRTU). The girl students were divided into 5 age groups: from 17 to 21 years age.

All parents gave consent for their children's participation in the research. The protocol of the research was approved by ethic committee of Irkutsk national research technical university.

Organization of the research: the main complex of this research's methods was worked out as per special program [1]. We found main indicators of physical development and physical fitness and methods of their study [9].

The studies were conducted from September 2004 to May 2007 – twice a year: at the beginning (September) and at the end (May) of academic year. We used: *anthropometric measurements* (height, weight, chest circumference –CC) and *physiometric examinations* (dynamometry) of physical development.

Statistical analysis: the received data were processed with Microsoft Excel 7.1., «Statistica 6.1» programs. Confidence of average values' differences in independent samples was assessed by Student's t-test.

Results

In our work we used only those data, which (according to monitoring) can be observed in age from 4 to 21 years age (see table 1). Research of height parameters' changes in the tested pre school age girls, schoolgirls and girl students can be conventionally divide into four periods (see fig. 1).

Body length of girls from 4 to six years age increases by 6 cm ($P<0,001$) a year. The highest value ($P<0,001$) of yearly increment (by 9.2 cm) was registered in 7 years age children.

1. \forall In 8 and 9 years age girls increment ($P<0,05$) of this indicator reduces to 4 cm a year.

2. From 10 to 13 year age change of height again becomes noticeable ($P<0,001$) increases to 6–7 cm a year. By 14 years ($P<0,05$) these indicators are 4 cm a year.

3. From 15 to 21 years age increment of this indicator significantly reduces ($P<0,05$). From 17 years to 21 years age this indicator practically does not change ($P>0,05$). Increase of body mass of the tested (see fig. 2) is conventionally divided into 3 stages.

1. From 4 to 9 years it increases by 2–3 kg a year ($P<0,05$).

2. From 10 to 15 years age in schoolgirls significant weight increase is observed ($P<0,001$) by 3–5 kg.

3. From sixteen years the girls weight increment ($P>0,05$) is insignificant – less than 1 kg a year.

In changes of chest circumference (see fig. 3) we can also conventionally mark out three stages:

1. From 4 to 6 years age we observe significant increase ($P<0,001$) of indicator is by 1.6 cm a year.

2. In seven years girls it is higher – 3 cm ($P<0,001$), and in next ages up to 17 years age inclusively it changes ($P<0,05$) from 1 to 2,2 cm a year.

3. In 18 years age the stage starts from the most significant CC increment ($P<0,001$) (9.7 cm). Next years (up to 21 year) its changes are less expressed ($P>0,05$) (to 2,4 cm a year). Dynamic of left and right hand strength changes (fig. 4, 5) has the same character and can also be conventionally divided into 3 stages:

1. From 4 to 6 years it is characterized by little ($P<0,05$) change of muscles' strength – up to 1 kg a year.

2. In seven years girls we observed the highest increment ($P<0,001$) of right and left hands' strength: 7–9 and 6–8 kg accordingly. In next ages up to 17 year age (right hand) and 18 –left hand these indicators increase relatively uniformly by 0,7–2,1 kg a year. It should be noted that age 11–13 years (right hand) and 12–15 years (left hand) is characterized by more expressed ($P<0,001$) increments of indicator.

3. In 18 years age and older right and left hands strength increases insignificantly ($P>0,05$) to 0,8 kg a year.

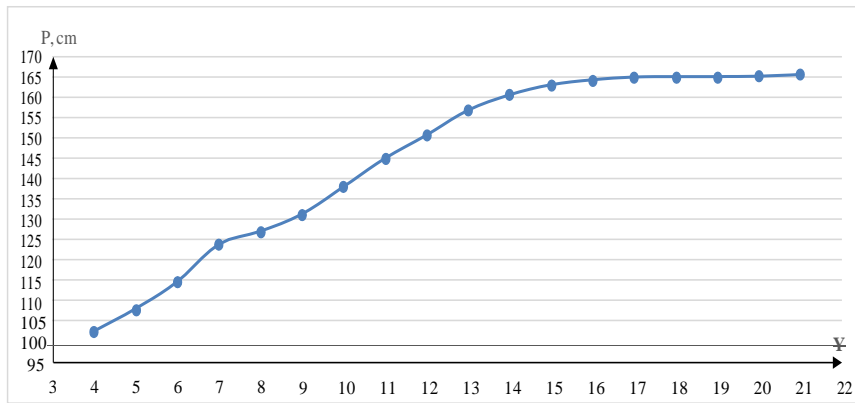


Fig. 1. Dynamic of P (height, cm) indicators' changes from Y (age, years)

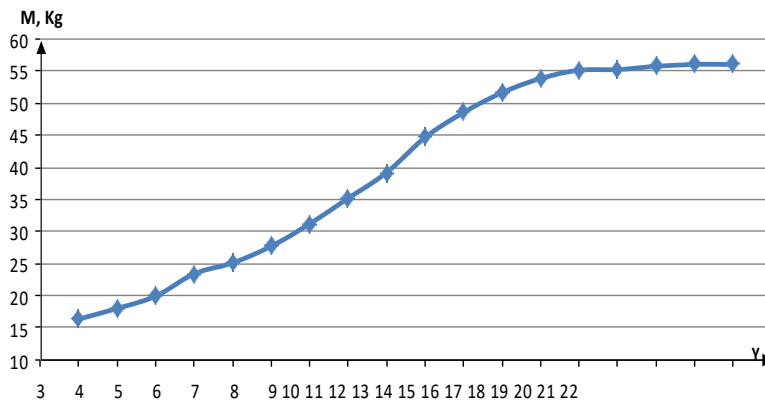


Fig. 2. . Dynamic of M, kg (weight) indicators' changes from Y (age, years)

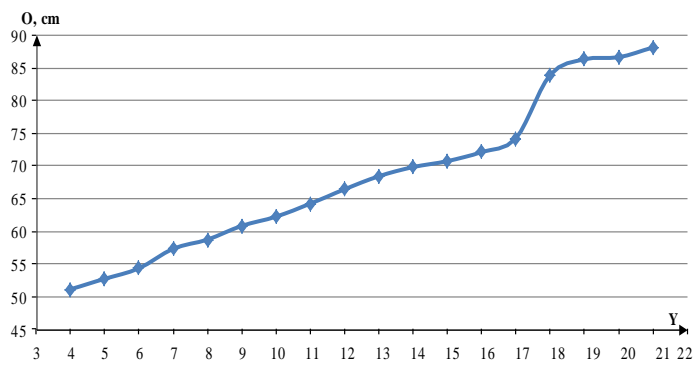


Fig. 3. Dynamic of CC (chest circumference, cm) indicators' changes from Y (age, years)

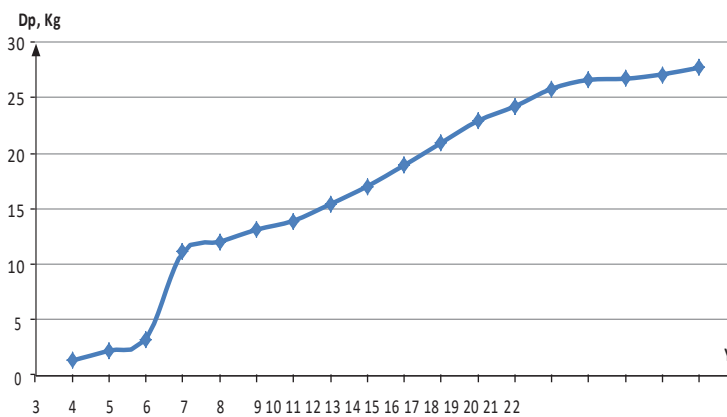


Fig. 4. Dynamic of right hand dynamometry indicators' change (Dp, Kg) from Y (Y, years)

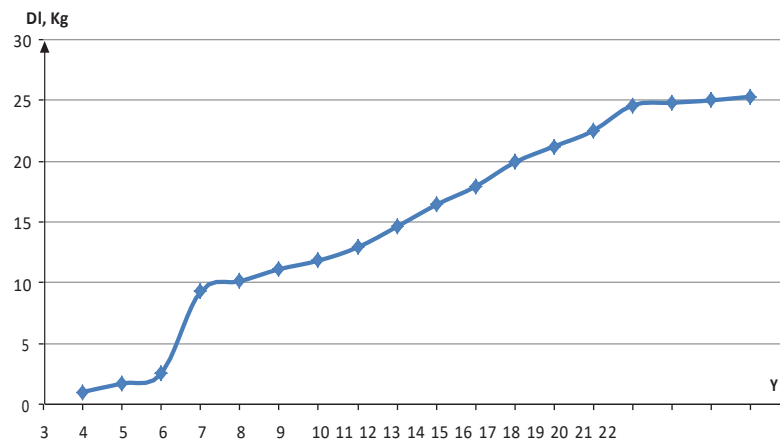


Fig. 5. Dynamic of left hand dynamometry indicators' change (Dp, Kg) from Y (Y, years)

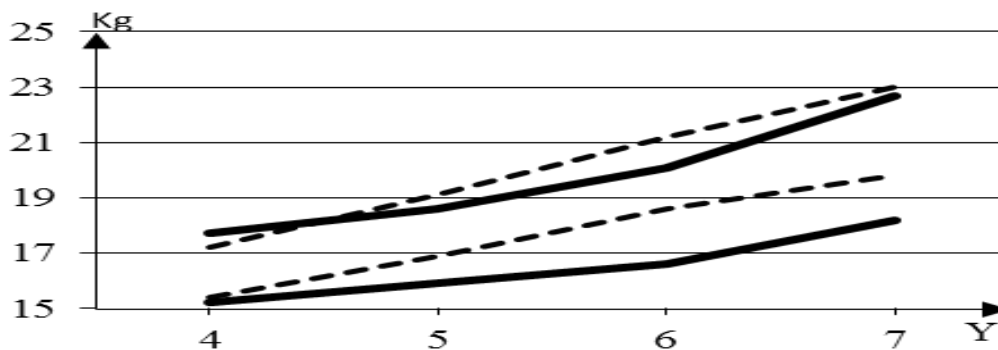


Fig. 6. Comparative characteristics of weight (P, Kg) from age (Y, years)

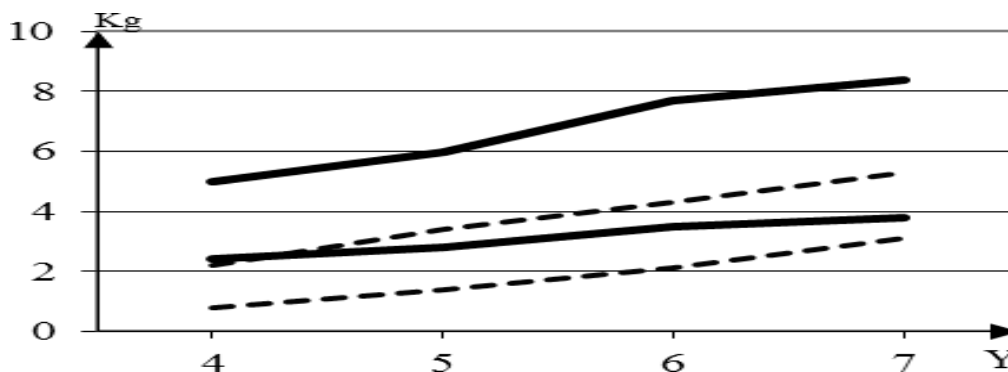


Fig. 7. Right hand dynamometry (P, Kg) from Y (Y, years)

Discussion

By results of physical condition comparison in children from MPSEE (Irkutsk) with children from other regions of Russian Federation we found the following: in 4 years pre school age girls height parameters do not differ significantly from general Russian standards [17]; in 5 and 6 years age their height parameters improve and go ahead of their peers; in 7 yrs age – they coincide.

In the plots below the borders of regional standards of pre school age girls physical condition (Irkutsk) are depicted by dotted line; continuous line – general Russian standards.

Weight parameters of 4 years Irkutsk pre school age girls (see fig. 6) also do not noticeably differ from average values in Russia.

By 5 and 6 years their parameters improve and go ahead their peers; in seven years they again practically coincide with general Russian standards.

By CC dimensions Irkutsk pre school age girls yield their peers of 4 and 5 years age. Then, in 6 and 7 years age these dimensions increase and reach general Russian standards, though remaining a little less than general Russian standards. Analysis of vital capacity of lungs' indicators (VCL) of 4-5 Irkutsk girls show the following: CC was a little less that in their peers from other regions. Since 6 years this indicator improves and by 7 years age coincides with general Russian standards.

When analyzing right hand dynamometry indicators we found that in 4 years age Irkutsk girls show absolute low results, comparing with peers from other Russian regions. Then they start to reach the peers from other Russian regions, though this indicator of them is still lower (see fig. 7). The same picture is noticed in left hand dynamometry. In 4 years age Irkutsk girls demonstrate very low results. But, by 7 yrs age results increase. They have lower indicators even better than in other Russian regions.

Comparing of Irkutsk girls regional standards with general Russian indicators permits to make conclusion that by height and body weight 5-6 yrs age Irkutsk girls are before their peers. However, by CC, VCL and left and right dynamometry indicators are less in all ages. Especially these distinctions are expressed in 4-5 years age. From 6 to 7 years the borders of regional standards expand and approach to general Russian to some extent.

When comparing age dynamic of some indicators of schoolgirls' physical condition (Irkutsk, 7-17 years age) with general Russian standards we found some differences [18]. It is determined by living conditions in Eastern Siberia.

It was found that their height parameters do not differ from average characteristics in Russia. But, form 11 to 14 years age their height parameters improve and become a little better than their peers' in other regions. By 15 yrs age height parameters again practically coincide with general Russian data Changes of weight indicators also practically coincide with general Russian standards. Especially it is noticeable in 16-17 yrs age.

When analyzing CC characteristics we noted that from 10 yrs age Irkutsk schoolgirls lag behind for their peers in other regions. It is the most expressed since 13 yrs age (see fig. 8). Analysis of VCL changes of Irkutsk schoolgirls shows that its indicators also were lower that in their peers from other regions.. They practically correspond each other only in 7 yrs age. Then, in Irkutsk schoolgirls they become a little higher (in 8 yrs age) and we observed the tendency to their increase up to 17 yrs age.

Changes of right hand dynamometry indicators show that in Irkutsk schoolgirls from 7 to 13 yrs age they are higher than in their peers from other regions. These indicators are compared in 14 and 15 yrs. By 16-17 yrs age they do not practically differ (see fig. 9). In age 7-10 yrs age they are much higher.

The same picture can be seen by left hand dynamometry: Irkutsk schoolgirls (especially in 7-10 years) have advantage over their peers. These indicators are less expressed in 11-15 yrs age. In 16-17 yrs age these indicators do not differ.

When comparing physical condition standards with their peers from other regions it was found that they are practically equal by height and weight. In a number of indicators advantage of general Russian standards is registered only in senior school age. In junior age differences smooth. Especially it is expressed from 12 years age. From 7 to 12 yrs age Irkutsk schoolgirls have better results in left and right hands dynamometry. Analyzing students' physical development [2] we found that their anthropometric indicators practically do not change. Physio-metric indicators, which differ more intensively and confidently during first two years of study at university demonstrate deeper changes. At senior years of study their stabilization happens. Comparing physical condition of different age girl students we found:

- We did not observe significant differences in physical condition indicators (weight, height). But from 17 to 21 yrs age they insignificantly change.
- In CC characteristics we registered significant $(P < 0,001)$ differences 18, 19 and 21 years;
- We found noticeable changes in dynamometry of left and right hands in 18 and 20 yrs age $(P < 0,01)$.

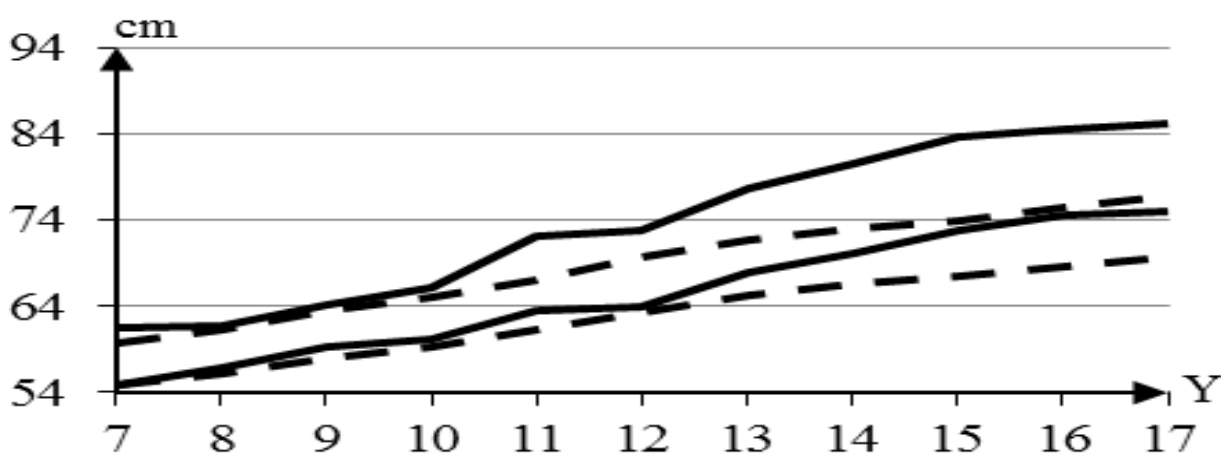


Fig. 8 .Comparative CC characteristics: O– cm; Y – age, years

Conclusions:

1. Physical condition's indicators of Irkutsk schoolgirls can be divided into three main periods. The most expressed their increment was registered in pre school age. 7-8 yrs age is the most critical (transition from 1st to 2nd stage). After 18 yrs age we registered relative stabilization of indicators. It shall be considered in building educational process in schools and HEEs. The created bank of testing results and worked out standards of Irkutsk girls' physical condition (4-21 years age) can serve as the base for further scientific researches

of physical condition of different population strata.

1. Application of monitoring [14] over physical condition of pre school age girls, schoolgirls and girl students in MPSEE, MEE and HEE permits:

- Assess initial level of physical and motor conditions;
- Correct educational and educational-training processes;
- Assess successfulness of their mastering of motor skills;
- Fulfill comparative characteristics of different population strata physical health (age, class, group and so on);
- To assess effectiveness of physical culture a

instructors' and teachers' work.

The received results can be used in educational and training work in MPSEE, MEE and physical culture departments of other HEEs of region. The results are innovative technology of physical education with application of individual differentiated training at physical culture lessons and in sports practicing.

Conflict of interests

The authors state that there is no conflict of interest.

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