

Jarawa Contact Expedition
(11 - 12 April, 1996)

Preliminary observations regarding Health and Nutritional status.

During this expedition, a group of 40 persons of Jarawa community at Kadamtala in Middle Andaman and four children at camp Cliff Bay in South Andaman were contacted. The group of 40 Jarawas contacted included four adult males, eight adult females, 18 boys and 10 girls. The contact lasted for about an hour and for most part of this period the Jarawas were busy collecting gifts. Some preliminary observations could be made during short intervals in between. Since equipments required for proper clinical and anthropometric examination could not be taken ashore, detailed systemic examination could not be undertaken. The following findings are based on superficial general examination of few of the Jarawas.

General physical appearance:-

All appeared well built with dark skin and short curly hair. All of them were active and apparently healthy. All of them were tall with an average adult height of approximately 5½ to 6 feet, except for two adults (one male and the other female) who were short statured.

Eyes :-

Two children had dry and muddy conjunctiva which could be an early sign of conjunctival xerosis due to Vit. A deficiency. However, none of them had Bitot's spots.

Oral cavity :-

Teeth and tongue of the majority were clean. None of them were found to be suffering from tooth cavities. Gums were normal.

Glands :-

No thyroid enlargement seen. None of the few examined Jarawas had enlarged lymph nodes.

Skin :-

Normal except healing abrasions on different parts of the body in four children and two adults. None of the few contacted jarawas were suffering from skin diseases.

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