



SPECTRUM, ASSOCIATE AND PREDICTORS OF PERCEPTUAL BODY IMAGE OF URBAN ADOLESCENT GIRLS: FINDINGS FOR A COMMUNITY BASED STUDY FROM NORTH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This community based cross sectional study was done to find out Spectrum, Associate and predictors of perceptual body image of urban adolescent girls; findings for a community based study from north India. After obtaining consent of parents and assent of subjects, data was collected from the subjects by interview technique using pre-designed and pretested Performa. Each study subject was specially interviewed for their perception about own body. In order to find out associate of PBI information about possible factors were obtained. Anthropometric measurements (weight and height) were done and their body mass was computed. Data management and statistical analysis: Analysis of data was done for inferential purpose logistic regression analysis was applied. Results: As much as 80.0% and 20% subjects had positive and negative perceptual body image respectively. Mother education, habit of news paper reading daily and sometimes plus ever, self esteem, representation through media, reorganization of westernized diet better than traditional Indian diet were the significant predictors of perceptive body image.

KEYWORDS : westernized diet, perceptive body image, fast food

INTRODUCTION:

In this era of globalization significant changes has taken place in technology, economy, market, political forces, legal framework, environment and society. Recently phenomenal transformation is being observed in human outlooks and values. This idea of 'body image' has significant repercussions on human health in general and on the health of adolescents in particular. Body image is a complex multidimensional, subjective and dynamic concept that encompasses person's perceptions, thought, feelings, actions about their body and issues pertaining to corresponding dimensions are perceptive, affective, cognitive and behavioural body image. Body image is not limited to the aesthetic characteristics of a person. It takes into account his/her state of health, skill. One's mental body image is established by senses ideas and feelings which most of the time are unconscious. Extent to which and individual is content with their body size and shape, body confidence and body esteem has significant psychological impact which may propel for indicative to change.

Perceptual Body Image (PBI) is influenced by several factors (viz. socio-demographic, environmental factors, relationship with family and friends, exposure to different media, dietary practices, pattern, preferences and knowledge, menstrual practices etc). There is paucity of research on PBI particularly in urban adolescent girls. With this background this study was conducted on urban adolescent girls of a district of India to assess extent, associate and predictors of perceptual body image in the study subjects.

METHODS

Setting, Study design, and subjects: This study was conducted in urban area of Varanasi, India. A community based cross-sectional study was conducted among adolescent girls of age 10-19 years. Taking prevalence positive perceptive body image as 60%, permissible level of error as 5% (absolute) the sample size worked out to be: 369; multiplying this by design effect (1.5) the sample size became 554. Giving due consideration to a dropout of 10% the final sample size became 615.

Sampling methods: The study sample was selected by adopting multistage sampling procedure.

Data Collection Methods: After obtaining consent of parents and assent of subjects, data was collected from the subjects

by interview technique using pre-designed and pretested Performa. Each study subject was specially interviewed for their perception about own body. In order to find out associate of PBI information about possible factors were obtained. Anthropometric measurements (weight and height) were done and their body mass was computed. Data management and statistical analysis: Analysis of data was done using Personal Computer. SPSS 21 version software was used for data analysis in order to pinpoint predictors of PBI significant variables in the univariate analysis were put into the logistic model adjusted odds ratio and 95% confidence interval were computed information pertaining to urban adolescent girls. 2.5. Ethical Consideration: Ethical approval was obtained from Institutional Ethics Committee, of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Extent of perceptual Body Image:

As much as 80.0% and 20% subjects had positive and negative perceptual body image respectively; positive body image included responses look awe-some (12.5%), feel pretty (23.8%), look attractive (11.5%) and just fair (32.2%). Negative body image included conditions as fatty (41.2%), skinny (15.0%) and hate their body (0.8%) (Table-1).

Table 1: Distribution of subjects according to their perceptual body image

Particulars		No.	%
Positive	Look awesome	77	12.5
	Feel pretty	146	23.8
	Look attractive	71	11.5
	Just fair	198	32.2
Negative	Fatty	26	4.2
	Skinny	92	15
	Hate their body	5	0.8
Total	615	100.0	

Associates of perceptual body image:

Association of perceptual body image (PBI) with socio-demographic profile is given in table 2. There existed no significant ($p > 0.05$) association of PBI with age, religion, caste, family size, social class and father education. In case of 76.9% subjects from joint / third generation extended families PBI was positive ($p < 0.01$). As much as 77.1%, 89.0%, 79.6% subjects with mother education as NA/ illiterate/ primary/ middle, high school and intermediate as well as graduate and post graduate degree had positive PBI (< 0.05).

Table-2: Association of perceptual body image with socio-demographic profile.

Parameter	Perceptual Body Image				Total No.	
	Positive		Negative			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Age	<15	249	81.1	58	18.9	307
	16-17	159	79.1	42	20.9	201
	18-19	84	78.5	23	21.5	107
	$\chi^2=0.486; df=2; p=0.784$					
Religion	Hindu	474	80.6	114	19.4	588
	Muslim	18	66.7	9	33.3	27
	$\chi^2=3.13; df=1; p=0.096$					
Caste	SC/ST	110	74.8	37	25.2	147
	OBC	256	83.4	51	16.6	307
	Others	126	78.3	35	21.7	151
$\chi^2=4.96; df=2; p=0.084$						
Family Size	<5	272	78.6	74	21.4	346
	5-8	171	82.2	37	17.8	208
	≥8	49	80.3	12	19.7	61
$\chi^2=1.05; df=2; p=0.590$						
Type of Family	Nuclear	306	76.9	92	23.1	398
	Joint/Third gen/Extended	186	85.7	31	14.3	217
	$\chi^2=6.84; df=1; p=0.005$					
Social class	26-29/16-25	194	79.2	51	20.8	245
	11-15	158	84.9	28	15.1	186
	5-10/<5	140	76.1	44	23.9	184
$\chi^2=4.70; df=2; p=0.095$						
Mother education	NA/Illiterate/ Primary/Middle	270	77.1	80	22.9	350
	High School	105	89.0	13	11.0	118
	Intermediate, Bachelor Degree, Post Graduate	117	79.6	30	20.4	147
	$\chi^2=7.75; df=2; p=0.021$					
Father education	NA/Illiterate/ primary/middle	158	77.1	47	22.9	205
	High school	98	83.1	20	16.9	118
	Intermediate, Bachelor & Post Graduate degree	236	80.8	56	19.2	292
	$\chi^2= 1.90; df= 2; p= 0.385$					

Association of perceptual body image (PBI) with environmental factors (viz dwelling ownership, place of kitchen and type of fuel used for cooking) was not statistically significant. There existed no significant ($p>0.05$) association of perceptual body image with relationship of subjects with father, mother, brother, sister, peers and in sharing heartfelt feeling with mother/sisters and others. There existed significant association of perceptual body image (PBI) with habit of news paper reading and watching TV and media representation of positive self esteem. As much as 70.7%, 84.9% and 81.3% subjects with habit of newspaper reading 3-4 day per week, 3-4 days per month and sometimes/ never had positive PBI. In case of 82.3% subjects with habit of watching TV daily their perceptible body image was positive, corresponding value for habit of watching TV 3-4 days per week and 3 to 4 days per months and sometimes/ never were 76.6% and 69.8%. As much as 84.6% and 71.0% with media representation of positive and negative self-esteem their PBI and positive and negative, respectively. Association of PBI with exposure of media, health image to follow, was feeling about one self. Comparing with others was not statistically significant (Table-3).

Table 3: Association of perceptual body image with exposure to different media

Parameter	Perceptual Body Image				Total No.	
	Positive		Negative			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Habit of Newspaper						
Habit of News Paper reading	Daily	94	70.7	39	29.3	133
	3-4 days/one week/month	146	84.9	26	15.1	172
	Sometimes/ never	252	81.3	58	18.7	310
$\chi^2=10.11; df=2; p=0.006$						
Habit of watching TV	Daily	363	82.3	78	17.7	441
	3-4 days/one week/month	85	76.6	26	23.4	111
	Sometimes/ never	44	69.8	19	30.2	63
$\chi^2=6.35; df=2; p=0.042$						
Exposure to Different Media						
News paper	Expose to other media	103	80.5	25	19.5	128
	Expose only News paper	389	79.9	98	20.1	487
	$\chi^2=0.022; df=1; p=0.496$					
Computer	Expose to other media	209	82.6	44	17.4	253
	Expose only Computer	283	78.2	79	21.8	362
	$\chi^2=1.82; df=1; p=0.105$					
Television	Expose to other media	64	82.1	14	17.9	78
	Expose only Television	428	79.7	109	20.3	537
	$\chi^2=0.235; df=1; p=0.377$					
Mobile	Expose to other media	351	81.4	80	18.6	431
	Expose only Mobile	141	76.6	43	23.4	184
	$\chi^2=1.86; df=1; p=0.106$					
Influence of media	Yes	342	81.8	76	18.2	418
	No	150	76.1	47	23.9	197
	$\chi^2=2.69; df=1; p=0.064$					
Healthy image to follow	Yes	331	80.0	83	20.0	414
	No	161	80.1	40	19.9	201
	$\chi^2=0.002; df=1; p=0.529$					
Feeling about oneself	Good	379	80.3	93	19.7	472
	Indifferent/ Frustrated/ NA	113	79.0	30	21.0	143
	$\chi^2=0.112; df=1; p=0.410$					
Media representation of positive self esteem	Yes	345	84.6	63	15.4	408
	No	147	71.0	60	29.0	207
	$\chi^2=15.7; df=1; p=0.000$					
Comparing with others	Yes	375	80.6	90	19.4	465
	No	117	78.0	33	22.0	150
	$\chi^2=496; df=1; p=0.276$					

Association of perceptual body image (PBI) with dietary practices pattern, preference and knowledge is given in table (4.4.1-F) extent of positive PBI was significantly more $P<0.05$ in subjects not agreeing with statement westernized diet is better than traditional Indian diet than in those (83.2%) with positive view. As much as (83.5%) and (69.1%) subjects with preference and non-preference for traditional Indian diet had positive perception body image ($p<0.01$). As much as 84.5% subjects strongly agreed/agreed with the statement branding affects choice of fast food had positive PBI corresponding value for subject disagreed on the statement had 67.6% and 72.1% had positive PBI. As much as 77.5% and 86.1% subjects with protein intake $<100\%$ RDA and $>100\%$ of RDA had positive

perception body image, corresponding value for energy intake were 77.9% and 84.2%. There existed no significant ($p>0.05$) association of PBI prices influence choice of fast food, ingredient present in fast food will affect your body, disease from taking fast food frequently mental health, number of time a week you consume fast food, RDA fat, vitamin A, vitamin C, Calcium and BMI (Table-4).

Table 4: Association of perceptual body image with dietary practices , pattern, preferences and knowledge

Parameter		Perceptual Body Image				Total
		Positive		Negative		
		No.	%	No.	%	
Nature of Diet	Vegetarian	168	84.4	31	15.6	199
	Non-Vegetarian/ Eggetarian	135	77.6	39	22.4	174
	Occasional non vegetarian	189	78.1	53	21.9	242
	$\chi^2=3.61; df=2; p=0.164$					
Awareness about fast food	Never	97	78.2	27	21.8	124
	Sometime	314	81.1	73	18.9	387
	Always	81	77.9	23	22.1	104
	$\chi^2=0.847; df=2; p=0.655$					
Westernized diet is better than traditional Indian diet	Yes	199	75.7	64	24.3	263
	No	293	83.2	59	16.8	352
	$\chi^2=5.39; df=1; p=0.013$					
Prefer traditional Indian food	Yes	389	83.5	77	16.5	466
	No	103	69.1	46	30.9	149
	$\chi^2=14.52; df=1; p=0.000$					
Branding affects chose of fast foods	Strongly Agree/agree	354	84.5	65	15.5	419
	Neutral	50	67.6	24	32.4	74
	Disagree/ strongly disagree	88	72.1	34	27.9	122
	$\chi^2=17.1; df=2; p=0.000$					
Prices influence choice of foods	Strongly Agree/agree	312	81.3	72	18.8	384
	Neutral	67	77.9	19	22.1	85
	Disagree/ strongly disagree	113	77.9	32	22.1	145
	$\chi^2=0.998; df=2; p=0.607$					
Fast food restaurant or home delivery	Burger/Fries/ Pizza/Fried Chicken	284	82.1	62	17.9	345
	Sandwich/ Ice cream/ Others/ Na	208	77.3	61	22.7	269
	$\chi^2=2.14; df=1; p=0.087$					
Ingredient will affect your body	Know-ledgeable	170	82.1	37	17.9	207
	Not Know-ledgeable	322	78.9	86	21.1	408
	$\chi^2=0.881; df=1; p=0.203$					
Disease from taking fast food frequently	Know-ledgeable	333	80.4	81	19.6	414
	Not Know-ledgeable	159	79.1	42	20.9	201
	$\chi^2=0.150; df=1; p=0.387$					
Mental Health	Know-ledgeable	181	81.9	40	18.1	221

Not Know-ledgeable	311	78.9	83	21.1	394	
	$\chi^2=0.779; df=1; p=0.219$					
Number of times a week you consume fast food	NA/1-2 times	339	79.8	86	20.2	425
	3-4 times/>5	153	80.5	37	19.5	190
	$\chi^2=0.48; df=1; p=0.460$					
RDA Protein	<100	337	77.5	98	22.5	435
	>100	145	86.1	25	13.9	180
	$\chi^2=5.940; df=1; p=0.009$					
RDA Fat	<100	457	80.5	111	19.5	568
	>100	35	74.5	12	25.5	47
	$\chi^2=0.973; df=1; p=0.209$					
RDA Calories	<100	321	77.9	91	22.1	212
	>100	171	84.2	32	15.8	203
	$\chi^2=3.39; df=1; p=0.040$					
RDA Iron	<60	26	72.2		27.8	36
	60.1-80	438	79.9	110	20.1	548
	80.1-100	28	90.3	3	9.7	31
	$\chi^2=3.427; df=2; p=0.180$					
RDA Vitamin A	<100	140	78.2	39	21.8	179
	>100	352	80.7	84	19.3	436
	$\chi^2=0.504; df=1; p=0.273$					
RDA Vitamin C	<100	491	80.0	123	20	614
	>100	1	100	0	0	1
	$\chi^2=0.250; df=1; p=0.800$					
RDA Calcium	<100	307	79.1	81	20.9	388
	>100	185	81.5	42	18.5	227
	$\chi^2=0.504; df=1; p=0.274$					
BMI	Under weight	147	78.6	40	21.4	187
	Healthy range	305	81.6	69	18.4	374
	Overweight/ obese	40	74.1	14	25.9	54
	$\chi^2=1.97; df=2; p=0.373$					

None of the menstruation and BMI practices (viz type of pad, mode of disposal of pads and matter avoided to male person) were significantly associated with perceptual body image of subjects. Importance given to appearance did not significantly ($p>0.05$) influence perceptual body image of the subjects.

Predictors of body image :

Perceptual body image of the several, significant variable univariate analysis affect of type of family, habit of watching TV and RDA calories got eliminated. Taking mother's education high school as reference it was found that subjects with mother's education as middle or less had significantly higher. AOR (2.58, CI 1.32- 5.04).for adverse perceptive body image. Significantly higher AORs, for negative perceptive body image was found for subjects with habit of reading newspapers daily (2.89; CI 1.4- 5.60) and sometimes plus ever (2.08; CI 1.22- 3.55). When self esteem representation through media as Yes was taken as reference (AOR 2.46; CI 1.54-3.93). After taking "westernized diet" is better than traditional India diet as reference AOR was 2.06 (CI 1.32 – 3.20) for Yes category. Negative perceptive body image in subjects. When strongly agree / agree was taken reference for "Branding affects choice food" AOR for negative PBI was 3.0 (CI 1.62- 5.53) for subjects with neutral response. AOR for negative perceptive body image was 2.06 (95% CI 1.05 – 4.02) in subjects with protein intake less than <100 of RDA.

Table- 5: Logistic Regression for perceptual body image.

Particulars	β	SE	P value	AOR 95% CI			
				Lower	Upper		
Type of Family	Nuclear	0.47	0.29	0.57	1.60	0.98	2.61
	Joint/ Third	---	---	---	---	---	---

	generation (R)						
Mother Education	Middle or Less	0.95	0.34	0.005	2.58	1.32	5.04
	Intermediate & above	0.45	0.28	0.107	.57	0.91	2.71
	High School (R)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Habit of reading Newspaper	Daily	1.06	0.34	0.002	2.89	1.49	5.60
	Sometimes plus ever	0.73	0.27	0.007	2.08	1.22	3.55
	3-4 days/ week + 3-4 days per month	---	---	---	---	---	---
Habit of waiting TV	3-4 days/week + 3-4 days per	0.58	0.34	0.095	1.78	0.90	3.50
	Sometimes and ever	0.22	0.42	0.608	1.24	0.54	2.83
	Daily	---	---	---	---	---	---
Self esteem representation through media	No	0.90	0.24	0.000	2.46	1.54	3.93
	Yes (R)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Westernized diet better than Traditional Indian diet	Yes	0.72	0.23	0.001	2.06	1.32	3.20
	No	---	---	---	---	---	---
Prefer Traditional Indian diet	No	0.68	0.24	0.006	1.97	1.22	3.17
	Yes	---	---	---	---	---	---
Branding affect choice of food	Neutral	1.10	0.31	0.000	3.00	1.62	5.53
	Disagree/ Strongly disagree	---	---	202	1.57	0.78	3.14
	Strongly disagree/ agree	---	---	---	---	---	---
RDA Protein	< 100	0.72	0.34	0.034	2.06	1.05	4.02
	> 100	---	---	---	---	---	---
RDA Calories	< 100	0.27	0.31	0.389	1.31	0.710	2.41
	> 100	---	---	---	---	---	---

CONCLUSION:

Findings of the study provides significant input for strategies planning to improve perceptual body image taking into consideration its various predictors. Approaches to upscale perceptive body image must focus on primary secondary tertiary [1]. There is need and scope for adopting healthy dietary practices. Consumption of fast food and westernized food culture in college and university setup need to be curbed [2]. Tackling fast food means is need of the hour in all age groups in general and in adolescent girls in particular[3,4].

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