

MODIFICATIONS – IN TIME – IN THE PUBERTY OF GIRLS FROM TWO DIFFERENT ECOLOGICAL MEDIA

MARIA ȘTIRBU, GEORGETA MIU, MARIA ISTRATE

The study was developed on two groups of girls with ages between 11 and 16 years, one formed of 664 girls from the Iași city, the other – of 723 subjects – from the rural area of the Iași county. For each subject, the menarche age was established (years and months). At the level of each group, the frequency of the puber and nonpuber was calculated on classes of age, the average pubertary age being established for each of the two groups. The analyses have evidenced that puberty is slightly retarded in the girls from the rural area, comparatively with those coming from the urban milieu. A comparison between the data obtained in the present study and those recorded on other batches – similar as to the subjects' origin and age – investigated in 1965 and 1985, showed that the average puberty age is accelerating in both ecological media, the process being more intense in the girls from the rural medium, comparatively with those from the city. Consequently, the urban–rural difference as to the average pubertary age reduced from 1 year and 5 months in 1965 to only 5 months in 2000.

INTRODUCTION

The researches devoted to teenagers' growth and development, performed by the anthropology team of Iași in various historical stages, in the same regions, provided interesting data, that evidenced modifications – in time – of both the cephalo-facial and bodily sizes, and of sexual maturity's installation [9, 10].

The present study discusses the modifications occurring in the puberty period in girls from the Iași's urban and rural areas, in two different periods, namely between 1965–1985 and 1965–1988 and, respectively, 1965–2000. This aspect of the investigation was selected as the recent literature of the field makes mention of the ceasing down, in certain countries, of the acceleration process of the pubertary age, along with its stabilization or even deceleration [5]. With a view to evidencing such modifications and their intensity in time, our own results, obtained on two groups of girls – one from the city of Iași and the other from the rural area of the Iași county – were compared with the data collected on groups, similar as origin and age, investigated in 1965 [1] and 1985 [6, 8].