# INVESTIGATIVE STUDY OF SOMATIC INDICATOR VALUES IN PUBERTAL SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM URBAN AREAS 

Scurt Mădălina Doinița, Scurt Corneliu<br>Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov


#### Abstract

The values of somatic indicators, height and weight as well as their ratio defined as BMI are important reference points of human organism growth and development in gymnasium-cycle schoolchildren populations. Knowledge of the relationship between height and weight is important, not only during growth periods, where it is used to evaluate organism growth and development, but also for the adult individuals. If the two indicator values are analyzed separately, it can be seen that height represents the more efficient indicator for organism growth and development evaluation whereas weight is affected by multiple deviations due to the influences of diet and living conditions. The aim of this research is to evaluate the level of the main indicators of somatic growth (height and weight) in children aged between $12-15$ years, the object of this study being organism growth and development level. In order to emphasize the importance of organism growth and development rate, a study on the somatic indicators was conducted between May and June 2014, encompassing a number of 261 schoolchildren, of which 132 girls and 129 boys from General School No. 30 of Braşov. The significantly higher level of the measured values of the indicators reveals the effects of an acceleration phenomenon in the gymnasium-cycle population. We assume that, urbanization, the superior quality of the diets, and last but not least, genetic factors are the driving forces behind this acceleration process.


Keywords: somatic indicators, height, weight, acceleration phenomenon, gymnasium cycle, puberty.

## Introduction:

Growth and development represents a dynamic complex of biological processes occurring in human organism until it reaches maturity [1]. Physical growth consists in reaching the optimum value of height and weight in accordance with the person's age, as well as the size increase of all the organs and systems [Beers, 2009, p 2248].

Organism maturation is a process which occurs earlier in girls than in boys. The growth rate in girls is $12.1 \pm 0,9$ years in contrast to $14 \cdot 1 \pm 0,9$ years in boys [Beers, 2009, p 2248].

The growth and development processes are influenced by a number of factors with independent action capable of changing the genetic potential of an individual [3]. The current trends, with regard to these processes, are proving once more the strong influence exerted by the environmental factors on the individual's genetic potential in terms of linear growth, whereby nutrition represents a major determinant of the growth process. Puberty is a dynamic period of development, marked by rapid changes regarding size, shape, and composition of human body. The passage from puberty to adolescence is characterized by changes of body composition, especially the regional distribution of the adipose tissue. Hormone regulation along with the changes produced in organism composition is determined by the release of gonadotropin, leptin, steroids and the growth hormone. Most likely, the interactions between these hormone axes are more important than their principal effects, as the changes in organism composition and the regional distribution of adipose tissue might actually be signals indicating neuroendocrinological axes alteration. These processes are amplified during puberty and are probably vital over the entire time period from fetal development till the onset of the aging process [3].

Heredity and genes play an important role in transmitting the physical and social characteristics from parents to children. Various characteristics that are specific to the growth and development processes, such as intelligence, aptitudes, body structure, height, weight, hair and eyes colour are influenced by genetic factors [4-7].

Gender is a very important factor of influence on human growth and development processes. Physical growth in girls is more rapid than in boys during adolescence. In general, there are significant differences between the growth processes of girls and boys $[6,7]$.

Socioeconomic factors - A higher socioeconomic status signifies a larger budget allotted for education, healthy nutrition, better child care, as well as appropriate medical and social services. These factors can induce changes in organism growth and development processes, resulting in the acceleration phenomenon. The prevalence of nutritional excess is much more important in lower social
classes from industrialized countries, especially where food supply is adequate but the diets are imbalanced. In such cases, excess weight is the result of a nutritional imbalance associated with a high intake of carbohydrates and added sugars $[4,7]$.

Hormones are responsible not only for height increase but also for the rate and change of proportions between different body segments during the growth periods. The genetic factors are conditioning this development process by means of growth-stimulating hormones: somatotropic hormone, thyroxin and thymus [5].

## Materials and methods:

In order to determine the organism growth and development rate in children aged between $12-15$ years, we conducted a longitudinal study between May and June 2014 among the schoolchildren from the General School No. 30 of Braşov. The anthropometric measurements included: height and weight depending on age and gender. The height was measured using a stadiometer, and was expressed in centimeters ( cm ) whereas weight was determined using digital scales and was expressed in kilograms ( kg ). The statistical-mathematical indicators used for analyzing the data obtained after the measurements are the following: arithmetic mean (Ma), standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ), coefficient of variation (c.v.), amplitude (W) etc. (Table 1 and 2)

## Discussions:

Anthropometric evaluation of children and adolescents requires the use of standards and/or references of growth in order to evaluate the growth process and the nutrition condition [8; 9]. An optimum growth reflected by a growth standard, implies that all children have the potential to reach this level, with a growth reference used for comparison [10].

Knowing the relationship between the two anthropometric indicators, height and weight, is important for evaluating the growth and development level of individuals. If analyzed separately, the data about the height indicator appear even more relevant for evaluating growth and development, since weight is influenced by nutrition and the living conditions of every individual.

Table 1. Anthropometric parameter values measured in girls aged between 12-15 years.

| Age (yrs) | No. children | Measured parameter | $\mathrm{Ma}_{\text {a }}$ | $\sigma$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { C.v. } \\ & \text { (\%) } \end{aligned}$ | w | $\pm \mathrm{m}$ | Extreme values |  | Frecvency (\%) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | L. sup. | L. inf. | under average | above average |
| 12 | 44 | Height (cm) | 153.07 | 8.20 | 5.35 | 38.00 | 1.25 | 174.00 | 136.00 | 45.45 | 54.55 |
| 13 | 33 |  | 158.45 | 5.90 | 3.72 | 23.50 | 1.04 | 169.50 | 146.00 | 42.42 | 57.58 |
| 14 | 31 |  | 157.97 | 6.43 | 4.07 | 29.50 | 1.17 | 171.00 | 141.50 | 48.39 | 51.61 |
| 15 | 24 |  | 162.79 | 5.68 | 3.49 | 21.50 | 1.19 | 174.50 | 153.00 | 45.83 | 54.17 |
| 12 | 44 | Weight (kg) | 44.72 | 10.44 | 23.35 | 35.50 | 1.59 | 64.50 | 29.00 | 61.36 | 38.64 |
| 13 | 33 |  | 50.12 | 10.77 | 21.49 | 47.50 | 1.90 | 81.50 | 34.00 | 57.58 | 42.42 |
| 14 | 31 |  | 49.84 | 8.75 | 17.56 | 37.50 | 1.60 | 73.00 | 35.50 | 54.84 | 45.16 |
| 15 | 24 |  | 54.25 | 7.58 | 13.98 | 27.50 | 1.58 | 68.50 | 41.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |

Table 2. Anthropometric parameter values measured in boys aged between 12-15 years.

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Age } \\ \text { (yrs) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { No. } \\ \text { children } \end{gathered}$ | Measured parameter | $\mathrm{Ma}_{4}$ | $\sigma$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { C.v. } \\ (\% \end{gathered}$ | w | $\pm \mathrm{m}$ | Extreme values |  | Frecvency (\%) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | L.sup. | L.inf | $\begin{gathered} \text { under } \\ \text { average } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { above } \\ & \text { average } \end{aligned}$ |
| 12 | 44 | Height (cm) | 151.08 | 8.86 | 5.86 | 45.00 | 1.35 | 176.00 | 131.00 | 54.55 | 45.45 |
| 13 | 28 |  | 157.75 | 8.48 | 5.38 | 33.50 | 1.63 | 174.00 | 140.50 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| 14 | 26 |  | 164.35 | 9.43 | 5.74 | 38.00 | 1.89 | 178.50 | 140.50 | 46.15 | 53.85 |
| 15 | 31 |  | 170.35 | 7.78 | 4.57 | 36.50 | 1.42 | 186.50 | 150.00 | 48.39 | 51.61 |
| 12 | 44 | Weight (kg) | 44.38 | 13.96 | 31.46 | 69.00 | 2.13 | 94.00 | 25.00 | 61.36 | 38.64 |
| 13 | 28 |  | 46.61 | 10.54 | 22.61 | 36.50 | 2.03 | 67.50 | 31.00 | 60.71 | 39.29 |
| 14 | 26 |  | 54.60 | 12.94 | 23.70 | 66.50 | 2.59 | 97.00 | 38.50 | 53.85 | 46.15 |
| 15 | 31 |  | 59.63 | 14.06 | 23.58 | 69.00 | 2.57 | 108.00 | 39.00 | 61.29 | 38.71 |

Height represents the main indicator of somatic growth and development and is genetically conditioned. Table1 and Table 2 present the data with regard to this indicator, in girls and boys, aged between 12-15 years.

In girls, the obtained average values are the following: $153.07 \mathrm{~cm}-12$ years, $158.45 \mathrm{~cm}-13$ years, $157.97 \mathrm{~cm}-14$ years, $162.79 \mathrm{~cm}-15$ years (Table 1 and Figure 1), whereas in boys, the obtained average values are the following: $151.08 \mathrm{~cm}-12$ years, $157.75 \mathrm{~cm}-13$ years, $164.35 \mathrm{~cm}-14$ years and $170.35 \mathrm{~cm}-15$ years (Table 2 and Figure 1).


Figure 1. Distribution of height averages depending on age and gender
With regard to the frequency of girls with height above age average value this is $54.55 \%$ at 12 years, $57.58 \%$ at 13 years, $51.61 \%$ at 14 years and $54.17 \%$ at 15 years. The measured sample is homogenous, with a coefficient of variation taking values between $3.49-5.35 \%$, and has representative average value (Table 1). The annual rate of growth shows a peak value of 5.38 cm from 12 to 13 years and a minimum value of -0.48 cm , from 13 to 14 years (Table 3).

The proportion of boys who have a height above the age average is $53.85 \%$ in those aged 14 and $51.61 \%$ in those aged 15 . The measured sample is homogenous, with a coefficient of variation taking values between $4.37-5.86 \%$, and has representative average value (Table 2). The annual rate of growth shows a peak value of 6.67 cm from 12 to 13 years, and a minimum value of 6 cm from 14 to 15 years (Table 3).

Table 3. Annual height growth rates depending on gender

| Age (years) | Height (cm) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Girls | Boys |
| $\mathbf{1 2 - 1 3}$ | 5.38 | 6.67 |
| $\mathbf{1 3 - 1 4}$ | -0.48 | 6.60 |
| $\mathbf{1 4 - 1 5}$ | 4.82 | 6.00 |

Data distribution in the case of girls aged 12, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 4 and Figure 2): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $68.18 \%$ of the measured girls, the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $93.18 \%$ of the measured girls, and the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 3$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls

Table 4. Gauss distribution of height averages in girls aged 12.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | $\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{a}}$ | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 128.48 | 136.68 | 144.87 | 153.07 | 161.26 | 169.46 | 177.66 |
| $68.18 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $93.18 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $100 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |

Data distribution in the case of boys aged 12, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 5 and Figure 2): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $59.09 \%$ of the measured boys, interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $93.18 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 3$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 5. Gauss distribution of height averages in boys aged 12.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | $\mathbf{M}_{\mathbf{a}}$ | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 124.5 | 133.36 | 142.22 | 151.08 | 159.94 | 168.80 | 177.66 |
| $59.09 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $93.18 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 2), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=153.07 \mathrm{~cm}$ (girls), 151.08 cm (boys), $\sigma=8.20$ (girls) and, respectively 8.86 (boys), and c.v. $=5.35 \%$ (girls) and respectively $5.86 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 2. Gauss distribution of height values in 12-year-old children, depending on gender
Data distribution in the case of girls aged 13, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 6 and Figure 3): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $75.76 \%$ of the measured girls while interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 6. Gauss distribution of height average values, in girls aged 13.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | MEDIA | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 140.76 | 146.66 | 152.56 | 158.45 | 164.35 | 170.25 | 176.15 |
| $70.76 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $100 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Data distribution in the case of boys aged 13, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 7 and Figure 3): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $67.86 \%$ of the measured boys, while $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 7. Gauss distribution of height averages in boys aged 13.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | MEDIA | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 132.3 | 140.78 | 149.27 | 157.75 | 166.23 | 174.72 | 183.2 |
| 67.86\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |



By plotting data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 3) with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=153.07 \mathrm{~cm}$ (girls), 151.08 cm (boys), $\sigma=8.20$ (girls), respectively 8.86 (boys) and c.v. $=$ $5.35 \%$ (girls), respectively $5.86 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table2).


Figure 3. Gauss distribution of height values in children aged 13 depending on gender
Data distribution in the case of girls aged 14, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 8 and Figure 4): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $70.97 \%$ of the measured girls, interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $93.55 \%$ of the measured girls, while $\mathrm{M} \pm 3 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 8. Gauss distribution of height averages in girls aged 14.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | MIEDIA | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 138.69 | 145.11 | 151.54 | 157.97 | 164.39 | 170.82 | 177.25 |
|  |  | 70.97\% |  |  |  |  |
|  | 93.55\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| 100\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Data distribution in the case of boys aged 14, representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 9 and Figure 4): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $69.23 \%$ of the measured boys, the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $96.15 \%$ of the measured boys, and the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 3 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 9. Gauss distribution of height averages in boys aged 14

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | MEDIA | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 136.06 | 145.49 | 154.92 | 164.35 | 173.78 | 183.21 | 192.63 |
|  |  | $69.23 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
|  | $96.15 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 4), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=153.07 \mathrm{~cm}$ (girls), 151.08 cm (boys), $\sigma=8.20$ (girls), respectively 8.86 (boys) and c.v. $=5.35 \%$ (girls), respectively $5.86 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 4. Gauss distribution of height values in children aged 14 depending on gender
Data distribution in the case of girls aged 15 , representing the average value of height, using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 10 and Figure 5): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $66.67 \%$ of the measured girls, the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $95.83 \%$ of the measured girls, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 3 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 10. Gauss distribution of height averages in girls aged 15.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | MEDIA | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 145.76 | 151.77 | 157.11 | 162.79 | 168.47 | 174.15 | 179.83 |
|  |  | 66.67\% |  |  |  |  |
|  | 95.83\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| 100\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Data distribution in the case of boys aged 14, representing the average value of height, by using the Gauss curve is the following (Table 11 and Figure 5): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $74.19 \%$ of the measured boys, interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $90.32 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 3 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 11. Gauss distribution of height averages in boys aged 15.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 147.02 | 154.80 | 162.58 | 170.35 | 178.13 | 185.91 | 193.69 |
| 74.19\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 90.32\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 100\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 5), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=153.07 \mathrm{~cm}$ (girls), 151.08 cm (boys), $\sigma=8.20$ (girls), respectively 8.86 (boys) and c.v. $=5.35 \%$ (girls), respectively $5.86 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 5. Gauss distribution of height values in children aged 15 depending on gender
Weight is a somatic indicator influenced by socioeconomic, educational factors etc. The average values of this indicator are presented in Table 1 and Table 2, depending on age and gender.

For the case of girls the measurements yielded following weight averages: $44.72 \mathrm{~kg}-12$ years, 50.12 $\mathrm{kg}-13$ years, $49.84 \mathrm{~kg}-14$ years, respectively $54.25 \mathrm{~kg}-15$ years (Table 1 and Figure 6). The average values of weight in boys are: $44.38 \mathrm{~kg}-12$ years, $46.61 \mathrm{~kg}-13$ years, $54.60 \mathrm{~kg}-14$ years and $59.63 \mathrm{~kg}-15$ years (Table 2 and Figure 6).


Figure 6. Distribution of weight averages depending on age and gender
The frequency in girls who have a weight below the age average value is $61.36 \%$ at 12 years, $57.58 \%$ at 13 years, $54.84 \%$ at 14 years and $50 \%$ at 15 years, while the frequency of the cases having a weight above the age average value is $38.64 \%$ at 12 years, $42.42 \%$ at 13 years, $45.18 \%$ at 14 years and $50 \%$ at 15 years (Table 1). The coefficient of variation indicates medium sample homogeneity. However, homogeneity is low compared to the value obtained for the height, with values between 13.98 and $23.35 \%$, depending on the age of the group, while the average is still representative (Table 1). The annual growth rate reaches a maximum value of 5.40 kg from 12 to 13 years, and a minimum value of -0.28 kg , from 13 to 14 years (Table 12).

The frequency in boys who have a weight below the age average value is $61.36 \%$ at 12 years, $60.71 \%$ at 13 years, $53.85 \%$ at 14 years and $61.29 \%$ at 15 years (Table 2). Similar to the case of girls, the coefficient of variation indicates a medium sample homogeneity, with values between $22.61 \%$ and $31.46 \%$, depending on the
age, while the average is still representative (Table 2). The annual growth rate reaches a maximum value of 7.99 kg from 13 to 14 years, and a minimum value of 2.23 kg , from 13 to 14 years (Table 12).

Table 12. The annual weight growth rates depending on gender

| Age (years) | Weight (kg) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Girls | Boys |
| $\mathbf{1 2 - 1 3}$ | 5.40 | 2.23 |
| $\mathbf{1 3 - 1 4}$ | -0.28 | 7.99 |
| $\mathbf{1 4 - 1 5}$ | 4.41 | 5.03 |

The data distribution plot, representing the average value of weight, by using the Gauss curve is the following:

Girls - aged 12 years (Table 13 and Figure 7): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $63.63 \%$ of the measured girls, whereas $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls

Table 13. Gauss distribution of weight averages in girls aged 12.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13.39 | 23.83 | 34.28 | 44.72 | 55.16 | 65.6 | 76.04 |
| $63.63 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |

measured boys, interval $M \pm 2$ SD encompasses $95.45 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $M \pm 3$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 14. Gauss distribution of weight averages in boys aged 12

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2.5 | 16.46 | 30.42 | 44.38 | 58.33 | 72.29 | 86.25 |
| 75.00\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 95.45\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 100\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting the data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed, in girls, (Figure 7), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=44.27 \mathrm{~kg}, \sigma=10.44$ and c.v. $=23.35 \%$ (Table 1). In the case of boys, c.v. $=31.46 \%$, which signifies that data dispersion is very large, The arithmetic mean is not representative, $M_{a}=$ 44.38 kg , for the considered sample. It is therefore recommendable to use the median due to grouinhomogeneity (Table 2).


Figure 7. Gauss distribution of weight averages in children aged 12 depending on gender

Girls - aged 13 years (Table 15 and Figure 8): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $72.73 \%$ of the measured girls, interval $M \pm 2$ SD encompasses $93.94 \%$ of the measured girls, and interval $M \pm 3$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 15. Gauss distribution of weight averages in girls aged 13 years.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17.81 | 28.58 | 39.35 | 50.12 | 60.89 | 71.65 | 82.42 |
| 72.73\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 93.94\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 100\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Boys - aged 13 years (Table 6 and Figure 8): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $60 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 16. Gauss distribution of weight averages in boys aged 13 years

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 15 | 25.54 | 36.07 | 46.61 | 57.14 | 67.68 | 78.22 |
| $60.71 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $100 \%$ |  |  |  |  |

By plotting the data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed, in girls, (Figure 8), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=50.12 \mathrm{~kg}$ (girls), 46.61 kg (boys), $\sigma=10.77$ (girls), respectively 10.54 (boys) and c.v. $=21.49 \%$ (girls), respectively $22.61 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 8. Gauss distribution of weight averages in children aged 13 years, depending on gender
Girls - aged 14 years (Table 17 and Figure 9): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $70.97 \%$ of the measured girls, interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $93.94 \%$ of the measured girls, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ 3SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 17. Gauss distribution of weight averages in girls aged 14 years

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23.58 | 32.33 | 41.09 | 49.84 | 58.59 | 67.34 | 76.1 |


|  |
| :---: |
| $93.94 \%$ |
| $100 \%$ |

Boys - aged 14 years (Table 18 and Figure 9): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $73.08 \%$ of the measured boys, interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2 \mathrm{SD}$ encompasses $96.15 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ 3SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 18. Gauss distribution of weight averages in boys aged 14 years

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 15.78 | 28.72 | 41.66 | 54.6 | 67.54 | 80.48 | 93.42 |
|  |  |  | $73.08 \%$ |  |  |  |
|  | $96.15 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting the data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 9), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=49.84 \mathrm{~kg}$ (girls), 54.60 kg (boys), $\sigma=8.75$ (girls), respectively 12.94 (boys) and c.v. $=17.56 \%$ (girls), respectively $23.70 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 9 Gauss distribution of weight averages in children aged 14 years, depending on gender
Girls - aged 15 years (Table 19 and Figure 10): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $66.67 \%$ of the measured girls, and the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm 2$ SD encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured girls.

Table 19. Gauss distribution of weight averages in girls aged 15 years

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 31.5 | 40.15 | 46.67 | 54.25 | 61.83 | 69.42 | 77 |
| $66.67 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Boys - aged 15 years (Table 20 and Figure 10): the interval $\mathrm{M} \pm$ SD encompasses $74.19 \%$ of the measured boys, interval $M \pm 2$ SD encompasses $96.77 \%$ of the measured boys, and interval $M \pm 3 S D$ encompasses $100 \%$ of the measured boys.

Table 20. Gauss distribution of weight averages in boys aged 15 years.

| -3 SD | -2 SD | -1 SD | AVERAGE | +1 SD | +2 SD | +3 SD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17.45 | 31.51 | 45.57 | 59.63 | 73.68 | 87.74 | 101.80 |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $74.19 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $96.77 \%$ |  |  |  |  |  |

By plotting the data distribution using the Gauss curves, it can be noticed that these are normally distributed (Figure 10), with $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{a}}=54.25 \mathrm{~kg}$ (girls), 59.63 kg (boys), $\sigma=7.58$ (girls), respectively 14.06 (boys) and c.v. $=13.98 \%$ (girls), respectively $23.58 \%$ (boys) (Table 1 and Table 2).


Figure 10. Gauss distribution of weight values in children aged 15 years depending on gender

## Conclusions

1. After completion of the conducted study we noticed a significant increase of the somatic indicator values, depending on age;
2. By analyzing the evolution of height averages, a significant increase could be observed, from 12 to 15 years, both in boys, as well as in girls, with a difference of 9.55 cm between the boys' and the girls' averages;
3. By analyzing the weight averages, we noticed an increase in boys which exceeds the girls' weight increase: 15.25 kg , from 12 to 15 years in boys and 9.53 kg , in girls.

## Recommendations

1. Somatic measurements in schoolchildren aged 12 - 15 should be conducted annually, usually at the beginning of the school year, encompassing all schoolchildren, The obtained values should be correlated with the data from the previous year;
2. The evaluations regarding the organism growth and development level should be made by correlating the levels of the somatic indicators with the level of the students' environmental and social factors.

## References

1. Ifrim, M. - Antropologie motrică, Edit. Ştiinţifică şi Enciclopedică, Bucureşti, 1986.
2. Beers, M., H. şi colab. - Manualul Merk de diagnostic şi tratament, Ed. a XVIII-a, Edit. All, Bucureşti, 2006.
3. Rogol A.D., Roemmich J.N., Clark P.A., Growth at puberty, Journal of Adolescent Health., 2002 Dec; 31(6 Suppl):192-200., (available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ pubmed/2470915).
4. Henriette A. Delemarre-van de Waal, Environmental Health Perspectives Supplements 101 (SuppL2):39-44(1993), „Environmental Factors Influencing Growth and Pubertal Development", (available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ pmc/articles/PMC 1519930/pdf/envhper00 379-0045.pdf).
5. Ranga, V.-„Tratat de anatomia omului", Editura Medicală, Bucureşti, 1990.
6. Education Encyclopedia - StateUniversity.comStateUniversity.com, http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages /cw64 nusuk6/Human-Growth-and Development.html.

# STUDY ON IMPROVING THE MOTOR QUALITY SPEED WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BY USING ALGORITHMS 

Laurentiu-Gabriel Talaghir<br>"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati, gtalaghir@ugal.ro


#### Abstract

: Permanent improvement of the teaching process is a constant concern of specialists in pedagogy. Therefore, in this paper we wanted to present how the development of motor quality "speed" can be improved in several forms. For this, we used the method of training algorithm. The study was conducted by students of grade VIII. Results showed that the efficiency of this method is higher than the traditional method.


Key words: physical education, secondary school, speed, manifestation forms, algorithmization

## Introduction:

The main directions of research were the specific objectives of school physical education.
Harmonious physical development and improving the motor skills indices are some of these objectives. Thereby, the speed in all its forms of manifestation is the objective of the teaching process, adapted to the psychomotor peculiarities of age school children.
Algorithmization in physical education can be the basic element of didactic programming and projecting, which ultimately contributes to the frame objectives and reference objectives. This consists in compiling and application of actuator systems (means, exercises) in order to achieve the proposed objectives in a logical and rational sequence, complying with requirements of the principle of accessibility (Iconomescu T.M., 2013:36-37) Observation and intervention in the educational process are meant to collect data that lead to validation or refutation of working hypothesis.
Observations are going to examine whether the students are receptive to activity performed during mandatory lessons.
We also intended to observe if students have an appropriate conduct and they are interested in the proposals of teachers for improving their performance.
This improvement will be achieved through the implementation of programs with algorithms designed by us in order to improve their manifestation of speed and their response to all sorts of situations for they were requested.

## Method

To check the working hypothesis we conducted a pedagogical experiment which involves a change in the regular work program of physical education lessons.
For this purpose we have made an experimental lot with VIII grade students, divided into two groups, the experimental group and the control group (boys and girls).
The experimental group will execute the means of practice based on algorithms, guided by professor of physical education during lessons from school program.
The control group worked in physical education classes according to the planning documents of the school, conceived by the teacher without explicitly focus on differentiated means to improve speed.
The experiment was conducted during the first semester of school year 2014-2015, when 40 lessons were observed in the "Constantin Bratescu" High School, Isaccea, Tulcea County.

