In recent years Indian Council of Medical Research, and several other workers in different parts of this country have shown interest in establishing regional norms. All these studies have by and large presented cross-sectional means as growth parameters (Chitvale, 1957; Shah, 1957; Udani, 1963; I.C.M.R., 1968, 1972; VijayaRaghavan et al., 1969, 1971; Singh, 1970; Agarwal et al., 1974; Kaul et al., 1976 and Tripathi et al., 1976). There is no longitudinal study undertaken, so far. The I.C.M.R., All India standards were collected by different workers and therefore their usefulness as well as authenticity has been questioned. Besides longitudinal studies, Tanner (1951) had demonstrated that equally valuable information can be obtained by methods used for mixed longitudinal studies.

In the present study, it has been my endeavour to observe the growth characteristics of adolescent school children in Chittoor District, Andrapradesh. Three observations have been collected for each child at an yearly interval. The data on weight and height has been analysed according to the methods described for the mixed longitudinal study (Tanner, 1951), while for various other growth characteristics of shoulder, pelvic, skull and extremities have been simply analysed as cross-sectional data. Simple tools like portable platform weighing machine, metal tape, calipers and scales have been used. Heights were measured by drawing metric scale on walls.