INTRODUCTION
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Nose is the most distinguishing feature of the face. It demonstrates characteristic variations according to age, sex, ethnic group. Its measurements are also affected by environment and socioeconomic status.

Facial reconstruction for forensic purpose or in plastic surgery is a scientific art and requires visualizing faces on bony framework of face.

To achieve this lofty goal baseline data on facial parameters and indices will be helpful.

Anthropometric studies on nose have been found useful in craniofacial surgery, otorhinolaryngology, syndromology, orthodontics and in reconstruction of face from skull in medico-legal cases.

Even medical illustrators use this information while reconstructing normal facial appearances. Manufacturers producing objects of daily wear, defence and medical equipments are also benefited from the anthropometric data.

Thus, the significance of various facial anthropometric measurements in facial reconstruction surgery, rhinoplasty and in forensic medicine is beyond doubt.

Forensic facial approximation is the process by which an individual’s face is reconstructed from the skull. Various guidelines are used to determine certain characteristics of facial features such as the width and position of the mouth and the projection of eyeball.

These guidelines, however, are incomplete in the area of the nose, an important facial feature for the recognition of an individual.
Rhinoplasty has shown that a slight difference in nasal shape can transform the look of an individual's face.\textsuperscript{12, 13}

There are several differing guidelines for reconstructing the nose and each of these guidelines gives precise instructions.\textsuperscript{9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20}

The human nose is complex structurally and this complexity results in variation in nasal shape and form. Due to the complexity of the nose and its role in facial recognition it is an important feature for both forensic and surgical craniofacial reconstruction.\textsuperscript{21}

Anthropologists have produced categorical classification of nasal types using the shape of specific nasal details as the defining characteristic.\textsuperscript{22, 23} These nasal classifications are based on the surface characteristics of the nose such as shape of the tip, the counter of the dorsum or root and have not been linked to underlying structure.\textsuperscript{21} (Figure Nos. 1 and 2)

These definitive features of the nose vary due to shapes of nasal cartilages. Thus to predict the type of nose is a difficult if not impossible job, so it will be easy to reconstruct an average nose to fit in a given nasoskeletal outline provided age and sex of the individual is known.\textsuperscript{16}

Scarcity of data on nasal morphometry in Indian population at different age groups, in both sexes and in various ethnic origins, has prompted this study.
Figure No. 1: Nose forms

I) Concave Profile

Length of Bridge: Short
Depth of Root: Deep
Direction of Tip: Upwards
Direction of Base: Forward

II) Straight Profile

Length of Bridge: Long
Depth of Root: Very High
Direction of Tip: Forwards
Direction of Base: Horizontal

III) Convex Profile

Length of Bridge: Long
Depth of Root: Medium
Direction of Tip: Slightly Forward
Direction of Base: Backward
Figure No. 2: Shape and size of the nasal cavity\textsuperscript{24, 25}

1) Long Oval  
2) Medium Oval  
3) Short Oval  
4) Medium Round  
5) Broad  
6) Very Broad