



Effect of Selected Yogic Practices on BMI Variables among Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh: A Study of the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years

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ABSTRACT: *Yogic Sādhanā-s is practiced with a therapeutic intention in the form of Yogic Therapy, it can help prevent and aid recovery from Physical and Mental ailments. The continuous practices of Yoga Abhyāsa (practices) have much effect on the Human Body and Mind such as: All round health fitness, Weight loss, Stress relief, Inner peace, Improved immunity, Living with greater awareness, Better relationships, Increased energy, Better flexibility and posture, Better intuition etc. The benefits accrued by being a regular practitioner are numerous. Some very discernible ones are – improvement a health, Protection from strength, improvement or Physical strength, protection from injury and detoxify the Body. Yogic Therapy is gaining among mainstream medical practitioners. As more clinicians use these techniques either for themselves or for their patients and as more Gurū-s (Masters) designs more specific applications of Yoga Sādhanā, the spectrum of Yogic Therapy grows exponentially.*

BMI is an approximate measure of your total Body fat. Being underweight or overweight can cause health problems, especially if you are also inactive. Your waist circumference is a better predictor of Health risk than BMI. Body Mass Index (BMI) is one method used to estimate your total amount of Body fat. It is calculated by dividing your weight in kilograms by your height in meters squared (m²). If you are overweight (with a BMI over 25) and physically inactive, you may develop: Cardiovascular (Heart and Blood circulation) disease, Gallbladder disease, High Blood pressure (Hypertension), Type 2 Diabetes, Osteoarthritis, Certain types of Cancer, such as colon and Breast Cancer, Depression and other Mental Health disorders. Risks of being underweight are: Compromised immune function, Respiratory disease, Digestive diseases, Cancer, Osteoporosis etc.

Result: There was a significant decline in the Body Weight (p=0.000), Height value was not significant at any level of confidence and significant increase in

BMI (p=0.000) after Yoga when compared to that before the Yogic therapy.

Conclusion: Yogic therapy is beneficial in maintaining better Health by regulating BMI.

KEYWORDS: *Body Mass Index, Yogic Therapy.*

INTRODUCTION

The word Yoga has been derived from Sanskrit grammar the verb root √yuj in a Sanskrit grammar In Sanskrit literature on Yoga seems to use the word in all the three senses [1].

√ Yuj Samādhau – Integration, √ Yuj Saṃyamane – Control √ Yujir Yoge – Joining So far, the first two meanings are concerned; all the literatures and schools of Yogic Sādhnā-s have unanimously accepted these meanings. Patañjali, the first systematizer of the Yogic discipline – seem to accept the meaning of Yoga as integration—since the first commentator of Pātañjalayogasūtram on Vyāsa in his commentary writes: Yogaḥ Samādhiḥ i.e. Yoga is Samādhi. Patañjali does not subscribe to the other meaning of √Yuj i.e. Yujir Yoge ‘joining’. This is mainly because Patañjali’s philosophy is based on Sāṃkhyan metaphysics and Sāṃkhyan believes in separation of Puruṣa from that of Prakṛti. – With which Puruṣa has wrongly got itself identified. Similarly Patañjali considers Draṣṭā Seer Principle to be separated from Drśya (Seen Principle) with which it has got identified. Thus separation of these two principles is supposed to be Yoga [2]. We also find meaning of Yoga as separation in Śrīmadbhagavadgī. Yoga helps in the co-ordination and control of the subtle forces within the Body. Yoga brings in perfection, peace and everlasting happiness; one can even have increased energy, vigor, vitality, longevity, resistance, calmness, and good sleep at times by the Yogic Abhyāsa (Practice). The Yoga Abhyāsa will help people to control the emotions and passions and resistance power increases and removes the disturbing elements from Mind. The aim of Yogic Sādhnā-s (Practices) is to overcome all kinds of sufferings that lead to a sense of freedom in every walk of life with holistic health, happiness and harmony.

Yogic Sādhnā-s is practiced with a therapeutic intention in the form of Yogic Therapy, it can help prevent and aid recovery from Physical and Mental ailments. The continuous practices of Yoga Abhyāsa (practices) have much effect on the Human Body and Mind such as: All round health fitness, Weight loss, Stress relief, Inner peace, improved immunity, living with greater awareness, Better relationships, increased energy, Better flexibility and posture, Better intuition etc. The benefits accrued by being a regular practitioner are numerous. Some very discernible ones are – improvement a health, Protection from strength, improvement or Physical strength, protection from injury and detoxify the Body. Yogic Therapy is gaining among mainstream medical practitioners. As more clinicians use these techniques either for themselves or for their patients and as more Gurū-s (Masters) designs more specific applications of Yoga Sādhnā, the spectrum of Yogic Therapy grows exponentially [3].

BMI is an approximate measure of your total Body fat. Being underweight or overweight can cause health problems, especially if you are also inactive. Your waist circumference is a better predictor of Health risk than BMI. Body Mass Index (BMI) is one method used to estimate your total amount of Body fat. It is calculated by dividing your weight in kilograms by your height in meters squared (m²). If you are overweight (with a BMI over 25) and physically inactive, you may develop: Cardiovascular (Heart and Blood circulation) disease, Gallbladder disease, High Blood pressure (Hypertension), Type 2 Diabetes, Osteoarthritis, Certain types of Cancer, such as colon and Breast Cancer, Depression and other Mental Health disorders [4]. Risks of being underweight are: Compromised immune function, Respiratory disease, Digestive diseases, Cancer, Osteoporosis etc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted to assess the Effect of Selected Yogic Practices on BMI Variables among Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh: A Study of the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years. The present study involved 38 subjects. The study was conducted in Aura Wellness

Studio ladies at Shimla Himachal Pradesh. The research protocol was approved by Dr. Satayprakesh Pathak Assistant Professor (Yoga), Department of Yoga Studies Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla and Dr. B.S.Ranjan Assistant Professor (Yoga), Department of Yoga Studies Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. All the subjects were subjected to Yoga Abhyāsa (practices) for two month. The Yoga Abhyāsa (practice) was performed six days per week between 8 am to 9:30 am under the direct supervision of a trained Yoga expert. This practical session utilized a standard sequence of selected Pre Practice: Sukhāsana and Prayer, Pre-requisite Practices: Śodhankriyā-s, selected Yogic Sūkṣmavyāyāma and Sūryanamskāra, Main Practices: Āsana-s, Prāṇāyāma-s, Relaxing Practices and Dietary Advice [5-8].

The various Pre Practice included in the present study are Sukhāsana, Omkāra Uccāraṇa and selected Mantra [9-11]. The Pre-requisite Practices were Śodhankriyā-s: Kuñjala/Gajakarṇī, Agnisāraṅkriyā and Kapālabhāti, Sūkṣmavyāyāma: Udara-Śakti-Vikāsaka-1to10, Kati-Śakti-Vikāsaka-1to5, Vakṣa-Sthala- Śakti-Vikāsaka-1or2 and Sūryanamskāra [12-15]. Main Practices Āsana-s was: Virbhadarāsana, Trikonāsana, Naukāśana, (Prone Position) Śālbhāsana, Cakrāsana, Karṇpiḍāsana, Śāśānkāsana and Paścimottānāsana. The different Prāṇāyāma-s were Nāḍīśodhana Prāṇāyāma, Bhastrikā-kumbhaka-Prāṇāyāma and Suryabhedana-Kumbhaka-Prāṇāyāma Relaxing Practices were Śāvāsana, Dhyāna Omkāra Uccāraṇa and Śāntipāth Dietary advice are to take a Santulita, Sātvik Āhāra or modern diet according to hath yoga text only. The Body Mass Index (BMI) was estimated in all the participants before and after the experimental procedure using the formula, $BMI = \text{Weight in kg} / \text{Height}^2 \text{ in meter}$ [16].

Statistical Analysis: The data obtained was analyzed for the statistical significance using a paired “t” test . $p < 0.01$ was considered the level of significance.

RESULTS

The present study involved the assessment of Effect of Selected Yogic Practices on BMI Variables among Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh: A Study of the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years [17-21]. The present study showed that the BMI Variables subjects reduced their Body Weight and improves the BMI level in Body. The significant reduction in Body Weight ($p=0.000$, Fig- 1), and BMI ($p=0.000$, Fig-2), after Yoga when compared to that before the Yoga therapy. This decline was the clear evidence that two month Yogic therapy throw yogic practices improved the BMI level in human Body, which further indicates that two month Yogic therapy improves the BMI level in the Human Body.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The present study confirmed the positive effects of Yogic therapy on BMI variables subjects. The significant reduction in the Body Weight and BMI as recorded in the present study. According to Yogic therapy, increased Body mass is the indication of imbalance in the Triguna and Tridosha. The root causes of the abnormalities are adhi or mental stress. To overcome the stress the person habituates overeating leading to the deposition of fat in the Body [22]. To manage Overweight or Obesity, one has to reduce the Mental Stress and has to provide the sufficient Physical activities. The Yogic Sādhanā-s Abhyāsa (practice) can regulate all the Body functions in a balanced manner and helpful in providing sustainable Health. Analysis of our results clearly indicated that the complications of BMI can be reduced by Yogic therapy. The reduction in the Body Weight might be due to reduction in the deposited fat on adipose tissue.

Table 1: Comparison of Height between Pre Test and Post Test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh (A Study of the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years) in respect of Mean and ‘t’ Value.

Height	N	Mean	S.D	R	S.E.M	DF	‘t’ value
Pre Test	38	1.5890	0.09538	0.00000	0.01547	37	0.000
Post Test	38	1.5890	0.09538				

Interpretation of Table 1:

Table- 1 Shows that the value of “t” = .000 is not significant at any level of confidence. Hence it may be inferred that there is a not any significant difference in the two means. On the perusal of means, it is clear that post-test mean (1.5890) is equal to the pre-test mean (1.5890). Hence it may be concluded that Yogic practices do not affect Height significantly [23]. The fact related to mean values of height of Residential Females in Shimla District; Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years is further supported by the graphic depiction in figure 1. The height of histogram drawn in same of pre-test and post-test.

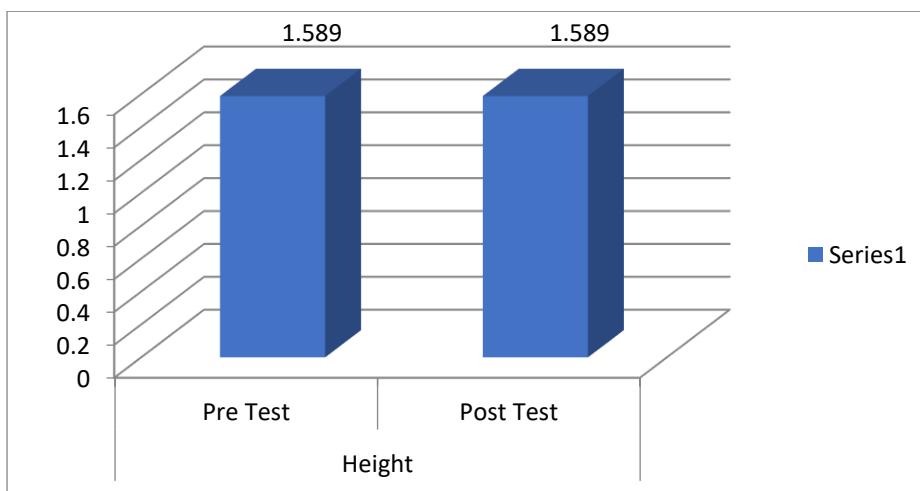


Figure 1: Comparison of Mean Values of Height among Pre Test and Post Test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years.

Table 2: Comparison of Weight between Pre Test and Post Test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years in respect of Mean and ‘t’ Value.

Weight	N	Mean	S.D	S.E.M	r	df	‘t’ value
Pre Test	38	68.4395	9.66391	1.56769	0.984	37	13.647
Post Test	38	64.4184	8.93142	1.44887			

Interpretation of Table 2:

Table 2 shows that the value of “t” = 13.647 is more than the Table value of “t” which is 2.704 for DF = 37 at 0.01 level of confidence. Thus this value of “t” is highly significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Hence it may be inferred that there is a significant difference in the two means. On the perusal of means, it is clear that post-test mean (68.4395) is less than the pretest mean (64.4184). Hence it may be concluded that *Yogic* practices do affect weight significantly [24].

The fact related to mean values of weight of pre-test and post-test is further supported by the graphic depiction in figure 2. The height of histogram drawn in favour of pre-test is higher than post test.ss [25]. The fact related to mean values of height of Residential Females in Shimla District; Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years is further supported by the graphic depiction in figure 1. The Height of histogram drawn in same of pre-test and post-test.

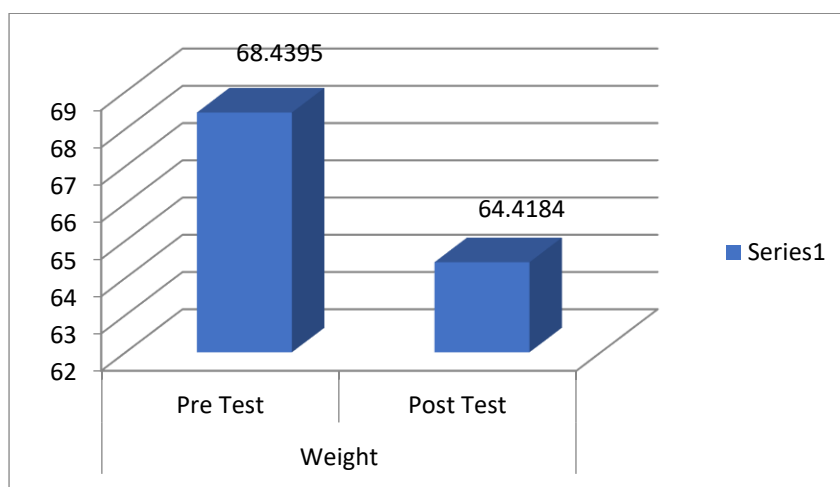


Figure 2: Comparison of Mean Values of Weight among Pre Test and Post Test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years.

Table 3: Comparison of BMI between pre-test and post-test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years in respect of mean and ‘t’ value.

BMI	N	Mean	S.D	S.E.M	R	Df	‘t’ value
Pre Test	38	27.2316	4.01282	0.65097	0.984	37	13.389
Post Test	38	25.6421	3.78315	0.61371			

Interpretation of table 3:

Table 3 shows that the value of “t” = 13.389 is more than the Table value of “t” which is 2.704 for DF = 37 at 0.01 level of confidence. Thus this value of “t” is highly significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Hence it may be inferred that there is a significant difference in the two means [26].

On the perusal of means, it is clear that post-test mean (25.6421) is less than the pretest mean (27.2316). Hence it may be concluded that yogic practices do affect BMI significantly [27]. The fact related to mean values of BMI of pre-test and post-test is further supported by the graphic depiction in figure 3. The height of histogram drawn in favour of pre-test is higher than post-test.

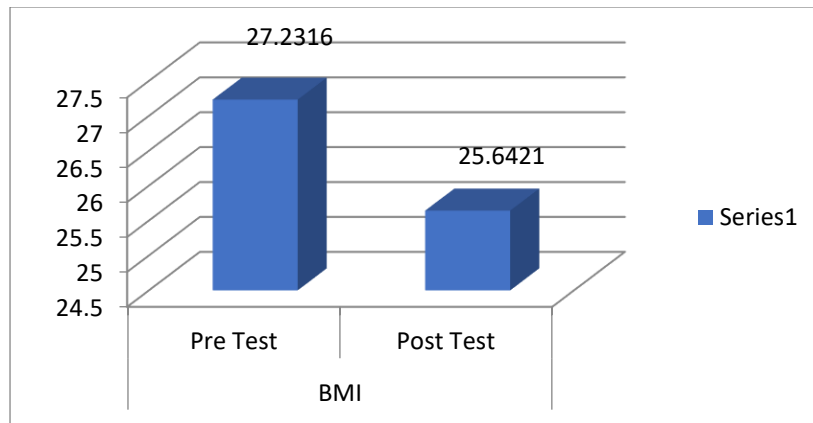


Figure 3: Comparison of Mean Values of BMI among Pre-Test and Post-Test of Residential Females in Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh; the Age Group of 30 to 60 Years.

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