

# **“HISTORY OF PERIODONTICS”**

## **- A Review**

This is to certify that the Library Dissertation entitled  
“History of Periodontics - A Review” is a  
work done by the candidate Dr. Pratibha V. Guggarigoudar  
in partial fulfillment for the M.D.S. Degree  
during the period of her study at S.D.M. College of Dental  
Sciences & Hospital, Kano Gandhi University, Dharwad  
District, Bangalore, under my personal guidance, supervision  
and to my satisfaction.



*A Library Dissertation*

*By*

*Dr. Pratibha V. Guggarigoudar*

*Dr. T. R. Gururaja Rao*

*M.D.S., M.Sc., Bangalore*

*Professor & Head*

*Department of Periodontics*

*SDM College of Dental*

*Sciences & Hospital*

*Dharwad*

**In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of**  
**MASTER OF DENTAL SURGERY**  
**in the speciality of Periodontics**

From the very earliest times, humans have been plagued by dental problems and have sought a variety of means to alleviate them. Gingival and periodontal disease, in their various forms, have afflicted mankind since the dawn of history. Studies in paleopathology have indicated that destructive periodontal disease, as evidenced by bone loss affected early humans in such diverse cultures as ancient Egypt and early precolumbian-America<sup>8</sup>.

The earliest assumptions about disease were related to religious practice and frequently blamed divine caprice or retribution for sin, illness or misfortune. This view held that disease or injury was a deserved evil visited upon an individual by the deity for infractions in thought or deed (Haggard 1931)<sup>3</sup>.

All well defined cultures which left record of their history have mentioned gingival disease. These included Sumerians, Egyptians, Hindus, Chinese, Hebrews and Etruscans.

Many early clinicians connected pathological conditions of the gingiva with oral debris and uncleanness and several religious treatises contained instructions for oral hygiene. These developments were beautifully documented by a great pioneer in American periodontology Dr. Isadore Hirschfeld. In his classic work, *"The tooth brush, its use and abuse"*, Hirschfeld noted that it was common for our Simian ancestors to use bits of straw as tooth picks. He also indicated that Buddhists, Hebrews and Mohammadans incorporated ritual tooth cleaning into religious practice several thousand years ago.