

KUVEMPU



UNIVERSITY

**A Study To Correlate IgA Level With Mutans
Streptococci and Lactobacilli in High, Moderate and
Caries Free Groups Amongst Institutionalized
Children in Real Life**

**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DENTAL SURGERY
IN PEDODONTICS AND PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY**

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This is an age of specialization, the age of the expert, the pursuit of a narrow field without universalizing compartmentalization of knowledge into specialities is a natural out growth of knowledge explosion. Specialization has the advantage of permitting one individual to master the intricacies of a specific problem.

Dental caries because of its uniqueness as a disease, its ubiquitous nature, and its stubborn resistance to resolution remains as one of man's most common, oldest and singly costliest ailment. The total health handicap due to dental caries is staggering. In western countries there has been a dramatic decline in caries over the past decade but in the economically developing countries caries prevalence is increasing as dietary habits of industrialized nations are adopted. For this reason it is important that the subject of dental caries is given as broad a leadership as possible.

The uniqueness of dental caries makes it a fascinating study from a scientific stand point. For the past 25 years there has been increasing tempo of papers and symposia on dental caries resulting in large amount of fragmented information. Facts and concepts from such diverse fields as crystallography (hard tissues), immunology, microbiology,