

KUVEMPU



UNIVERSITY

**Prediction of Mesiodistal Width of Permanent
Mandibular Canine and Premolars by Measuring
Their Predecessors Using Plaster Casts and Radiographs
- In South Indian Children**

Dissertation submitted to Kuvempu University in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the award of **MASTER OF DENTAL SURGERY** in the
speciality of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry

1993

Dr. RENY THOMAS

INTRODUCTION

Among the many problems which exist to perplex the pedodontist, there is perhaps none more challenging than the one of mixed dentition diagnosis and treatment. The correct answer is equally elusive when the dilemma is encountered in the slightly different guise of 'time for treatment'.

It is generally believed that in a majority of cases, malocclusion can be mitigated in severity or eliminated altogether by timely treatment. Malocclusion which is in dormant condition in deciduous or mixed dentition period, usually surfaces on the eruption of the permanent successors requiring greater efforts in treatment.

If it were true that malocclusion inhibits facial growth and that orthodontic treatment enhances growth or restores it to normal levels, it would be well nigh criminal to fail to treat any malocclusion once recognised as such. Accordingly it became the practice of orthodontists to take children at an early age, instituting either prolonged or intermittent therapy which sometimes spanned the years from the preschool age to high school graduation.

Nance³⁵ quoted the extensive work of John Hunter in 1771 who related the sites of new bone growth, and stated that "The jaw still increases in all points till 12 months