

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE - A FAMILIAL DERMATOGLYPHIC STUDY

his is to certify that the dissertation entitled

*"Cleft Lip and Palate: A Familial
Dermatoglyphic Study"*

presented by

Dr. Anupama Patil

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*S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences
Dharwad*

Dr. C. Shankar Rao, M.D.S.

Principal

S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences

Dharwad

Feb 1995

Dr. Anupama Patil

**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
S.D.M. COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES,
DHARWAD.**

Dharwad

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From time immemorial man has looked at nature's cues to lead him through the right path. Signs and omens were matters of fact revealing the unknown to him. The corrugated sutures of the calvaria and the fine squiggles on the palms appeared as a book of fate written in cipher, revealing his past, present and future. Thus, when faced with a calamity like disease, man read these unwritten pages in an attempt to unfold the hidden mysteries. Ironically, science also tends to tread the beaten path. The fact that finger prints are unique and immutable and can reflect one's inheritance led to their study in a wide range of subjects ranging from criminology to medicine.

Dermatoglyphics as coined by Cummins and Midlo in 1926¹ refers to the study of the intricate dermal ridge configurations on the skin covering the palmar and plantar surfaces of hands and feet. (Root word. Derma = Skin; glyphics = carvings). This term is used for both, the ridges themselves as well as their scientific study.

Dermatoglyphics had been a subject of interest for anthropologists ever since Cummins and Midlo published their classic on dermatoglyphics in European - Americans. For the past few decades, it has drawn the