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It may be noted from the review of literature that very scant literature is available on asymmetry studies using family data on Indian Population groups. As far as the Bengali Brahmin population is concerned the only study available on bilateral asymmetry is that Chattopadhyay and Dash Sharma, 1969). Keeping in view the existing gaps of knowledge the present investigation was undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the general distribution of dermatoglyphic characters of finger (Ulnar ridge count, Radial ridge count, Absolute ridge count, Total ridge count, Difference in ridge count and Finger pattern intensity) and palm (Palmar ridge count, Palmar pattern intensity, Main line terminations and Main line index) among the Bengali Brahmins.

2. To ascertain the nature of bilateral asymmetry of the dermatoglyphic features on finger and palm among the Bengali Brahmin families.

3. To estimate the magnitude of dermatoglyphic asymmetry among parents and sibs.

4. To identify the specific finger or palmar area which is more liable to express dermatoglyphic asymmetry compared with other areas.