Belief is the subjective probability of a relation between the object of belief and some other object, value, concept or attribute. Beliefs are the fundamental building blocks of our conceptual structure. By way of various inference processes a person learns or forms a number of beliefs about an object and then he/she associate the object with various attributes. In this way he/she forms belief about himself, about other people, about institutions, behaviour, events etc. The totality of a persons beliefs serves as the informational base that ultimately determines his attitudes, intentions and behaviour. Beliefs have been extensively studied in cognitive social psychology. Though belief heredity-environment have been studied in the context of health psychology and a few studies have been undertaken in western countries to identify its determinants. There is a wide gap in research literature with regard to the likely impact of belief in heredity-environment on person perception. Present study is an attempt in this direction.

The whole thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter one deals with the historical framework and conceptual issues. Chapter two deals with the review of relevant literature. In chapter three the design of the study, sample and sampling procedure are outlined. In addition this chapter also gives a detailed description of the tools used, the procedure for data collection and analysis. In chapter four results are described with the help of tables and
figures wherever necessary. The results are interpreted, explained and
discussed in chapter five. References are given in the end. Copies of the
tools used are also appended.

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