PREFACE

Anthropology is a discipline with various sub disciplines which is interrelated. Physical Anthropology as the study of human biological behaviours in time and space has had an early beginning in India. There have been great strides in population genetics and bio-statistics. Physical Anthropologists are engaged in the study of population problems, who have realized the importance of genetic and geographical parameters to interpret how gene frequencies are maintained and changed in a given population. Though various studies have been conducted among tribes, genetic aspects of many of the tribes still remain untouched. Such studies are lacking in number as far as populations of Southern India are concerned. So the present work has been undertaken on the Medas, the Kudiyas and Yeravas, the tribal populations of Coorg District.

This work encompasses the study of demographic and dermatoglyphics variables and is expected to add new data to the existing literature to the possible extent. The thesis is presented in two parts: Introduction and Results and Discussion. The first part contains three chapters, dealing with general introduction, aims and objectives of the present work and also a brief account of the earlier works on demographic and dermatoglyphics aspects. Further, it describes the geographical background of the areas and ethnographic account of Medas, Kudiyas and Yeravas and Material and Methods respectively. The second part contains the presentation of the results and discussion of the work in the form of two chapters consisting of demography and
dermatoglyphics respectively. The last chapter deals with the Summary and Conclusion of the study, followed by References.

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