

Left-Handedness and Its Inheritance

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ABSTRACT Hands perform myriads of functions. Ninety percent of the people are right-handed. The handedness is under the influence of both nature and nurture. The incidence varies from population to population. Twins, psychologically disturbed and mentally retarded exhibit high incidence. Right-handedness is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait. When both parents are left-handed, some children contrary to the expectation, exhibit right-handedness. Rife (1940) propounded a convincing explanation for this phenomenon. The problems, safe guards and the advantages of the left-handers are explained.