PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6802
Anthropologist, 2(4): 265-266 (2000)
DOI: 10.31901/24566802.2000/02.04.16

A Study of Finger Dermatoglyphics Among Chenchu and Lambadi Females of Andhra Pradesh, India

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KEY WORDS Dermatoglyphics. Fingers. Chenchus. Lambadis. Tribes. Andhra Pradesh.

ABSTRACT Finger dermatoglyphics of 50 Chenchu females and 50 Lambadi females of Andhra Pradesh, India, are reported. Interestingly, whorls are more in Lambadis when compared to Chenchus. Lambadis show accidentals and have more ridges than Chenchus. These results have been compared with those of earlier data.

INTRODUCTION

Lambadis are also called Lambani, Brinjari or Banjari, Biopari, Sugali or Śukali. They rarely mix with other tribes. The women are one of the most robust, we have ever seen in India. They are a class of traders, herdsmen, cattle breeders collecting fire wood and jungle produce.

The Chenchus or Chentsus are the most primitive Telugu speaking tribe inhabiting the hills of Kurnool and Nellore districts. The Chenchus of Nallamalai forests of Mannanoor area have been selected for the present study. They are semiwild, innocent, inoffensive hill tribe, living on roots, honey and wild fruits. They are very lazy, drinking and levy black mail from every village along the shrines in the hills. Chenchus of Nallamalai area are somewhat civilised. They depend on forest products.

Racially the Lambadas are Aryan (Caucasoid) in origin while the Chenchus are Dravidian (Australoid). The paper aims to find out the distribution of qualitative and quantitative characters among the two tribes Chenchu and Lambadi females of Andhra Pradesh, India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data for the present investigation comprises of bilateral inked finger prints of 50 each of Chenchu and Lambadi females residing at Mannanoor, Padara, Macharam, Venkateswara Bavi and Jangareddi Palli villlage of Atchampet Taluq, Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh (South India). Close relatives have been avoided as far as possible, in order to have a random homogenous sample. The methods employed for the analysis of the data are according to Cummins and Midlo (1961) and Holt (1968).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The finger print pattern in Chenchu and Lambadi females are compared. Comparatively whorls are more in Lambadis that too on fourth digit. Chenchus show more loops than Lambadis. Ulnar loops have high frequency and fifth digit in both the hands of both the tribes exhibited high frequency. Highest frequency of radial loops are seen on second digit. Lateral pocket loops are found exclusively on first digit in Chenchus. Tented arches exhibit high frequency on second digit in both the tribes. Accidentals are seen in Lambadis, which are absent in Chenchus.

Table 1 shows the percentage of papillary patterns, indices and monomorphic hands among females of both the tribes. Furuhata's index and pattern intensity index are more in Lambadis which indicate more number of whorls.

Table 1: Percentages of papillary patterns, indices and monomorphic hands among Chenchu and Lambadi females

Tribe	*Whorls*	*Loops*	*Arches*	*PII*	*A/W index*	*W/L index*	*Monomorphic hands*		
							Whorls	*Loops*	*Total*
Chenchu	28.4	62.8	8.8	11.9	30.98	45.23	6	8	14
Lambadi	35.2	56.8	8.0	12.7	22.73	61.97	2	4	6

Table 2: The mean, standard error of mean and standard deviation of URC, RRC, TRC and ATRC of Chenchu and Lambadi females

Tribe	*URC*		*RRC*		*TRC*		*ATRC*	
	Mean ± S.E.	*S.D.*	*Mean ± S.E.*	*S.D.*	*Mean ± S.E.*	*S.D.*	*Mean ± S.E.*	*S.D.*
Chenchu	17.4 ± 2.52	17.78	53.0 ± 2.35	16.63	55.5 ± 2.42	17.13	69.0 ± 4.41	31.15
Lambadi	23.3 ± 3.00	21.23	53.2 ± 2.78	19.66	56.8 ± 2.90	20.47	74.5 ± 5.51	38.99
	(1.492)		(0.054)		(0.341)		(0.804)	

't' values are given in parentheses

Dankmeijer's index is more in Chenchus which indicate less number of whorls.

Table 2 shows the mean, standard error of mean and standard deviation of URC, RRC, TRC and ATRC of Chenchu and Lambadi females. Monomorphic hands are more in Chenchus. The mean ATRC of Lambadis is higher which indicates that Lambadis have more ridges. However, the difference between two tribes with regard to ridge count is statistically not significant.

The bimanuar of Chenchus shows the modal value of 10% at 5W 5L, whereas the Lambadi bimanuar shows the modal value of 10% at 8W 2L, 7W 3L, 4W 6L and 3W 7L.

The results of the present study when compared with others reported show that Whorls are comparatively less frequent in Chenchus of present data (28%) than the similar work by Nawabjan et al.(1983) (41%) and a reverse trend is seen with regard to arches. More or less similar occurrence of all patterns are seen in Lambadis of the present data and that of Gupta et al. (1961).

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