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In Search of the Identity of A Successful Businessman: A Thumbprint Study in Kano State Nigeria.

[1]Anas IY and [2]Auwal R

[1]Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Bayero University Kano.

[2]Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Yusuf Maitama Sule University Kano, Kano State, Nigeria

Corresponding author: Anas IY

Email: suhhis@yahoo.com, +2348128139785

ABSTRACT

For a long time, thumbprint has been used as a means of assessing or predicting one's success in life. This study was aimed at determining the relationship of the thumbprint with economic status of businessmen in Kantin Kwari market Kano, Nigeria. The study was a cross sectional and involved the collection of Biodata (age, Sex, Marital status and economic status) using interview, thumbprint was mapped using fingerprint pad. The thumbprint was mapped using the thumb of each hand (both right and left) and was recorded as one of the conventional types of thumbprints (Whorl, Loop, and Arch). Thumbprint Data was expressed as frequency table, and economic data was presented as mean, standard deviation and standard error of mean. Economic Mean differences was compared between and within groups of businessmen with different types of thumbprints. Results however, did not show any significant relation between thumbprint and economic status, although businessmen with Loop thumbprint had higher mean income than the other two groups. Thumbprint cannot therefore be used categorically as a predictor of one's business success but may be used as an ordinary pointer.

Key words: Thumbprint. Relationship, Income, Businessmen, Kano

INTRODUCTION

Fingerprints, the study of which is called dermatoglyphics, have for long become the most useful tool to differentiate individuals 1,2. Among the fingerprints, thumbprint has been the most commonly utilized and all the prints differ between male and female 3,–4,5, young and old 6,7, ethnicity 8, and between individuals with different blood group 9,3,10. Like any fingerprint, thumbprint formation is already formed by the end of the 2nd trimester 11. World-wide, four types of these prints were reported: loop (65%), whorl (25%), arch (7%), composite (2-3%) 12,13,5,14,10. In Nigerian population, as in others 15,16,13, Loop still predominates 17,9,18,–19.

Although findings from the fingerprints studies and their association with personality traits are equivocal, reports suggested that individuals with Loop are shy and not good leaders, while those with Whorl are firm, with full determination, whereas, those with Arch are unfriendly and may not mind being absent at work 13. Interestingly, Milicic et al. (2003) argued that the potentials and choices of an individual can be explored from fingerprints because they are individualistic and are genetically inscribed 20.

From the foregoing therefore, the potentiality of an individual to be a successful businessman may likely be predicted from the fingerprints, and to our knowledge, no study did just that. Therefore, we hypothesize that fingerprint may predict one's business success. However, the question is which pattern of the fingerprint and of which finger that will predict the business success? The study therefore aimed at determining the patterns of fingerprints of businessmen and relate them with their monthly income from the business. This study may help younger individuals with business choice to predict whether they may be successful or not.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the city of kano (Plate 1A), which is known for its sprawling markets, for centuries. This market has attracted traders and buyers from across Nigeria and west Africa's Sahel region and still holds its place as the north's leading commercial hub. One of kano's more widely recognized trade spots is the Kwari market (Plate 1B), and it is agreed to be the West Africa's largest textile market, and one of the biggest on the continent. It is situated in the heart of the city and draws in numerous visitors from within the metropolis and beyond daily.

The study was designed to be a cross sectional and prospective, which involved the collection of Bio data (age, sex, marital status, religion, ethnic background), Education (Islamic education, western education), Income, Occupation, and Biometrics (thumbprint) of the participants. The data were collected using fingerprint Ink & papers (Plate 1C), as well as

questionnaires from ninety-three (93) randomly selected businessmen in that Kantin Kwari in the heart of Kano city. Each participant was asked about his Bio data, educational background, income and how much he earns per month in approximation. After the administration of the questionnaire, thumbprint of both left and right hands were captured by using fingerprint ink, and the conventional four (4) types were captured from the prints (Plate 1D). All these data were recorded in the Excel spread sheet and were then exported into SPSS IBM version 20.0 software for analyses.

Statistical analysis: Data was expressed as mean ± standard deviation [SD]. Pearson correlation was applied to test the relationship of the participant's thumbprint's type (of either right or left thumb) and socio-economic status. Statistically significant difference was accepted at $P<0.05$.

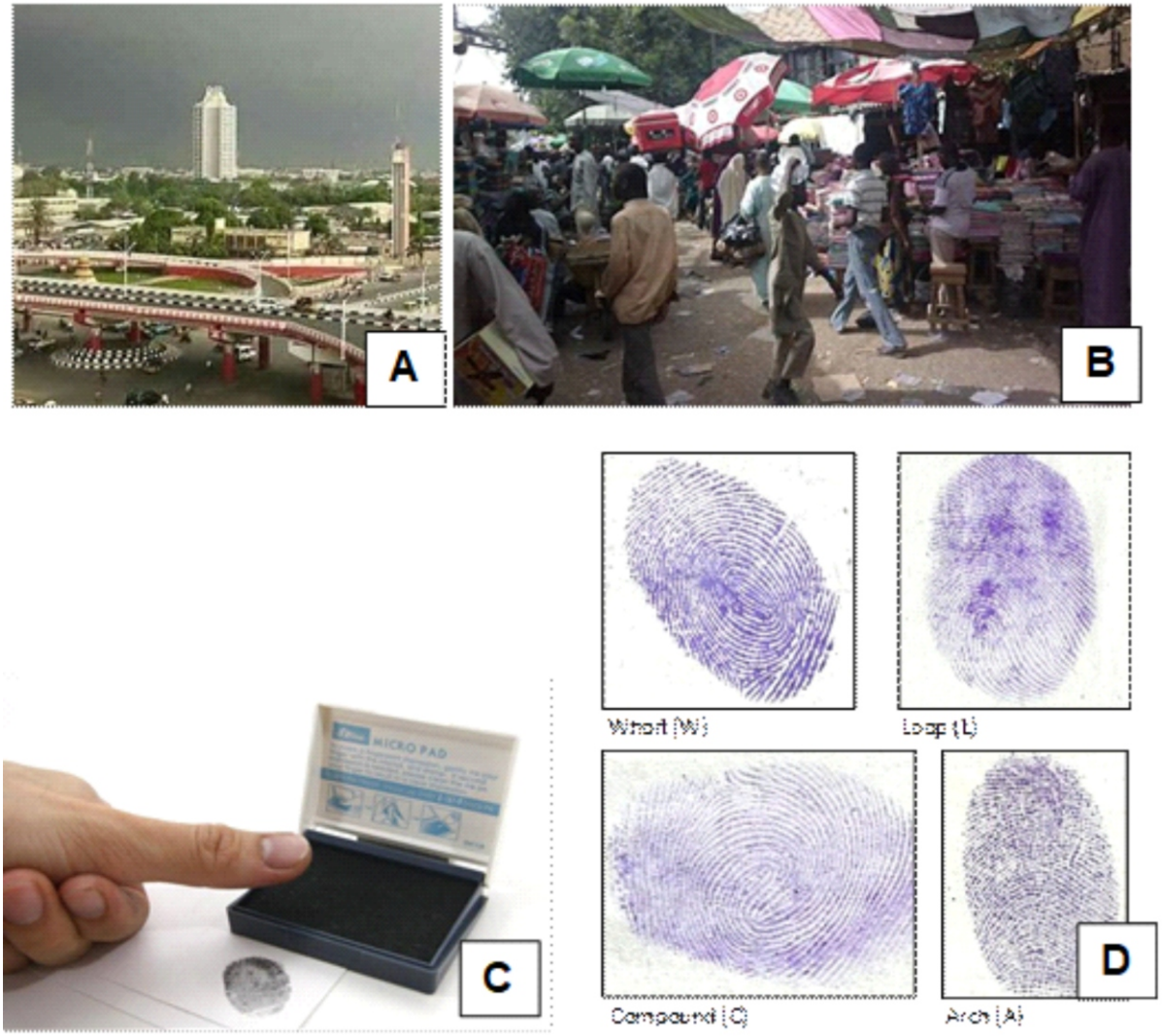

Plate 1: Kano city (A), Kwari market (B), Micro PAD and White Paper for Thumbprint capture (C), 4 types of thumbprints (D).

RESULTS

Table 1 indicates the descriptive statistics of the mean income of businessmen in each of the different types of LEFT THUMBPRINT. The Table also shows that businessmen with Loop thumbprint had higher mean income than the other two groups. However, the mean difference was not statistically significant when Analyses of variance was conducted ($P>0.05$) as seen in Table 2. Figure 1 shows frequency of each type of the left thumbprint and businessmen with Arch type of left thumb print were 60, followed by those with Loop (22), with Whorl being the least (9).

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of the mean income of businessmen with different types of Left Thumbprint

Income (in Naira)							
	N	Mean	SD	SE	95% CI for Mean		Min	Max
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Arch	60	8.3M	9.6M	1.2M	5.8M	10.7M	0.2M	50M
Loop	22	13.3M	1.4M	3.1M	6.8M	19.9M	0.5M	50M
Whorl	9	8.4M	6.6M	2.2M	3.3M	13.5M	2M	20M
Total	91	9.5M	1M	1.1M	7.2M	11.8M	0.2M	50M

Table 2: Analyses of variance of mean income between and within group of businessmen with different types of Left Thumbprint

ANOVA Income (in Naira)					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	428807075813076.000	2	214403537906538.000	1.809	.170
Within Groups	10430619737373736.000	88	118529769742883.360		
Total	10859426813186812.000	90			

Table 3 shows the descriptive statistics of the mean income of businessmen with 3 different types of RIGHT THUMBPRINT. The Table also shows that businessmen with Loop thumbprint had higher mean income than the other two groups. However, the mean difference was not also statistically significant when Analyses of variance was conducted (P>0.05) as seen in Table 4. Figure 1 shows frequency of each type of the right thumbprint and Arch type has the highest frequency (59), followed by the Loop (23), with Whorl being with the lowest frequency (9).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of the mean income of businessmen with different types of Right Thumbprint

ANOVA Income (in Naira)					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	146936646970486.440	2	73468323485243.220	.604	.549
Within Groups	10712490166216326.000	88	121732842797912.800		
Total	10859426813186812.000	90			

Table 4: Analyses of variance of mean income between and within group of businessmen with different type of Right Thumbprint

Income (in Naira)							
	N	Mean	SD	SE	95% Cl for Mean		Min	Max
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Arch	59	8.8M	10M	1.3M	6.2M	11.4M	0.2M	50M
Loop	23	11.7M	14M	2.9M	5.5M	17.8M	0.5M	50M
Whorl	9	8.4M	6.6M	2.2M	3.3M	13.5M	0.2M	20M
Total	91	9.5M	10.9M	1.1M	7.2M	11.8M	0.2M	50M

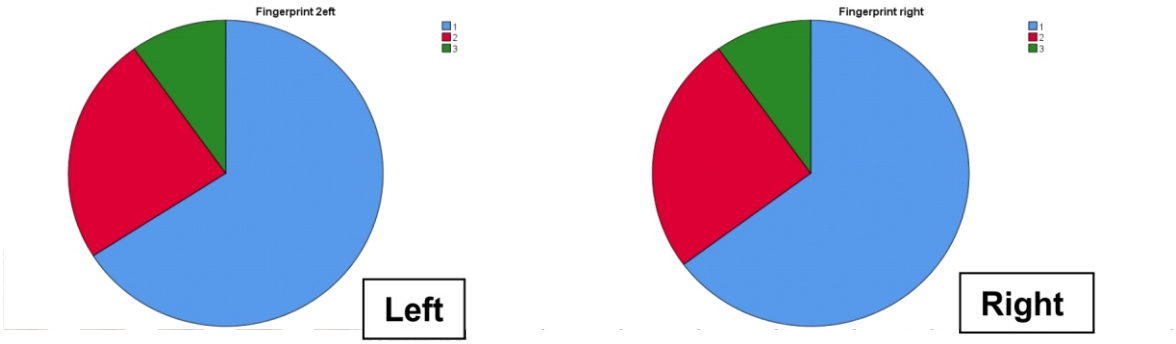

Figure 1: Pie charts indicating frequency of the 3 different types of thumbprints in both left & right.

DISCUSSION

Impression of epidermal friction ridges of the first finger ball is called thumbprint and is used as a means of identification. The print varies from finger to finger even in the same or between individuals. Therefore no two persons have exactly the same arrangement of ridge pattern and the pattern of any one individual remains intact till death 21. These print patterns of individual are genetically determined and are primarily of 4 types 16,22,23,10: loop (65% of population), whorl (25% of population), and arch (7% of population), and composite/compound (2-3% of population)13. Studies have shown evidence of correlation between thumbprint, blood group and gender and this relationship may lead to prediction of certain clinical conditions 13 since blood groups correlate with Hypertension, Peptic ulcer, Anaemia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Gastritis, Diabetes and Bronchial asthma 13. Business and other human activities can only be possible when one is healthy, and so a healthy person may likely be a wealthy person. Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others based on household income, earner's education, and occupation. The result of our study showed positive correlation between thumbprint and income, albeit insignificant. In Nigeria, Oguranti and Michael Sorgia (1984) carried out a research work on the Bodo people of Ogoni South-South Nigeria, and their results revealed that whorl had the highest percentage frequency on the digits, similar to other authors –19.

While whorl was the majority thumbprint in the southern part of Nigeria, Ulnar loop had the highest frequency as seen in other studies 13 in both thumbs of both hands followed by Whorl amongst people of the northern Nigeria 17 18. This therefore shows that specific type of print may be specific to certain group of individuals, to one type of disease or future prediction of disease 24.

In northern Nigeria businessmen, Arch is predominant, but individuals with higher monthly income, had Loop thumbprint as predominant in both hands. It means therefore, potential businessmen may likely be predicted from their thumbprint, even though the prediction was weak and insignificant. The weakness of the prediction and its insignificance most likely emerged from the very small sample size and lack of control group (those who were not businessmen) for comparison in the study. We suggest a similar study but with a larger sample size and a control group.

CONCLUSION

The fingerprint of either hand has a very weak positive but insignificant relationship with socio-economic status; therefore, thumbprint cannot be used to predict the economic status of individuals.

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