



Research Paper

## Comparative Study of Handgrip Strength In North Indian Population

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**Abstract:** The hand is a tortuous anatomical system of static and dynamic structures. For most the lives we tend to take the grip strength of hand for concede. It gives indication about general muscle strength, endurance and power and is mandatory to maintain the integrity of handgrip. Handgrip Strength can also provide a simple, coast effective as well as a useful weapon in occupational health research; determine the loss of muscle strength, nutritional status and in prevention or intervention strategies. A total of 300 Subjects of both sexes having age limit between 18 to 45 years has been participated in the study. In the present study we compared the handgrip strength of both dominant and non-dominant hand between the 2 group i.e., heavy manual labourers & students. Data was collected for Right hand as well as for Left hand. The data was collected by the help of Digital hand dynamometer. The variables declared were Age, Weight, Gender, BMI, Occupation, Hand Dominance and mean SD of Students and Heavy Manual Labourers. In our study we conclude that all the parameters except height are significantly stronger and faster in right hand. On the other hand left hand grip strength of heavy manual labourers showed significantly stronger hand power strength than all the parameters which we have taken. It is important that physical characteristics and health status support well preserved body energy, protein stores and muscle strength. The purpose of the investigation here was to develop an attitude of self-health appraisal & consciousness/awareness in subjects and assessed their fitness status.

**Keywords:** Handgrip Strength, Digital Hand Dynamometer, Height, Weight, BMI

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The hand is a tortuous anatomical system of static and dynamic structures. Hand could be a crucial and inescapable organ for humans, and is merely designed for holding and gripping the specific movements for serving as a tactile organ.[1] Adequate strength forms the basis for normal hand functions, it capacities begin from a fine to net motor activities. [2]

#### 1.1ANATOMY OF HAND :-

The skin of the palm is abundant for protection of underlying tissues, immovable because of its firm attachment to the underlying palmar aponeurosis. All these features raised the efficiency of the grip.

Aponeurosis is defined as pearly-white appearance of fibrous tissue deep fascia that stucked on muscles like a sheet spread in a wide area of attachment.

The Hand consists of 27 bones within the wrist and hand. The wrist itself contains 8 small bones named carpals. Additionally, the carpal bones attached with the metacarpals into the palm. Each one of the metacarpal associates to each fingers and thumb. Small bones shafts called phalanges line up to form each finger and thumb.

**1.1.1. JOINTS** There are 30 joints present in the human hand. The carpals unite with the forearm bones namely the radius and ulna establishes the wrist joint. The principle knuckle joints are formed by the connection of the phalanges to the metacarpals, and these joints are called as Metacarpophalangeal joints [MCP Joints]. The MCP joints acts like a hinge, when you flex and straighten your fingers and thumb. The three phalanges in each finger are separated by two joints, called as interphalangeal joints. The one which is adjacent to the MCP joint [knuckle] is called is called the proximal IP joint.

The two vital structures found on either side of each finger and thumb joints are the Collateral ligament''- there work is to prevent against abnormal sideways bending of each joint. Amongst all, in the PIP joint is the well-built ligament is the volar plate. This ligament keeps the PIP joint from falling back beyond its normal range i.e; hyperextension. This happens whenever there is a finger deformity, road traffic accidents, disease i.e; OA, RA in such cases plate loosens.

**1.1.2. TENDONS** The tendons which allow each finger to align are called as Extensor Tendons. The Extensor tendons of the fingers start up as muscles that arise from the backside of the bones of forearm. These muscles proceed towards the hand, where they eventually connect to the extensor tendons before decussate over the back of the wrist joint. When the extensor muscles contract, they pull on the extensor tendon and straighten the finger. Problems can happen, when the central slip is ruptured as can occur with a muscle tear.

**1.1.1.3. MUSCLES** There are 33 muscles in human hand including forearm compartment. The muscles that control the hand, begins at the elbow or forearm. They run downwards in the forearm and cross the wrist and hand. Some muscles control only the bending or straightening of the wrist, others influence motion of the fingers or thumb. Many of these muscles help position and hold the wrist along with the hand while the thumb and fingers grip execute the fine motor actions.

The smallest muscles that originate in the wrist and hand are called the extrinsic muscles. The intrinsic muscles guide the fine motions of the fingers by getting the fingers positioned and holding them steady during hand activities. [3]

## **1.2. INTRINSIC MUSCLES OF HAND :-**

There are 20 muscles in the Hand-

- ✓ Abductor pollicis brevis
- ✓ Flexor pollicis brevis
- ✓ Opponens pollicis .

Adductor of the thumb-

- ✓ Adductor pollicis

Four hypothenar muscles-

- ✓ Palmaris brevis
- ✓ Abductor digiti minimi
- ✓ Flexor digiti minimi
- ✓ Opponens digiti minimi.

Four Lumbricals-

Four Palmar interossei-

Four Dorsal interossei [4]

All nerves that travel to the hand and fingers begin together at the shoulder, the radial nerve, the median nerve, and the ulnar nerve. These nerves convey signals from the brain to the muscles and also carry signals back to the brain about sensations such as pain, touch and temperature from hand. The radial nerve runs along the thumb-side edge of the forearm. It supplies the back of the thumb and just beyond the main knuckle of the back surface of the ring and middle fingers. The median nerve control the thenar muscles of the thumb and touch pads of the thumb to the tips of each finger on the same hand, a motion called opposition. The ulnar nerve supply the small muscles in the palm and the muscles that pulls the thumb towards the palm. [5]

Finally, the bones, muscles, ligaments, tendon, blood vessels are protected by skin.

Skin is divided into 2 categories- Dorsal skin & Palmar skin. [6]

## **1.3. FUNCTIONS OF HAND :-**

- For holding and grasping.
- Clapping after a great performance.
- Several daily activities, sports events require higher involvement of hands activity.

**1.3.1 GRIPPING** Refers to the position of hand when we hold or grasp the things securely and firmly, and how substantial the objects you can grip. [7]

**1.3.2. HAND GRIP:** Hand and forearm muscles contributes to a vital role in grip strength. These muscles give immense strength to the hands when a person squeeze or hold something when needed. [8] The muscle plays a significant role in several daily functions and sports events as they required energetic involvement of hands. [9]

An individual may use their hands in certain ways, they used to grip objects in different aspects of normal day to day life such as using tools, raising a chair from one place to another. Eating, maintaining hygiene, playing piano or tennis. Transferring objects and using hand in writing or typing anything, different position requires grip strength. [10]

Three types of power grip: - Cylindrical Grip, Spherical Grip & Hook Grip [11]

**1.3.3. MAXIMAL HAND GRIP STRENGTH** Maximal hand Grip is a worldwide commonest phenomenon used as a part of physical examination of human among various ailments that affects the neuromuscular, musculoskeletal disorders, elderly, critically ill subjects, bed ridden subjects and also obese population. [12] The Handgrip Strength is affected by multiple factors such as age factor, body – built, gender, nutrition, smoking, psychological factor , temperature and many more. [13]

There are numerous physiological factors that contribute to a grip strength-

✓ **Hand Size** Grip strength is the ability to firmly grip an object. As a result, hand size is a physiological factor of strength .Someone with large hand & long fingers will generally have a greater strength as compared with smaller hand or shorter fingers.

✓ **Forearm Strength** The strength in forearm is a utmost factor contributing to a level of grip strength. It can improve the strength of forearm muscles to enhance grip strength through specific resistance training exercise.

✓ **Body Weight** similar to hand size, body is directly correlated to the grip strength than someone who is skinny and light weight.

✓ **Dexterity** Level of dexterity is another physiological factor of grip strength. For majority of population the dominant hand or the hand preferred for considerable daily activity- is the hand found with most grip strength. [14]

**1.3.4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HAND GRIP STRENGTH** For most the life we tend to take the grip strength of hand for concede. It gives indication about general muscle strength, endurance and power and for many functions, it is mandatory to maintain the integrity of handgrip. Since the day we born, we began our life with holding pencil , and certain things and finish over the pen , so we realize that how much important our handgrip is , that almost independent work is merely depends on handgrip strength.

We perform several activities in normal day to day to life i.e;- turning the handles, vacuuming, lifting heavy objects, opening jars of bottles, turning a doorknob, household work, official work , grasping steering wheel. As we reached into the senile age group, the handgrip as well as overall muscle power declines.

Some researchers has believed that the weaker your handgrip is, the greater the risk of having a cardiac arrest or stroke. [15]

**1.3.5. DIGITAL HAND DYNAMOMETRE** Grip of the hand is inspected by special equipment called Digital dynamometer. It is an instrument which is used for measuring the maximum isometric strength of the forearm muscles. It is a medical device that is used for rule out an individual strength, measuring the output of power and \ or the forces that the muscles are use during contraction. Hand dynamometer is used to access a patients grip, and overall body strength. Testing is generally attain by having patients squeeze the digital dynamometer as hard as they can, and the results are needed .They are used for purpose of comparative measurement of both right and left hands .Any kind of hand disorder, trauma or dysfunction, can be easily judged by the help of these devices. [16]

## **1.4. MODIFICATION OF EVOLUTION OF HUMAN HANDS**

The Hand of a chimpanzee will be considered as a model similar for the hand of a primate family. There were great apes who lives with their families and after millions of years, they transform and convert into human being [Sibley, 1992 [17] The hand of a chimpanzee are long, fingers, metacarpal and carpal bones are elongated. Their thumb is relatively delicate, stout and immovable in quality. The handgrip of chimpanzee's is closely resembles to those of humans (Napier, 1960) [18] .Their thumb may touch the support but does not hold it properly and squeeze as human does against the palm. Chimpanzee's thumb is short, weak, due to which the distal phalanx is relatively not movable much, so that the distal pad cannot be opposed to those of the fingers.

That's why they cannot grasp or pinch something or hold it tightly as humans. Their hand symmetry is not well – built and progressive as they lacking fibro fatty cushions and absence of curvature.

❖ [19] In Napier's portrayal of the exactness hold (Napier, 1956, 1965, 1993), the terminal cushion of the thumb structures one jaw of a cinch, the other being shaped by the fingertip cushions. Enormous items held along these lines include all the fingers, yet littler ones require just the thumb, record and center fingers with the fourth and fifth fingers giving sidelong security. Marzke (1992) [20] considers this the 'finger-dynamic palm press' hold, represents it with a sledge and expresses that it utilizes all the fingers to make sure about a tube shaped apparatus against the palm, so the instrument capacities as an expansion of the hand and lower arm.

These depictions clarify that the 'exactness hold' is a tossing grasp, and the 'power grasp' is a clubbing hold. 'Exactness' and 'force' recommend run of the mill utilizes for the grasps. 'Three-jaw hurl' and 'finger-dynamic

palm crush' allude to the situation of the hand when it shapes the holds. They could be known as the 'circle hold' and 'chamber grasp' in view of the shape they are best ready to get a handle on. The terms tossing hold and clubbing grasp stress the developmental setting wherein these grasps advanced by determining the practices that represent them. The one of a kind highlights of the human hand can be seen as adjustments for tossing and clubbing.

#### **1.4.1. Adjustments of the hand for tossing :-**

For productive tossing the hand must have the option to hold the rocket while vitality is transmitted to it, at that point precisely control its discharge. [21] This requires a fingertip grasp. The thumb must be sufficiently long and adequately versatile to contradict at the tip of its finger cushion to the rocket on one side while the fingers restrict their distal cushions to the contrary side and change themselves to abnormalities in normally happening rock spheroids.

These adjustments are completely found in the human hand. The thumb has stretched and can be completely contradicted to the fingers, which have abbreviated. The thumb and the initial two fingers, which assume the significant job in the tossing hold, are solid and powerful. Thumb resistance is improved by expansion of a muscle that flexes the terminal phalanx, and is coordinated by turn of the fingers as they flex: supination on the ulnar side, pronation on the spiral side – precisely varying for a fingertip hold of a circle. Wide apical phalangeal tufts bolster delicate, meaty fingertip cushions that adjust to sporadic spheroids and give a huge grinding surface. [22] Stress goes down the phalanges through the metacarpals in the palm to the carpal bones where it is disseminated. The power of the second and third fingers which ingest pressure, the styloid procedure and ligamentous adjustment of the third metacarpal which forestall hyperextension, and the profound palmar fat cushion which shields the ulnar nerve all add to ensuring the hand against tossing injury.

#### **1.4.2. Adjustments of the hand for clubbing:-**

Successful clubbing requires a protected grasp, particularly during sway, with the goal that the time during which power is applied is augmented, redirection of vitality into flexible force is limited and the clubber may utilize the weapon again right away. Fingers and thumb structure a bad habit, pressing the club handle against the palm. For included power and hold quality, two hands might be utilized.

A few highlights that add to the tossing grasp likewise encourage the clubbing hold. Supination of the fourth and fifth fingers during flexion helps the grasp of a huge spheroid and acts to apply the palmar surface of these fingers to a clubhandle orientated at a slant over the palm (Marzke and Shackley, 1986; Marzke et al. 1992. The flexor pollicis longus muscle is viable in the two holds, similar to the profound palmar fat cushion. [23]

Different adjustments are explicit to the clubbing grasp. One of these is the inclination of the metacarpal-phalangeal explanations. At the point when the fingers are halfway flexed, they structure an angled line. Along with the in part flexed thumb, a passageway is framed – a round and hollow depression lying corner to corner over the palm. [24]

The thumb is basic for 'holding tight close' (House, 1994; Ohman et al. 1995; Welch et al. 1995). Its heartiness and strength are adjustments for power clubbing. [25]

#### **1.4.3. The wrist :-**

Inferred changes in the human wrist can be clarified as adjustments for tossing and clubbing. In tossing, the wrist moves from expansion to flexion. During clubbing, it moves from outspread to ulnar deviation. These developments in people far surpass the capacities of the chimpanzee wrist (Napier, 1960) [26]

#### **1.4.4. The Common Factors Responsible for Hand Grip Strength:-**

**1.4.4.1. STANCE** An examination inspected the grasp qualities were diverse when estimated in both posture what's more, sitting positions and the examination uncovers that there is no distinction in hold quality in various position, Richards [3] however Teraoka [4] found that hold quality estimation for standing is more grounded than recumbent. Shyam kumar [5] appeared a distinction in hold quality in various stances because of progress long of the muscle.

**1.4.4.2 SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND HANDEDNESS** Most of the specialists mean estimation of hand hold quality of grown-up male and female subject was higher in right hand contrasted with left hand in various stance and joint point. [27] Anyway crafted by Reikeras [8] and Roberts [9] detailed that there is no critical contrast in hold quality of predominant and non-dominant hand. Aside from the prevailing or non-dominant hand the sex plays a significant job. The male subjects indicated more noteworthy hold quality than female partner. [28] Shepherd [10] expressed that women are 40-60% more vulnerable in upper lumbar and 25-30% more vulnerable in lower limb contrasted with men. [29]

**1.4.4.3. NOURISHING STATUS** It additionally has been corresponded to handgrip quality. Guo et al [11] and Kenjile et al [12] saw hold quality as a solid indicator of a person's nourishing status. These discoveries attract corresponding to the discoveries of the anthropometric estimation considers. [30] Wang et all [13]

recommended for assessing hold quality as a dietary marker, hand hold quality not just demonstrates the slender weight yet in addition utilized in combination with serum egg whites. [31]

**1.4.4.4. WRIST AND LOWER ARM POSITION** A biomechanical point of view, the length strain relationship (LTR) of the muscles is the fundamental when testing the grasp quality. For instance the flexor digitorum superficialis is crossing both the elbow and wrist, so the flexion of elbow and wrist will influence the scope of finger flexion because of its abbreviated position. [32] Davide [14] guaranteed that wrist position fundamentally influence the hand grasp quality and diminished quality might assume a significant job in inclining rehashed over-burden.

**1.4.4.5. ARM SUPPORT** Arm position additionally influences the hold quality. Different examinations indicated that the flexed shoulder position had a more noteworthy grasp and even squeeze hold in 0 degree position. [33] Su [15] with 180 degree flexed shoulder has a most noteworthy grasp quality than 0 degree flexion.

**1.4.4.6. AGE** Hand hold quality diminishing when age propels. [34] Kamarul [17] the most grounded hold in the right side predominant gathering old enough 25-35 years while left hand predominant gathering hering old enough between 35-44 years. Be that as it may, the vast majority of the analysts accepted that correct hand is similarly more grounded than left hand of any age.

**1.4.4.7. TIME FACTOR** Grip quality performed on different time has a diurnal variety. [35] Martin [18] expressed that variety in hold quality of the people, hold is more noteworthy between 6.00 am to 9.00 am and diminished hold quality between 8.00 pm to 4.00am.

**1.4.4.8. HAND OUTLINE** Hand periphery likewise a significant factor in grasp quality. [36] Anakwe [19] proposed that distinction in lower arm circuit of in excess of 2 cm may reduce grasp quality among moderately aged subjects. [37] Vikram [20] expressed that hand grasp quality can be anticipated by utilizing lower arm perimeter also, hand length for prevailing and non-predominant and among Malaysian population.

**1.4.4.9. MENTAL FACTOR** Various analysts assessed the impact of trance close by hold quality. [38] Hadfield [23], proposed that trance can deliver harmful just as ameliorable impact on hold quality. Mental variables seem to influence inability (understanding detailed wellbeing status) more than they influence execution based proportions of capacity. [39] Jung [25], were critical contrasts in stature weight, BMD, DASH, GSD-K, and SF36-MCS scores among people on hold quality among old populace in Korea.

**1.4.4.10. TEMPERATURE** Most of the specialist utilized warmth furthermore; cold as a helpful and assessment of muscle hold quality [40]. Imprint [26] that next to zero change in muscle quality happened with muscle temperature changes somewhere in the range of 27 and 40C. [41] Deepak [27], found that high temp water builds hand grasp quality when contrasted with cold temperature in typical person.

**1.4.4.11. OXYGEN** Oxygen and glucose are the fundamental vitality hotspot for the muscles. [42] Consolazio [30], hand hold quality will diminish to diminish in oxygen and increment in carbon dioxide level. [43] Cortopassi [32] expressed that the Patients with COPD had diminished lung work, static hyperinflation, diminished HGS and 6MWD contrasted with the controls on both assessments because of low oxygen level.

**1.4.4.12. WEARINESS** Fatigue is unavoidable part in any action; it might influence the individual execution. Physical exhaustion has been recognized as a hazard factor related with the beginning of word related injury. [44] Fernandes [34] critical decrease in quality levels happens in course of the evaluation. The best outcome is every now and again acquired at the first preliminary, which shows that the most elevated worth acquired ought to be considered as the last result.

**1.4.4.13. NOURISHMENT** Nutritional status is a basic part of wellbeing and the way that ailing health can happen in a created nation with great principles of human services is facing. Hand grasp quality (HGS) has been found to react to nourishment hardship and repletion yet not many examinations have explored its utilization as a free sustenance appraisal instrument.

**1.4.4.14. SMOKING** Current smokers were found to have higher danger of diminished grasp quality analyzed with non-smokers. [45] Saud [38], smokers shown decreased hold quality and quick fatigability in contrast with non-smokers. Diminished skeletal muscle contractile perseverance in smokers may result from disabled oxygen conveyance to the mitochondria and capacity of the mitochondria to create ATP because of collaboration of carbon monoxide with hemoglobin, myoglobin and segments of the respiratory chain.

**1.4.4.15. LIQUOR** The impacts of liquor can rely upon the sum expended, the ecological setting, and on the person. Day by day utilization of up to four beverages may have a defensive impact on the cardiovascular framework In any case, individuals most regularly drink for liquor's anxiolytic less-lessening) property. Alternately, liquor has a wide range of negative impacts, from cultural to physiological, representing around 100,000 passings yearly in the United States. [46]

## **II. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present study will be conducted in the department of Anatomy IIMS&R, Lucknow.

The study will be conducted after obtaining approval from the institutional research and ethical committee of IIMS&R.

### **2.1. STUDY DESIGN:-**

Cross sectional study of North Indian Population.

### **2.2. DURATION:-**

1 Year.

### **2.3. SAMPELING TECHNIQUE:-**

Random sampling technique was used in this study for collection of data.

### **2.4. SAMPLE SIZE:-**

300 Adult Subjects (150 Students and 150 Heavy Manual Labourers Male and Female both)

### **2.5. MATERIALS:-**

Digital Hand Dynamometer

Pen

Consent Form

Table

Chair

### **2.6. INCLUSION CRITERIA:-**

Subjects belonging to North India.

Subjects above 18 years of age group.

Subjects ready to participate willingly.

Subjects should follow the instructions for the measurement of grip straight by dynamometer.

### **2.7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA :-**

Subjects with history of trauma to upper limb.

Deformity of upper limb – acquired or congenital.

Subjects who use to do Gym.

### **2.8. METHOD OF COLLETION OF DATA :-**

- Explaining the whole procedure to each subject individually the written consent will be obtained.
- A total of 300 Subjects of both sexes having age limit between 18 to 45 years has been participated in the study. Data was collected for Right hand as well as for Left hand.
- During the procedure, the subject asked to seat comfortably with back, arm and for arm should be at 90 degree.
- The data was collected by the help of Digital hand dynamometer.
- The subject was asked to take a deep breath and stay relaxed.
- Further the Digital hand dynamometer was handed over to the subject and was asked to squeeze bar of toll as much as he/she can, and asked to hold it for 6 seconds with dominant and non-dominant hand thrice.
- The relaxation time of 5 seconds was given to the individuals in between these trials to relief stress.
- The first reading of right and left hand were recorded with the Digital hand dynamometer, and used for calculating the grip strength ratio and comparing it with dominant and non-dominant side of the subject.
- The obtained data will be tabulated and statistically.

## **III. RESULTS**

In the present study the variables declared were Age, Weight, Gender, BMI, Occupation, Hand Dominance and mean SD of Students and Heavy Manual Labourers.

### **3.1. Comparison of Variables in Students and Heavy Manual Labourers :-**

As depicted in table 1.1, the mean height of heavy manual labourers  $\pm$  SD of control group was  $162.60 \pm 4.61$

The mean weight  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $64.63 \pm 5.80$

The mean BMI  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $24.57 \pm 1.88$

The mean grip strength of Right hand  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $75.65 \pm 24.86$

The mean grip strength of Left hand  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $66.00 \pm 27.62$

As depicted in table 2, the mean height of students  $\pm$  SD of control group was  $162.53 \pm 9.12$

The mean weight  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $60.32 \pm 8.71$

The mean BMI  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $22.95 \pm 3.40$

The mean grip strength of Right Hand  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $46.11 \pm 24.35$

The mean grip strength of Left Hand  $\pm$  SD in control group was  $44.31 \pm 25.73$

### **3.2. Correlation of Hand Grip Strength Among Different Population :-**

As shown in table 3, height shows negative correlation with (t=0.036) & (p<0.972) which is not statistically significant.

Weight shows positive correlation with ( $t=2.260$ ) & ( $p<0.028$ ) which is statistically significant.

BMI shows positive correlation with ( $t=2.280$ ) & ( $p<0.026$ ) which is statistically significant.

Grip Strength of Right Hand shows positive correlation with ( $t=4.649$ ) & ( $p<0.000$ ) which is statistically significant.

Grip Strength of Left Hand shows positive correlation with ( $t=0.003$ ) & ( $p<0.003$ ) which is statistically significant. ~ 73 ~

### **3.3. Correlation of Handgrip Strength Between Dominant and Non-Dominant Hand :-**

As shown in table 4, height shows positive correlation with ( $t=-0.286$ ) & ( $p>0.777$ ) which is statistically significant.

Weight shows positive correlation with ( $t=-2.145$ ) & ( $p>0.041$ ) which is statistically significant.

BMI shows positive correlation with ( $t=-1.445$ ) & ( $p>0.160$ ) which is statistically significant.

Grip Strength of Right Hand shows positive correlation with ( $t=-1.358$ ) & ( $p>0.185$ ) which is statistically significant.

Grip Strength of Left Hand shows negative correlation with ( $t=-3.567$ ) & ( $p>0.001$ ) which is not statistically significant.

### **3.4. Data Analysis**

Descriptive Statistics were measured for Age, Height, Occupation, Gender and Hand Dominance.

P Value  $<0.05$  was taken to be significant difference of quantitative variables between the study groups was done using Student  $t$  test. For comparing categorical data, Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) test was performed and exact test was used when expected frequency is less than 5.

## **IV. DISCUSSION**

Grip Strength is the force applied by hand to pull on or suspend from objects and is a specific part of hand strength. [7] The Handgrip Strength plays an essential role in the daily lives of people and serves as a reliable proxy indicator of an individual's hand motor abilities.

Occupation is considered to be a strong predictor of an individual's handgrip strength. Hand Grip Strength can be influenced by various physiological & anthropometric parameters such as Age, Occupation, Gender, Weight, Height and BMI. Hand Grip Strength can be measured by a medical device named Digital Hand Dynamometer and useful for as a diagnostic tool to assess the musculoskeletal disorders of the upper extremities, nutritional status and to determine the loss of handgrip strength.

The present study was conducted on 60 subjects and categorized into 2 groups i.e., heavy manual labourers & students. (30 Heavy manual labourers, males and females) (30 Students males & females) respectively between the age group of 18-45 among the North Indian Population. The Hand Grip Strength were taken and analyzed to know the greater grip strength on which side and stronger in which group.

Results of this study demonstrate that amongst 2 groups, the grip strength of Heavy Manual Labourers of left hand is more than right hand. Whereas in Students the Grip Strength was greater in dominant hand than non-dominant hand. In our study side of hand dominance was an important variable to check the difference between, students grip strength and heavy manual labourers grip strength and also find out the loss of strength from dominant to non-dominant hand.

Grip strength of heavy manual labourers of left hand shows positive difference with ( $t=3.567$ ) & ( $p>0.001$ ) which is statistically significant.

And in students the right hand shows positive difference with ( $t=4.649$ ) & ( $p<0.000$ ) which is statistically significant.

A study by Shyamal Koley et. al (2012) correlated the dominant hand grip strength and selected anthropometric & physiological characteristics. Results of this study showed significant ( $p<0.004$  - .000) differences with positive correlations found between right and left hand grip strength and all the variable studies except percent body fat (where the correlation were significantly negative) further relating their results to our study, no of subjects with right hand dominance and left hand dominance were not specified in the study.

Conducted by Shyamal Koley et. al. as in our study side of hand dominance was an important variable to check the difference in loss of strength from dominant to non-dominant side.

A study by Muhammad Rafique et. al. (2014) had an objective to describe normative data and compare BMI and hand grip strength of dominant hand of students of 2 different universities. They resulted in stating that female who had normal BMI calculated based on their height and weight; and more grip strength than those who were overweight and obese. Relating this result with our study; we had subjects having BMI with minimum of 15 and maximum of 35. But, in our study we did not classify this data on the basis of gender as they did and did not correlate gender, BMI and Hand grip ratio among each other.

A study by S Koley et al (2008) stated that Handgrip Strength is positively correlated with nutritional status. Handgrip strength used as a functional index in every human life and is of great value of nutritional status.

Improved nutritional level can build up the hand power of an individual.

The results of this study demonstrates between younger and senile female labourers were statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in all the parameters which was considered. Hence the differences were found between younger and older female labourers in respect to Handgrip Strength, hand dominance, age factors, occupational status.

## V. CONCLUSION

In the present study we compared the handgrip strength of both dominant and non-dominant hand between the 2 group i.e., heavy manual labourers & students (60 subjects in which 30 students & 30 heavy manual labourers, males and females respectively in North Indian Population).

Handgrip Strength can also provide a simple, cost effective as well as a useful weapon in occupational health research, determine the loss of muscle strength, nutritional status and in prevention or intervention strategies.

The right hand grip strength is found more than left hand in students. In our study we conclude that all the parameters including height, weight, BMI, right and dominance and left hand dominance. Except height, all the parameters were found significantly stronger and faster in right handed.

On the other hand left hand grip strength of heavy manual labourers showed significantly stronger hand power strength than all the parameters which we have taken.

In our study, the Handgrip strength was significantly higher in heavy manual labourers as compared to students. Reason is this that student are not indulge in any occupational atmosphere or any heavy intensive field work, they studying at a particular institute and return back to their rooms after school or college hours. That's why their handgrip strength is normal or below of dominant & non-dominant side.

Heavy manual labourers, who does one of the constructional field trade work from teenage to adulthood life, daily wage labourers and specialist in electricians, carpenters, plumbers and employed in labour intensive primary work.

Men and women who work in different constructional sites or field they are doing strenuous physical work, transferring and pulling heavy objects and construction material.

Repetitive or monotonous tasks, physical work load, the hand muscles will have to work more and in daily use and that's the reason their handgrip strength is more than normal.

It is important that physical characteristics and health status support well preserved body energy, protein stores and muscle strength.

The purpose of the investigation here was to develop an attitude of self-health appraisal & consciousness/awareness in subjects and assessed their fitness status. The study innovative was encouraging and the subject participant's attitude towards the health activities was positive.

**Conflict of Interest:** Nil



**Fig no. 1 Photograph Showing the Digital Hand Dynamometer**



**Fig no. 2 Photograph Showing the Measurement of Handgrip Strength by the help of Digital Hand Dynamometer**



**Fig no. 3. Photograph Showing the Subject Holding the Digital Hand Dynamometer**

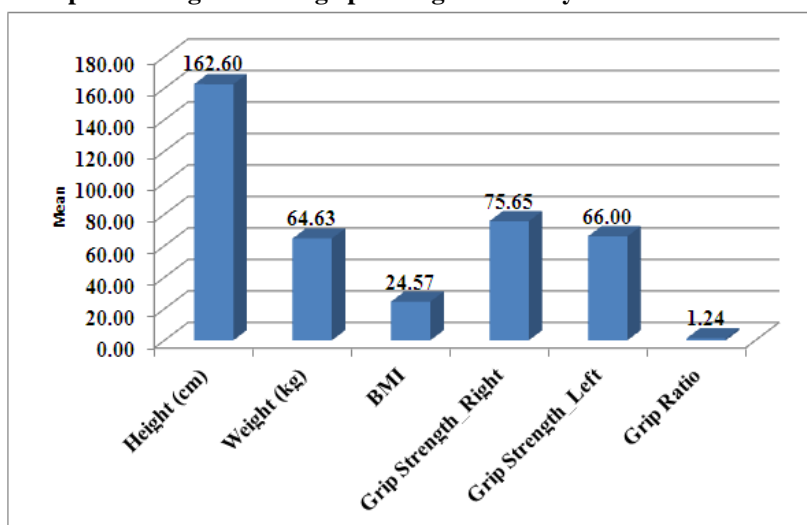
**Table-1 Demographic Parameters**

		GROUP		Total	Chi-square value	p-value
		Heavy Manual Labourers	Students			
Age group	< 25	70	100	170	28.708	0.000
	> 25	80	50	130		
Gender	Female	50	70	120	0.000	1.000
	Male	100	80	180		
Dominant	Right	110	110	220	0.000	1.000
	Left	40	40	80		
Total		150	150	300		

**Table-2 Parameters in Heavy Manual Labourers**

	Heavy Manual Labourers	
	Mean	SD
Height (cm)	162.60	4.61
Weight (kg)	64.63	5.80
BMI	24.57	1.88
Grip Strength Right	75.65	24.86
Grip Strength Left	66.00	27.62
Grip Ratio	1.24	0.35

**Graph Showing the Handgrip Strength in Heavy Manual Labourers**



**Table-3 Parameters in Students**

	Students	
	Mean	SD
Height (cm)	162.53	9.12
Weight (kg)	60.32	8.71
BMI	22.95	3.40
Grip Strength Right	46.11	24.35
Grip Strength Left	44.31	25.73
Grip Ratio	1.10	0.29

Graph Showing the Handgrip Strength in Students

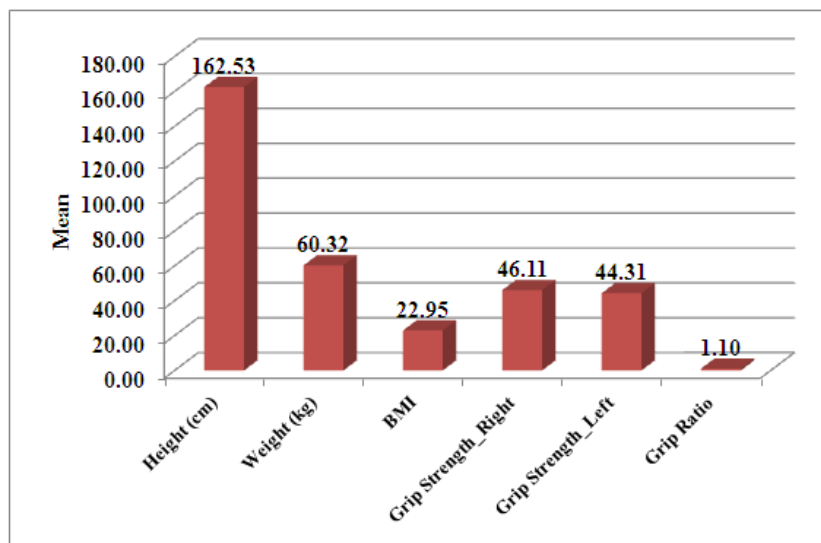
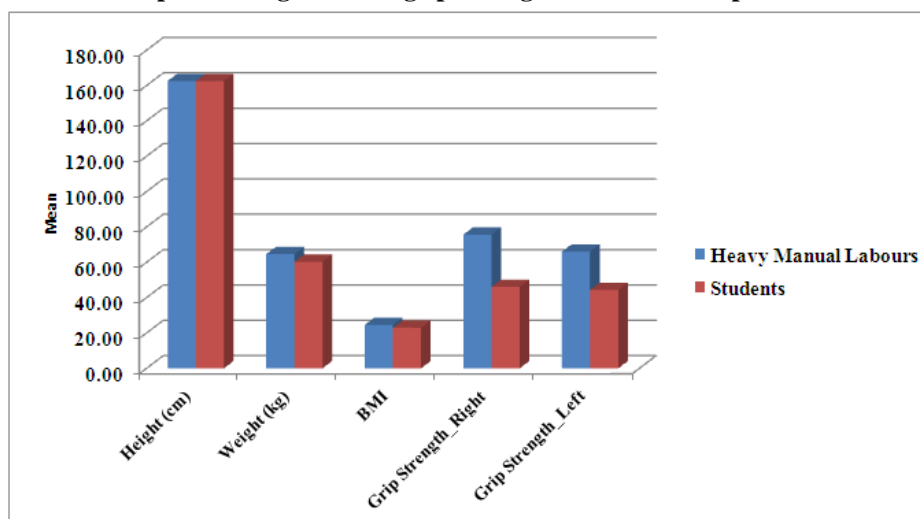


Table-3 Handgrip Strength in Different Population

	Heavy Manual Labourers		Students		t	p-value	Difference		95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			Mean	SD	Lower	Upper
Height (cm)	162.60	4.61	162.53	9.12	0.036	0.972	0.07	1.87	-3.67	3.80
Weight (kg)	64.63	5.80	60.32	8.71	2.260	0.028	4.32	1.91	0.49	8.14
BMI	24.57	1.88	22.95	3.40	2.280	0.026	1.62	0.71	0.20	3.04
Grip Strength Right	75.65	24.86	46.11	24.35	4.649	0.000	29.54	6.35	16.82	42.26
Grip Strength Left	66.00	27.62	44.31	25.73	3.147	0.003	21.69	6.89	7.89	35.49
Grip Ratio	1.24	0.35	1.10	0.29	1.655	0.103	0.14	0.08	-0.03	0.31

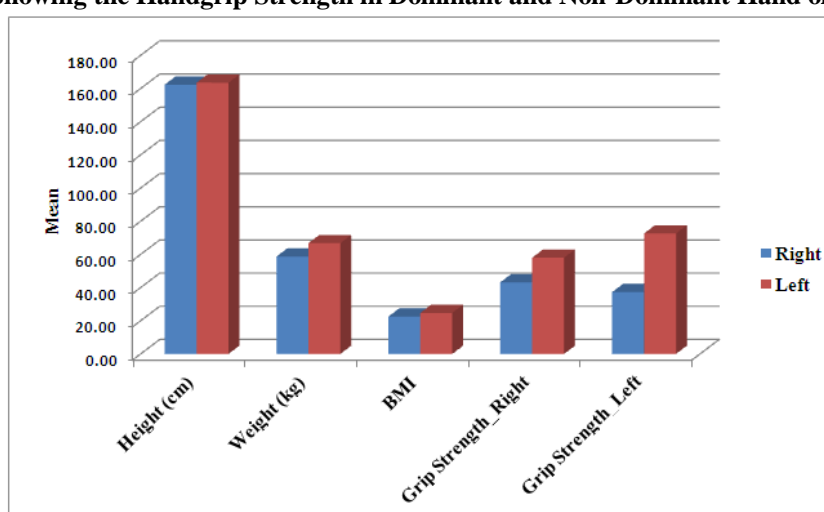
Graph Showing the Handgrip Strength in Different Population



**Table-4 Handgrip Strength in Dominant and Non-Dominant Hand of Students**

Students	Right		Left		t	p-value	Difference		95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			Mean	SD	Lower	Upper
<b>Non-Dominant</b>										
Height (cm)	162.29	9.23	163.50	9.44	-0.286	0.777	-1.21	4.23	-9.88	7.46
Weight (kg)	58.71	8.71	66.75	5.36	-2.145	0.041	-8.04	3.75	-15.72	-0.36
BMI	22.51	3.47	24.72	2.66	-1.445	0.160	-2.20	1.53	-5.33	0.92
Grip Strength Right	43.14	21.15	58.02	34.21	-1.358	0.185	-14.88	10.96	-37.32	7.57
Grip Strength Left	37.24	18.25	72.60	33.30	-3.567	0.001	-35.36	9.91	-55.66	-15.06
Grip Ratio	1.19	0.25	0.76	0.19	3.896	0.001	0.43	0.11	0.20	0.65

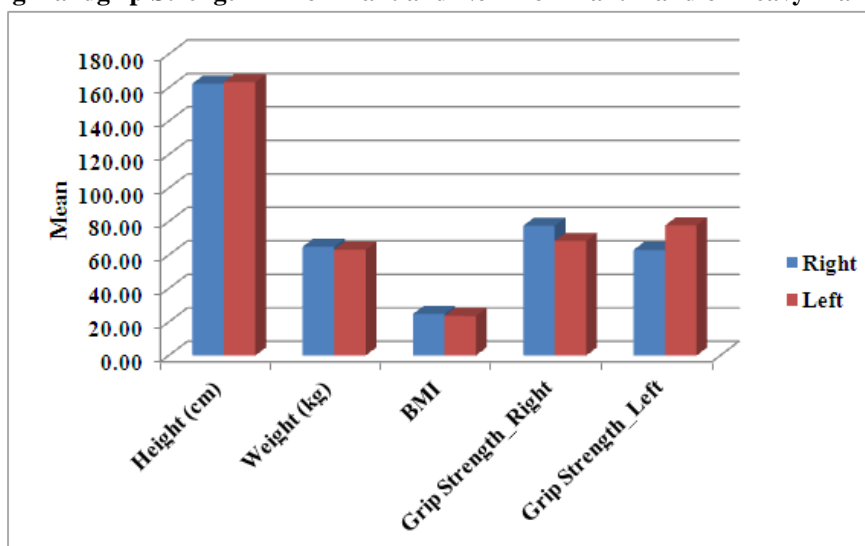
**Graph Showing the Handgrip Strength in Dominant and Non-Dominant Hand of Students**



**Table-5 Handgrip Strength in Dominant and Non-Dominant Hand of Heavy Manual Labourers**

Heavy Manual Labourers	Right		Left		t	p-value	Difference		95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			Mean	SD	Lower	Upper
<b>Non-Dominant</b>										
Height (cm)	162.42	4.83	163.33	3.88	-0.430	0.671	-0.92	2.13	-5.28	3.45
Weight (kg)	65.00	4.99	63.17	8.80	0.686	0.498	1.83	2.67	-3.64	7.30
BMI	24.81	1.65	23.62	2.59	1.414	0.168	1.20	0.85	-0.54	2.93
Grip Strength Right	77.48	24.28	68.37	28.16	0.798	0.432	9.11	11.42	-14.29	32.50
Grip Strength Left	63.08	27.01	77.72	29.41	-1.169	0.252	-14.64	12.53	-40.31	11.02
Grip Ratio	1.34	0.34	0.87	0.07	3.298	0.003	0.46	0.14	0.17	0.75

Graph Showing Handgrip Strength in Dominant and Non-Dominant Hand of Heavy Manual Labourers



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