



IIT ROORKEE



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## Soft Skills

### Lecture 12

# Haptics: The Language of Touch

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# What is Haptics?

- A Greek word meaning ‘I touch’.
- Systematic study of touch behavior.
- Sensation of touch can be used for information gathering.



# Touch generates feelings

- ✓ Warmth
- ✓ Friendliness
- ✓ Regard
- ✓ Togetherness
- ✓ Affection



# Forms of Touch

- Patting on the back
- Touching the head with palm
- Touching the feet
- Hugging



# Contd.

- Kissing the forehead
- Holding somebody's hand/arm
- Handshakes



# Differences in Haptic behaviour

- India: Verbal greeting followed by handshake/ folding of hands
- U.S. & U.K.: Handshake as commonest form
- Arab & Asian countries: Restricted handshake

# An Observation

In Thailand and Laos, it is rude for a stranger or acquaintance to touch a child on the top of the head because the head is regarded as the home of the spirit or soul. It is believed that a child's spirit or soul is not strong enough to be touched and has a tendency to become ill if patted. (Smutkupt & Barna, 1976)



# Types of Hand Shakes

- Dominance
- Submission
- Equality



Figure 20 *Taking the control*



Figure 21 *Giving the control*

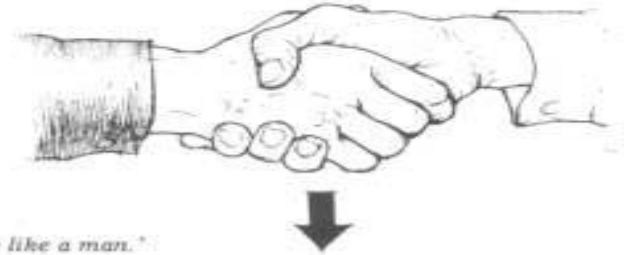


Figure 22 *'Shake like a man.'*



# Submissive palm position



# Dominant palm position



# Aggressive palm position

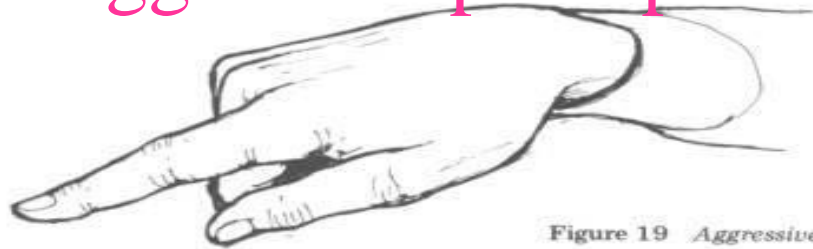


Figure 19 Aggressive palm position

# Other Hand Shakes

## Dead Fish Shaking



## Dominant Shaking



Figure 30 The knuckle grinder

## Politicians Hand Shaking



Figure 28 The glove