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**Original article:**

**Mean Leeway space in Indian population**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** During normal occlusal development, the change of the buccal segment starts approximately at the age of 9 ¾ in girls and 10 ½ in boys and finishes 1 ½ years later when the permanent canine of the maxilla erupts, varying individually. Literature shows many research studies carried out on various populations to know the mean leeway space. But there is no study reported in Indian literature regarding mean Lee way space measurements in Indian population. This study hence is aimed to measure the mean Leeway space in Indian population. The aim of this study was to calculate the mean leeway space in Indian population.

**Material and methods:**124 OPG of age group 6 to 13 year exhibiting mixed dentition were initially selected. These 124 OPG were further screened and 35 OPG which were fullfilling the following criteria were finally selected for the study.

**Result:** The average Leeway Space found in girls is around 0.94 mm in the upper jaw andapproximately 1.96 mm in the lower jaw. In boys the average Leeway Space is around1.04 mm in the upper jaw and 1.98 mm in the lower jaw.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study states that the leeway space in Indian population is much less than that what was anticipated. Thus the clinicians will have to depend on other procedures for gaining space along with leeway space in treating borderline cases.