

CHAPTER 1:
AN INTRODUCTION TO VITILIGO

VITILIGO, a condition the legend *Michael Jackson* was also burdened with!

As per the definition, vitiligo is known as an acquired, chronic, pigmentary disorder characterized by de-pigmentation of the part of skin. Loss of the functionality of melanocytes is responsible for vitiligo but the real cause of it is unknown. However, some conditions including autoimmune, genetic, neural, viral infections and oxidative stress could have an important role in vitiligo. ^[9]

- **AROUND 2% OF THE PEOPLE WORLDWIDE SUFFER FROM VITILIGO. AMONG THIS, AFRICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE THE MOST AFFECTED.**
- **IN INDIA APPROXIMATELY 0.46 TO 8.88% POPULATION IS AFFECTED, VARYING AMONG DIFFERENT ETHICAL BACKGROUNDS AND GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS. GUJARAT AND RAJASTHAN HAS BEEN FOUND OUT TO BE THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS IN TERMS OF ADULT VITILIGO, WHEREAS CHILDHOOD VITILIGO FINDS ITS WAY MAJORLY IN NEPAL. ^[23]**
- **A FEMALE: MALE RATIO HAS BEEN REGISTERED TO BE 2:1. ^[23]**

As per the patterns among the genders, vitiligo vulgaris (64.9%) was the most common morphological pattern; other patterns seen were focal vitiligo (18.6%), acrofacial vitiligo (0.8%), mucosal vitiligo (14.8%), segmental vitiligo (1.4%), and universal vitiligo (8.2%). Leucotrichia was seen in 9% of the patients while Koebner's phenomenon was noted in 6% of them only. ^[23]

As per the cross sectional analysis done in 2014, males were more likely to report a family history of vitiligo whereas females reported it due to cosmetic surgeries, social reasons and higher oxidative stress when compared to males. The onset of it was found in late adulthood whereas the duration and impact was more permanent in males with deeper lesions. ^[23]