



## COMPARISON OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE CONCERNING MENTAL ILLNESS AMONG THE ADULTS RESIDING IN THE SELECTED RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY, WEST BENGAL

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**ABSTRACT** Stigma associated with mental illness is the biggest hurdles in providing treatment to mentally ill people. A descriptive, comparative study design was undertaken to compare the knowledge and attitude regarding mental illness among adults residing in selected rural and urban community. The probability simple random sampling technique was adopted on hundred rural adults in Rajarhat block and hundred urban adults in Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, West Bengal and interview schedule applied to collect data. Rosenstock, Beckers Health Belief Model is used as conceptual framework. It is evident that rural participants had more knowledge concerning mental illness than urban ( $t=3.93$ ) which can be explained by level of education; 39% of rural whereas 28% of urban participants were graduate or above, but statistical difference was not found in attitude between rural and urban participants ( $t=1.868$ ). Strong correlation between knowledge and attitude of adults of rural ( $r=0.29$ ) and of urban ( $r=0.42$ ) can be found. Significant associations were found between level of knowledge concerning mental illness and gender, education, economic condition of rural and with economic condition only for urban participants. This study can be replicated on large sample for generalization of findings and structure teaching programme can be implemented to improve the knowledge and attitude among general population.

### KEYWORDS :

#### OBJECTIVE

- To assess the knowledge concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community.
- To assess the attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community.
- To compare the knowledge concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community.
- To compare the attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community.
- To determine the relationship with the level of knowledge and attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community.
- To find the association between the levels of knowledge concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community and the selected demographic variables.
- To find the association between the levels of attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural and urban community and the selected demographic variables.

#### Major Findings:

**Table 1 Comparison of the level of knowledge concerning mental illness of the adults residing in the rural and urban community** ( $n_1=100$ ;  $n_2=100$ )

Groups	Mean	Mean Difference	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean	"t" value
Rural adults	16.72		1.77		
		0.94		0.239	3.934
Urban adults	15.78		1.61		

$t$  at  $df(198) = 1.9720 * p < 0.05$

Table 1 depicts that the obtained 't' value at  $df(198)$  at 0.05 level of significance is 3.934, where "Mean Difference" was 0.94. The table value of 't' at  $df(198)$  is 1.9720 at  $p < 0.05$  level of significance. So, the obtained 't' value (3.934) is far greater than the tabulated values and the mean difference (0.94) is found statistically significant. This shows that the difference in obtained knowledge scores concerning mental illness between the rural and urban participants is a true difference and not by chance. Thus, it can be concluded from the available data that knowledge concerning mental illness is more in the rural than urban participants.

**Table 2 Comparison of the level of attitude concerning mental illness of the adults residing in the rural and urban community** ( $n_1=100$ ;  $n_2=100$ )

Groups	Mean	Mean Difference	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean	"t" value
Rural adults	33.64		4.07		
		0.94		0.503	1.868
Urban adults	32.7		2.96		

$t$  at  $df(198) = 1.9720, p > 0.05$

Table 2 depicts that the obtained 't' value at  $df(198)$  at 0.05 level of significance is 1.868, where "Mean Difference" was 0.94. The table value of 't' at  $df(198)$  is 1.9720 at  $p > 0.05$  level of significance. So, the obtained 't' value (1.868) is less than the tabulated values and the mean difference (0.94) is found statistically not significant at  $p > 0.05$ . So, there is no significant statistical difference in obtained attitude score concerning mental illness between rural & urban participants.

**Table 3 Correlation coefficient between knowledge and attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in the rural community as well as in urban community** ( $n_1=100$ ;  $n_2=100$ )

Settings	Research Variables	Mean	Correlation coefficient ('r')	't' value	Significance
Rural	Knowledge	16.72	0.29	4.26	S*
	Attitude	33.64			
Urban	Knowledge	15.78	0.42	7.18	S*
	Attitude	32.7			

$t(98) = 1.98 * p < 0.05 * S = \text{Significant}$

Table 3 depicts that the value of correlation coefficient between knowledge and attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in the selected rural community is 0.29 and for urban community, it is 0.42. From these values, it can be interpreted that there is a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude concerning mental illness among the adults both in the rural and urban community. The obtained 't' value for rural participants is 4.26 and for urban it is 7.18 which is higher than table value  $t(98) = 1.98 * p < 0.05$  level of significance. So, there is a significant relationship between knowledge and attitude among the adults residing in rural as well as urban community.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study was conducted on 100 adults residing in the selected rural and 100 adults residing in the selected urban community. From this analysis it is evident that, adult people residing in the rural community had higher knowledge concerning mental illness than people residing in urban community, as 39% of rural participants had graduate and above level of education, whereas only 28% of urban participants belonged to the same educational level. No significant difference could be found regarding attitude concerning mental illness among the adults residing in rural as well as urban community. It is also evident that there was a significant relationship between knowledge and attitude among the adults residing in rural as well as urban community. Statistically significant associations were present between the level of knowledge concerning mental illness and 'Gender', 'Education', and 'Economic condition' of the adults residing in rural community. In case of urban community, the association was found only with 'Economic condition' of the participants. In this study, there was also an association between the level of attitude concerning mental illness and 'Gender' of the participants in urban community.

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