

SUICIDAL RISK AMONG SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED AND ADVANTAGED WOMEN COLLEGE STUDENTS



Psychology

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ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to determine the Suicidal risk among socially disadvantaged and advantaged women college students studying in Tirupati city, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. The sample was randomly selected from professional and non-professional colleges in and around Tirupati city of Andhra Pradesh. The sample comprises of 170 students aged from 18-25 years. Suicide Probability Scale by John G. Cull and Wayne S. Gill was used as an instrument for this research. The data were analyzed by using t-tests. The findings reveal the significant difference are found between professional and non-professional students and socially disadvantage and dis-advantage women students. The study may be used retrospectively to create awareness among parents, teachers, and administrators about suicide risk of the women students.

INTRODUCTION

The word 'suicide' has its origin in Latin: 'sui', of one self and 'caedere', to kill; the act of intentionally destroying one's life. The phenomenon of suicide has at all times attracted the attention of moralists, social investigators, philosophers and scientist. Suicide is a leading cause of death among those aged between 15-24 years (Berman & Jobes, 1995: Centre for Disease Control 2007). The number of suicide in India during the decade (2002-2012) has recorded an increase of 22.7% (NCRB, 2012). A large proportion of adult suicide deaths were found to occur between the ages of 15 years and 29 years (NCRB, 2005). Indeed the most vulnerable female age group for suicide belongs to 15 years to 29 years whereas in case of male, it is the second most vulnerable male age group for suicide (NCRB, 2010; 2011; 2012). Further it is found that the prevalence of suicide in this age group increased at the rate of 8% from 2003 to 2004 (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007).

It was observed from the recent past incidents occurred in state of Andhra Pradesh that there has been several cases of suicides particularly the girl students studying in professional and non-professional courses. These students must have been striving for getting admission into better professional courses putting themselves under pressure. In their effort if the situational factors are not in their favor they are likely to develop suicidal ideation. An individual who has greater suicidal ideation is more likely to hold positive attitudes towards suicide, while an individual who has more negative attitudes towards suicide has a smaller risk of suicide (Eshun, 2003).

Suicide is not a sudden commencement. It is a blend of personal, relational, community and societal factors that contribute to the risk of suicide. Dogra, Basu and Das (2008) found that except stressful life events, other predictor variables i.e., personality, presence of meaning in life, reasons for living, contribute significantly to suicidal ideation. However the psychological, social and financial impact of suicide on a family is immeasurable. Adolescents are the wealth of the nation. Indeed they are the future civilians of the country upon whom the development of the country is reliant. If they possess ill mental health, which may originate suicidal ideation then the progress of the state in the truest sense will be hindered. Since there is a scarcity of studies which focus directly on the problem of the suicide ideation among women professional college students of Andhra Pradesh, and because of the seriousness of its adverse consequences, it is felt necessary to explore this issue urgently. In such circumstances, the researcher has undertaken this study to identify whether there is any suicidal ideation among Professional and Non-Professional college students especially the women students of the state.

The objectives of the study are:

OBJECTIVES:

To assess the suicidal risk among socially disadvantaged and advantaged women professional college students.

By keeping the above issues the following hypothesis are formulated

HYPOTHESES:

There would be significant difference between professional and non-professional college students on suicidal risk.

There would be significant difference between socially advantaged and disadvantaged women professional college students on suicidal risk.

SAMPLE:

The sample for the present study comprised of 170 Professional and non-professional college students studying in and around Tirupati city, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. The college students who are selected randomly from different colleges of the district. Among them 85 are Socially disadvantaged and 85 are advantage women professional college students.

PROCEDURE:

A prior permission was taken from the Principals of colleges and attempt was made to apprise them about the objective of this study. The subjects were contacted personally in their respective educational institution for data collection. After getting willingness of subjects, a congenial rapport was established to make them comfortable. The obtained data were prepared for analysis.

TOOLS:-

Suicide Probability Scale (S.P.S) by John G. Cull and Wayne S. Gill consists of 36 items with four clinical subscales such as hopelessness, suicide ideation, negative self evaluation, and hostility. It is a 4 point Likert scale ranging from none or a little of the time to most or all of the time. High score indicates of high risk of suicidal ideation and vice versa. It is a standardized scale with internal consistency of 0.85 to 0.93 (Total scale) and split half reliability of 0.85 to 0.93 (Total scale).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table-I: Mean,SD and t-value of the Professional Non-Professional college students on Probability of suicide scale.

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Professional	85	68.10	5.29	2.766**
Non-Professional	85	65.92	3.82	

**Significant at 0.01

Table I: depicts that the mean value of the Professional college students is 68.10 (SD=5.29) whereas the mean value of the Non-Professional college students is 65.92 (SD=3.82). Further the t-value (t=2.77; p<0.01) indicates highly significant difference between the two group. This indicates professional students possess more negative thought and feelings associated with suicide ideation or suicide attempts than non-professional women college students. Hence hypothesis: **“There would be significant difference between professional and non-professional college students on suicidal risk”** has been proved. The result of the present study is in consistent with the findings of the previous study where it is seen that suicide attempts significantly increase during adolescence, reaching a peak between the ages of 16 and 18 (Miller, Rathus, and Linehan, 2007). In professional college students bear excessive academic pressure, parental pressure, and familial pressure to do well in board examinations and entrance examinations so that they can have a successful career in the near future. Indian education system is based on rote learning or memorization with a strong emphasis on scoring high marks. In professional college students bear excessive academic pressure, parental pressure, and familial pressure to do well in board examinations and entrance examinations so that they can have a successful career in the near future. Such expectation puts the Professional college students under immense pressure.

Table-II : Mean, SD and t-value of Socially Advantaged and Disadvantaged women

college students on representing the Probability of suicide.

Probability of suicide	Socially dis-advantaged Women students		Socially advantaged Women students		t' ratio
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Hopelessness	62.25	5.09	66.27	5.71	4.928**
Suicide ideation	63.22	4.01	66.31	5.60	3.735**
Negative Self evaluation	36.96	5.73	55.41	10.57	6.588**
Hostility	60.79	5.68	62.05	8.71	1.114@
Total	64.84	5.68	70.53	12.99	3.406**

**Significant at 0.01, @ Not significant

From the table II the Hopelessness mean score of disadvantage students is 62.25 (S.D=5.095) and the mean score of the advantaged students is 66.27 (S.D. =5.709) on the dimension of hopelessness. Significant difference (t=4.93; p<0.01) is found between the Disadvantaged and advantaged students in terms of their hopelessness. Although both the mean scores of disadvantaged and advantaged students indicate hopelessness among them, but these feelings are more prevalent in case of advantaged women students which severely affect their behavior pattern and thinking process. The life of the disadvantaged people are very much free and frank but due to Indian cultural taboos and restrictions advantaged adolescent boys and girls are not acceptable by their parents or society for all types of activities.

Further on the dimension of suicidal ideation the mean value of the disadvantaged students is 63.22 (S.D. = 4.015) whereas the mean value of the advantaged students is 66.31 (SD=5.606). Significant difference is found between the two groups (t= 3.74; p<0.01). Results depicts that disadvantaged students do not possess any suicidal ideation whereas majority of the advantaged students possess mild suicidal ideation which indicate that they have passive thought,

But in respect of the dimension of negative self evaluation the advantaged adolescents possess comparatively better self evaluation than disadvantaged adolescents. The mean value of the disadvantaged students is 63.96 (S.D. =5.73) whereas the mean value of the advantaged students is 55.41 (S.D. =10.57). Significant difference (t=6.59; p<0.01) is found between the disadvantaged and advantaged adolescents on negative self evaluation. Negative self evaluation affects self esteem, self efficacy and self confidence In fact due to long time isolation from the mainstream society they suffer from loneliness, helplessness, negative self-image and low self-efficacy. Further the result of the present study coincides with the result of the previous study where it is seen that disadvantaged children possess negative self-image (Witty, 1967; Tannenbaum, 1969).

In case of the dimension of hostility, no significant difference is found between the socially disadvantaged and advantaged women college students. However, when overall comparison has been made between the disadvantaged and advantaged students on their probability of suicide scores, it is found that there exist a high significant difference (t=3.41; p<0.01) between the disadvantaged and advantaged students. Advantaged students obtain higher mean value (Mean=70.53; S.D. =12.99) than the disadvantaged students (Mean=64.80; S.D. =5.68). The mean score of the disadvantaged students indicates that they do not possess suicidal ideation whereas the mean score of the advantaged students depicts that they possess mild suicidal ideation. Thus the second hypothesis **“There would be significant difference between socially advantaged and disadvantaged women professional college students on suicidal risk.”** Is accepted as warranted by the results the present study supports and the hypothesis .

CONCLUSIONS:

It is concluded that notable number of professional college students of Tirupati, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh are 16 to 25 years possesses mild suicide risk. The socially advantaged women professional college students have more probability of suicide than their counter parts of disadvantaged women professional college students. They possess comparatively more amount of hopelessness, suicide ideation, and hostility than advantaged women professional students. But the disadvantaged women students possess more negative self evaluation than advantaged women professional students. Further it is seen that students Professional college students have more vulnerable group for suicide in comparison to Non-professional college students.

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