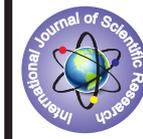


## Relationship between personality profile and suicidal attempt among psychiatric disorder with and without epilepsy: A Retrospective study



### Psychology

**KEYWORDS:** Personality, suicidal attempt, psychiatric disorder, epilepsy.

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### ABSTRACT

Inflexible personality traits play an important role in the development of maladaptive behaviors among patients who attempt suicide. This study aimed to investigate the relationship between personality profile and suicidal attempt among psychiatric disorder with and without epilepsy. Study conducted on (n=80) participants of either sex (Group I, n=40) with epilepsy (Group II, n=40) without epilepsy age ranging between (20-45) years. Dimension Personality Inventory (DPI) administered on all the participants included in the study. Analysis of the data indicated female with epilepsy commit suicide in comparison to male. The difference was statistically significant at ( $p < .05$ ) level. With epilepsy tend to be more assertive, independent in nature, dominant, suspicious, apprehensive, blaming others for his/her all failures, depressive, feeling of hopelessness, unloved, suicidal ideas, highly frustrated, delusion of references were more prominent then those of without epilepsy.

### Introduction

Inflexible personality traits play an important role in the development of maladaptive behaviors among patients who attempt suicide. A variety of biological, social, and personal predisposing factors are introduced as the risk factors for suicide [2]. Various psychiatric disorders have been proposed as the intervening factors in suicide attempts [1, 3]. Given the fact that personality affects our emotional and behavioral patterns, it is assumed that personality profile can be employed to prevent the risk of attempts at suicide [4, 5]. Temperament traits may play an important role in the prediction of potential suicidal risk especially in patients with mood disorders [6].

Studies on the records of psychiatric patients with and without suicide attempt show that those who committed suicide possessed anger, aggression, anxiety, and depression personality profiles [4]. Risk factors for suicidal behavior among people with epilepsy are psychiatric co- morbidity, temporal lobe epilepsy, female sex and earlier onset of epilepsy. [7] People with epilepsy have a higher risk of suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviors than the general population. Knowing these entire things we can say personality is the most important factor to prevent and commit suicide.

Considering all the above-mentioned facts and figures, this study has been taken up with an aim to study the relationship between personality profile and suicidal attempt among psychiatric patients with and without epilepsy. Indoor and outdoor patient of different hospitals of U.P. India was taken as subjects for the study.

It was hypothesized that there will be no difference between personality profile and suicidal attempt in psychiatric group with epilepsy and without epilepsy controls.

### Methods

**Sample:** The sample comprised (n=80) participants divided into two groups (group I, n=40) i.e. with epilepsy (group II, n=40) without epilepsy ranged from (20-45) year with minimum education 5<sup>th</sup> class. Mean age of (group I, n=40) was found to be  $38.7 \pm 4.30$  and mean age (group II, n=40) was found to be  $40.7 \pm 3.08$  year respectively, the difference was significantly higher at ( $p < .05$ ) level and year of schooling ( $8.8 \pm 2.79$  and  $10.55 \pm 2.38$  years respectively) of with & without epilepsy group this difference also significant at ( $p < .01$ ) level. Mean of total duration of epilepsy in psychiatric group was found to be  $9.95 \pm 4.99$  years. The sample reported being mood disorder (62%), schizophrenia (26%) and neurotics were (12%).

### Instruments

Participants and their available relatives were required to fill in a consent form and demographic sheet before they proceed to the instruments behind.

Scale used in this study was dimensional personality inventory (DPI) [8] deals with six dimensions by which ones personality can be evaluated. They are: Activity- passivity, enthusiastic-non enthusiastic, assertive-submissive, suspicious-trusting, depressive-non depressive and emotional instability-emotional stability. It is applicable for psychiatric patients. Score 10 or more indicative of left sided dominated personality on that dimension and score less than 10 indicative of the other side of that dimension. For example if person scored 15 on the dimension 'activity-passivity', he/she is active.

### Procedure

This is a retrospective study diagnosed case of psychiatric disorder in and out patients chosen purposively from Noormanzil Psychiatric Clinic and hospital, Lucknow, U.P. Nirwan Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Lucknow & Pt. Deendayal upadhyay Joint Hospital, district Moradabad, U.P, India. Detail of epilepsy and suicidal behaviour taken from case report file of the patients. Interview conducted in the separate room associated with the ward to maintain confidentiality, Uncooperative subjects, having problem in speech and communication which can impede the interview were excluded from the study. After that, dimensional personality inventory (DPI) was administered to them.

### Statistical Analysis

Chi-square, Mean, SD and T- test was used to analyze the data and evaluate with and without epilepsy in psychiatric disorder and its effect on personality and suicidal behaviour.

### Observations & Results

The result of the present study has been given below and consecutively discussed.

### Sample Characteristics

With regard to socio- demographic characteristics of the study subjects (47.5%) were male and (52.5%) were female in both group. (68%) patients came from rural background.

It appeared from the analysis of the data (Table 2) that the mean score of with epilepsy were significantly higher ( $p < .01$ ) level in dimensions assertive-submissive, suspicious-trusting, depressive-non depressive and lower in ( $p < .05$ ) level rest of three dimension of the personality traits. So it could be said that with epilepsy tend to be more assertive (dimension III); independent in nature, on convincing with other people, dominant etc. suspicious (dimension IV); apprehensive, no faith on other, blaming others for his/her all failure and delusion of references were more prominent and depressive (dimension V) feeling of hopelessness, unloved, suicidal ideas, highly frustrated then those of without epilepsy.

The mean scores of the male with epilepsy were found to be significantly higher (<.01) level than those of the without epilepsy male in dimensions activity- passivity, suspicious-trusting and depressive-non depressive. The dimension assertive- submissive also significantly differ at (p<.05) level. There was no significant difference in rest two dimensions. Male with epilepsy tended to be more active (dimension I); energetic enthusiastic etc. assertive (dimension III); straight forward in all dealing of life, bold in nature, dominant etc. Suspicious (dimension IV); non achievement, feeling in misconception of people about himself, want to harm him etc. depressive (dimension V); feeling of worthlessness, helplessness, unwanted and lack of self confidence etc. then those of without epilepsymale.

Now it could be said that the female with epilepsy were found to be significantly higher (<.05) level than those of the female without epilepsy in dimensions activity- passivity, assertive- submissive and the dimension suspicious-trusting also significantly differ at (p<.05) level. Rest of three dimensions insignificant difference was found, female with epilepsy tended to be more active (dimension I); regular, persistent etc. assertive (dimension III); bold, having trait of leadership etc. suspicious (dimension IV); self harming behaviour, suspicious nature about others, paranoid tendency.

**Table-1** Gender wise with and without epilepsy group and its effect on suicidal behaviour

Psychiatric Group	Gender	Non-suicidal group (N=42)	Suicidal group (N=38)				X <sup>2</sup>
			Suicidal ideation	Suicidal attempt	Total		
with epilepsy (N=40)	Male-20	12(60%)	5(25%)	3(15%)	8(40%)	5.01*	
	Female-20	5(25%)	6(30%)	9(45%)	15(75%)	Df=1	
without epilepsy(N=40)	Male-18	11(61.11%)	4(22.22%)	3(16.66%)	7(38.88%)	0.02	
	Female-22	14(63.63%)	5(22.72%)	3(13.63%)	8(36.36%)	N.S	

\*Significant at p<0.005 level

Chi square was used to compare the suicidal and non suicidal behaviour of two genders according to epilepsy and non epilepsy with psychiatric illness, results indicated that 75% with epilepsy female commit suicide in comparison to male. The difference was statistically significant at (p<0.05). Insignificant difference was found on without epilepsy on their suicidal behaviour. (Table-1)

**Table-2** Showing mean and S.D. of two psychiatric groups on the basis of dimensional personality inventory

Dimensions	With Epilepsy		Without Epilepsy		With Epilepsy				Without Epilepsy			
					Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
Activity-Passivity	10.27	3.88	11	5.14	9.45	3.64	11.1	4.03	14.4	3.4	8.11	4.58
Enthusiastic-None enthusiastic	10.37	3.83	11.7	4.49	10.25	3.69	11	3.61	11.05	5.48	12.09	3.61

Assertive-Submissive	13.65	4.48	9.8	4.94	13.55	4.37	13.75	4.71	9.94	5.15	9.90	5.08
Suspicious-Trusting	12.75	4.88	7.17	4.05	11.7	5.20	13.8	4.43	5.33	3.32	8.68	4.04
Depressive-Non depressive	11.45	4.32	8.35	4.07	13.6	4.12	9.3	3.41	9.11	3.66	7.72	4.36
Emotional instability-Emotional stability	13.87	3.68	14	3.14	14.65	2.96	13.1	4.21	13.72	2.96	14.22	3.33

**Discussion**

An attempt was made in this study to explore the possible effect of relationship between personality profile and suicidal attempt among psychiatric disorder with and without epilepsy. It was evident from the analysis of the data that female with epilepsy commit suicide in comparison to male. Recent literature suggests that persons with epilepsy also have more frequent suicidal ideations, suicidal attempts and completed suicides compared with the general population. [9] Study reported that significant difference in the mean score (p<0.05) on activity –passivity, Enthusiastic - non enthusiastic, assertive - submissive dimension of DPI between suicidal and non suicidal group of psychiatric patients.[10]In the dimension of assertive-submissive, depressive-non depressive the mean score of without epilepsy group was found to be less than 10 cut off score, indicate that without epilepsy group was submissive and non depressive however with epilepsy were found to be assertive and depressive. Some study reported that personality affects our emotional and behavioral patterns; it is assumed that personality profile can be employed to prevent the risk of attempts at suicide [4, 5]. Finding also indicated that person with epilepsy feeling of hopelessness, unloved, suicidal ideas highly frustrated then those of without epilepsy. Multiple studies have been consistent in showing that completed suicide in persons with epilepsy is an important contributor to their increased mortality. [11, 12, 13]

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**Conflict of Interest:** None

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