



“A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING SUICIDE AMONG STUDENTS IN SELECTED COLLEGES OF TUMKUR ”

¹Kanchan Rani, ²Shabeena Bernard

¹Associate Professor, ²Professor

¹Rayat Bahra College of Nursing, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India.

Abstract : In the present study data was collected on knowledge and attitude of selected colleges students regarding suicide in selected colleges of Tumkur. The study was non experimental in nature. Sample size was 100 college students. Convenient sampling technique was used for the collection of the data. The data collection was done by using self-structured questionnaire and attitude scale. Collected data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. This study showed that there is a need to improve the knowledge and attitude of the college students regarding suicide.

Key Words : Knowledge, Attitude, Student, College, Suicide.

I. INTRODUCTION

Suicide is the third most common cause of death amongst adolescents between 15-24 years of age, and the sixth most common cause of death amongst 5-14 year olds. It is estimated that over half of all teens suffering from depression will attempt suicide at least once, and of those teens, roughly seven percent will succeed on the first try. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to the threat of suicide, because in addition to increased stress from school, work and peers, teens are also dealing with hormonal fluctuations that can complicate even the most normal situations.¹

Suicide and suicide attempts are the “tip of the iceberg” of a larger mental health and substance abuse problem among our college students. A 13 year study showed that the number of students seen each year with depression doubled and the number of suicides tripled. In 2003 American College Health Association – more than 40% of students reported feeling “so depressed, it was difficult to function” at least once during the year. In 1998 suicide killed more teen-agers and young adults than AIDS, cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, birth defects, stroke, influenza and chronic lung disease combine².

A survey was conducted among 962 college students from three institutions in regard to their experiences with depression and suicide. Results indicate that incidents of depression and suicide are prevalent on college campuses and that there are a number of specific causes of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicidal behaviour. Suicide attempters are compared with non-attempters, institutions are compared, and institutional implications for colleges and universities are discussed³

A comparative study was conducted to investigate the attitudes of preclinical and clinical medical students toward suicide attempters and to compare their attitudes with nonmedical students. The data was collected through questionnaires used a social distance scale, skilfulness assessment scale, and dangerousness scale. The findings shows that more than 73% of students had a negative attitude toward "renting a room of their home to a suicide attempter and 90% would not want "a suicide attempter. According to scales they conclude that suicide attempters are problematic for medical students and need educational intervention⁴

A study was conducted among undergraduate students to evaluate the majors knowledge about suicide to identify what training they may need about suicide prevention and to explore the hypothesis that individuals previously exposed to suicide in their social context may hold higher suicide-related knowledge than those without among 71 college students with the 50-in number. The findings reveals that the higher suicide-related knowledge was found for knowing a suicide attempter, providing partial support for the hypothesis that personal experience with suicidal people may correspond with greater knowledge about suicide⁵

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Population and Sample

In this study population includes college students of Tumkur constitute the target population for the study. The study originated with a sample of 100 college students sample size for explicating the knowledge and attitude on suicide.

2.2 Data and Sources of Data

The study was undertaken at the physical location of Government degree college and Vasavi per-university college at Tumkur on 100 college students. The structured interview schedule was used as data source to collect data. Structured questionnaire regarding knowledge on suicide and Attitude scale: A 3 points rating scale was used to assess the attitude of students regarding suicide.

2.3 Theoretical framework

The study included Dependent variables as Knowledge and Attitude to find association with Independent variables (socio - demographic variables) as age, gender, religion, education of father, education of mother, occupation of father and mother, family income, type of family and place of residence.

2.4 Statistical tools

Descriptive Statistics

Mean, SD, range and mean score percentages are calculated to assess the knowledge and attitude of suicidal attempt.

Inferential statistics

Chi-square, fisher's test and Z test is used to find the association of selected socio demographic variables with knowledge and attitude of students regarding suicidal attempt.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1- Mean, Median, SD, range and mean % score percent of knowledge of students regarding suicide.

TOTAL SCORE	MAX. SCORE	RANGE	MEDIAN	MEAN	SD	MEAN %
KNOWLEDGE	22	4-19	13	12.12	4.84	55.09
ATTITUDE	40	16-35	30	27.89	5.10	69.73

The table:1 shows correlation of the knowledge with the attitude scores of the college students regarding suicide. The mean of the knowledge score is 12.12 with a standard deviation of 4.84 and median is 13 with total mean % is 55.09 and range score is 4-19 and the mean of the attitude score is 27.89 with a standard deviation of 5.10 and median is 30 with total mean% of the attitude is 69.73 and range score is 16-35.

Table 1.1- Correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores of the college students regarding suicide

TOTAL SCORE	MEAN	SD	CORRELATION	Z-VALUE*	P-VALUE
KNOWLEDGE	12.12	4.84	0.837	8.712	0.001
ATTITUDE	27.89	5.10			

The table 1.1 shows correlation of the knowledge with the attitude scores of the college students regarding suicide. The mean of the knowledge score is 12.12 with a standard deviation of 4.84 and the mean of the attitude score is 27.89 with a standard deviation of 5.10 on comparison the Z-value is 8.712 and the P-value is 0.001 and statistically is found to be highly significant.

* Attitude being a subjective score, instead of Student's t-test, Wilcoxon Signed Rank test (a non-parametric test) is applied to compare between knowledge and Attitude.

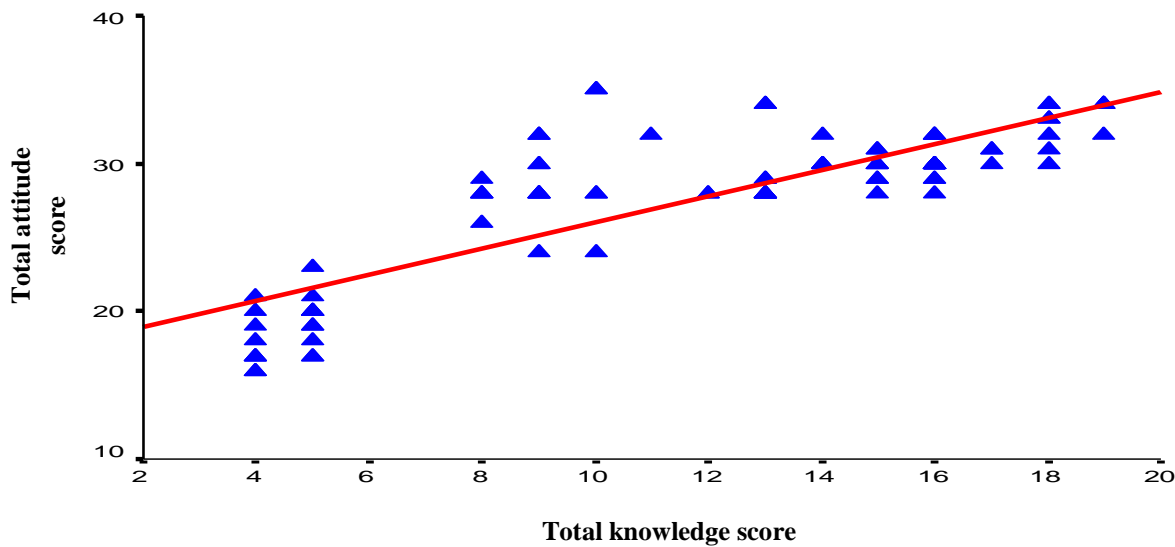


Fig 1 :- Distribution of score with mean, median, SD correlation and overall value of level of knowledge and attitude among college students.

Hypothesis testing

H₀1 → There will not be significant correlation between knowledge and attitude of students regarding suicide.

H₁ → There will be significant correlation between knowledge and attitude of college students regarding suicide.

Fig 1- shows the significant correlation between knowledge & attitude of college students regarding suicide at 0.001 level of significance hence H₀1 is rejected and H₁ is accepted.

Table 1.2 Association between the level of knowledge and socio-demographic variables

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	CATEGORIES	TOTAL KNOWLEDGE SCORE		CHI-SQUARE VALUE	DF	P-VALUE	INFERENCE
		BELOW MEDIAN	ABOVE MEDIAN				
AGE(YRS)	16-17	19	2	16.143	2	0.001	HS
	18-19	20	31				
	20-22	13	15				
GENDER	MALE	9	11	0.491	1	0.484	NS
	FEMALE	43	37				
RELIGION	HINDU	24	16	2.778	2	0.249	NS
	MUSLIM	24	24				
	CHRISTIAN	4	8				
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	HOME	19	21	12.710	2	0.001	HS
	HOSTEL	21	27				
	RELATIVE HOUSE	12					
TYPE OF FAMILY	NUCLEAR	16	6	4.885	1	0.028	S
	JOINT	36	42				
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FATHER	ILLITERATE	11	9	0.120	2	0.942	NS
	PRIMARY	26	24				
	SECONDARY & ABOVE	15	15				
EDUCATION OF MOTHER	ILLITERATE	15	21	16.246	2	0.001	HS
	PRIMARY	14	23				

	SECONDARY & ABOVE	23	4				
OCCUPATION OF FATHER	EMPLOYED	48	47	FISHER'S EXACT PROBABILITIES = 0.364			NS
	UNEMPLOYED	4	1				
OCCUPATION OF MOTHER	EMPLOYED	20	2	17.107	1	0.001	NS
	UNEMPLOYED	32	46				
FAMILY INCOME	≤6000	38	31	0.842	1	0.359	NS
	> 6000	14	17				

Note :1. The responses of some of the demographic variables have been merged as the expected frequencies was less than or equal to 5.

2. Fisher's exact probabilities are computed where ever in a 2 x 2 contingency tables the expected cell frequencies are less than or equal to 5.

3. NS: Not significant ($P>0.05$); S: significant ($P\leq 0.05$); HS: Highly significant

4. Critical value for 1 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance = 3.841

5. Critical value for 2 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance = 5.991

Table 1.2 shows it is evident from the present study that the Chi- Square value computed for the age, place of residence, education of mother occupation of mother with the knowledge score and was found to be highly significant and type of family was significant whereas the gender, religion education of father, occupation of father and family income with the level of knowledge and is statistically not significant which indicates that there is no association between the knowledge score and the demographic variables in relation to the knowledge and attitude. Since college students have some knowledge regarding suicide.

Hypothesis testing-

H_0 → There will be no significant association between the knowledge and demographic variables of college students.

H_2 → There will be significant association between the knowledge and demographic variables of college students.

Table 1.3- Association between the level of attitude score and socio-demographic variables

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	CATEGORIES	TOTAL ATTITUDE SCALE		CHI-SQUARE VALUE	D F	P-VALUE	INFERENCE
		BELOW MEDIAN	ABOVE MEDIAN				
AGE (YRS)	16-17	17	4	1.055	2	0.590	NS
	18-19	37	14				
	20-22	19	9				
GENDER	MALE	13	7	0.812	1	0.368	NS
	FEMALE	60	20				
RELIGION	HINDU	31	9	0.769	2	0.681	NS
	MUSLIM	34	14				
	CHRISTIAN	8	4				
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	HOME	39	1	21.064	2	0.001	HS
	HOSTEL	26	22				
	RELATIVE HOUSE	8	4				
TYPE OF FAMILY	NUCLEAR	18	4	1.113	1	0.291	NS
	JOINT	55	23				
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FATHER	ILLITERATE	18	2	3.704	2	0.157	NS
	PRIMARY	34	16				
	SECONDARY & ABOVE	21	9				
EDUCATION OF MOTHER	ILLITERATE	24	12	1.180	2	0.554	NS
	PRIMARY	28	9				
	SECONDARY & ABOVE	21	6				

OCCUPATION OF FATHER	EMPLOYED	69	26	0.131	1	0.718	NS
	UNEMPLOYED	4	1				
OCCUPATION OF MOTHER	EMPLOYED	18	4	1.113	1	0.291	NS
	UNEMPLOYED	55	23				
FAMILY INCOME	≤ 6000	58	11	13.809	1	0.001	HS
	> 6000	15	16				

Note: 1. The responses of some of the demographic variables have been merged as the expected frequencies was less than or equal to 5.

2. Fisher's exact probabilities are computed where ever in a 2 x 2 contingency tables the expected cell frequencies are less than or equal to 5.

3. NS: Not significant ($P > 0.05$); S: significant ($P \leq 0.05$); HS: Highly Significant.

4. Critical value for 1 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance = 3.841

5. Critical value for 2 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance = 5.991

Table 1.3 it is evident from the present study that the Chi- Square value computed for the place of residence and family income with the level of attitude and is statistically highly significant and age, sex, religion, education of father, education of mother, occupation of father, occupation mother, family income and type of family with the level of attitude and is statistically not significant which indicates that there is association between the attitude score and the demographic variables in relation to the attitude. Since college students are having some attitude regarding suicide.

Hypothesis testing-

H_0 → There will be no significant association between the attitude and demographic variables of college students.

H_3 → There will be significant association between the attitude and demographic variables of college students.

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