



## A Psychological Study Of Suicidal Tendency Among Aged

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**Abstract:** *The aim of the present study was to find out the suicidal tendency among the aged persons. So total number of 111 aged persons is randomly selected from Rajkot district for the purpose of data collection suicidal tendency scale (STS) was used to measure the suicidal tendency level among aged persons which was developed by Dr. D.J. Bhatt & Dr. R.G. Meghnathi. t test was used for the statistical analysis of the data. Difference between their t value was significance at 0.01 level with reference to gender, age, presentness of spouse and residential area. Here nul hypothesis were rejected and result shows that*

*The level of suicidal tendency is higher in male than female aged persons.*

*The level of suicidal tendency is higher in above 70 years old aged persons than 60 to 70 years old aged persons.*

*The level of suicidal tendency is higher in aged persons who lived without spouse compared to lived with spouse.*

*The level of suicidal tendency is higher in aged persons who lived in old age home area as compared to lived in home.*

**Keywords:** *Rajkot, STS, male, female, spouse.*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Suicidal tendency arises from complicated motives, and the intention is not necessarily death. As an individual process, suicidal behavior can be conceptualized as ranging from suicidal ideas and threats to suicide attempts and completed suicide (Brent et al., 1988a; Paykel, 1974).

The definition of suicide has been a subject of controversy amongst researchers and scholars alike. The converging point or least ambiguous in their definitions of suicide is that the outcome of the act is death. In like manner a wide range of behaviors can be called suicidal or life-threatening with no assumptions about the intention or outcome (Lonnqvist, 1977). Lack of a clear cut definition of concepts has been a source of inconsistent results in studies dealing with suicidal behavior. According to Farner (1988), to ascertain suicide, three principal stages are involved: the death must be recognized as unnatural, the initiator must be the deceased himself, and the motive of self destruction must be established, while Stengel (1973) defined suicide as the fatal, act of self-injury undertaken with more or less conscious self-destructive intent, however acute or ambiguous. Completed suicide can be defined as those officially recorded as suicidal deaths (Bekso, 1949). In Finland, causes of death recorded is very reliable (Lonnqvist et al., 1988) deaths recorded as suicide are estimated to be about 90% correctly classified (Karkola, 1990)

The word 'Suicide' has its origin in the word 'Suicidium' which was used for the first time by Desfontaines in 16th century the word 'Porpriciam' (Latin) and 'avtoxepia' (Greek) were also formed about the same time. According to Stenon, the word 'Suicidium' means the act of self-destruction.

1. **Suicide deaths:** Suicide has become a great a great menace to almost all the societies of the world its rate is increasing every year in the recent Past. It hold true in case of our country also.
2. **Mass Suicide:** When large numbers of people end their life due to some reason or cult training, the Phenomenon is designated as mass suicide. Jauhar was also an instance of mass Suicide Prevalent in Rajputana.

There are number of explanations of suicide, individual and mass offered by sociologist, Psychologist, and Psychiatrists. Each of these explanations as insufficient as each- Suicide has social, Psychological aspects, besides some divinations in the psyche. It is not the end result only of the sick mind but also is the combined effect of Psycho-social operation now consider various explanations advanced for understanding the Suicidal Phenomena.

Suicide the international, self-initiated and self-inflicted act of harm, injury or destruction, to oneself is generally considered to encompass a wide range of life threatening behaviour. The current definition of Suicidal activity includes much more than the obvious actions undertaken by "A person who is aware that this actions will lead to his or her own death" in this broader view, suicidologist consider self injury (crippling or maiming) unnecessary risk-taking, verbalized threat of self-harm, feelings of despair depression, and hopelessness, and thoughts of separation, departure, and relief, all as signs of personal despair and/or social alienation that may lead to a suicide attempt.



The reckless driver, the alcoholic, the drug abuser, the overeater, and the heavy cigarette smoker all lead live that border on self- destruction. Suicide is a form of life threatening behaviour that combines feature of a declaration of wan with those of a petition of bankruptcy.

Fortunately, individuals who wish to kill themselves are Suicidar only for a limited period of time. If they are saved from self- destruction, they can go on to lead useful lives.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

### Problem:

A Psychological study of suicidal tendency among aged person.

### Aim:

The present study is done for the following purposes.

1. To measure the level of suicidal tendency of aged persons.
2. To measure the impact of gender, age, presentness of spouse and residential area, on suicidal tendency level.

### Hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to age.
3. There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to present ness of spouse.
4. There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to residential area.

### Materials Required:

Following materials are used for the present study.

- 1) Personal data sheet
- 2) Suicidal tendency scale (S.T.S.) was developed by Dr. D.J. Bhatt & Dr. R.G. Meghnathi.
- 3) A manual of Suicidal tendency scale (S.T.S.) was developed by Dr. D.J. Bhatt & Dr. R.G. Meghnathi.

### Sample:

To measure the level of suicidal tendency total number of 111 aged persons were randomly selected from Rajkot District.

### Research Design:

The aim of the present study was to find out the suicidal tendency among the aged persons. So total numbers 111 aged persons are randomly selected from Rajkot district to measure their suicidal tendency. For the purpose of data collection suicidal tendency scale (STS) was used to measure the suicidal tendency level which was developed by Dr. D.J. bhatt & Dr. R.G. meghnathi. t test was used for the statistical analysis of the data.

## III. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

### 1. The study of the suicidal tendency according to gender of aged persons:

According to the gender total numbers of aged persons were divided in two parts. (i) Male (ii) Female

According to the two parts of gender the following hypothesis was constructed.

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with refence to gender.

Table-1

The indication t table of suicidal tendency amoug aged persons with reference to gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t	Sig
Male	64	119.25	9.84	1.52	2.37	3.31	0.01
Female	47	111.4	8.31	1.37			

0.05 = 1.98

0.01 = 2.63

From the above result table No. 1 we can see that t test is used to know the difference in level of suicidal tendency among aged persons with reference to gender. where mean suicidal tendency of male 64 aged persons was 119.25 & SD was 9.84 similarly mean suicidal tendency of 47 female aged persons was 111.4 & S.D. was 8.31 and difference between their t value is 3.31 it is significance with 0.01 level here nul hypothesis was rejected so the level of suicidal tendency is higher in male aged persons as compared to female.

### 2. The study of suicidal tendency according to the age among aged persons:

According to the age total numbers of aged persons were devided in two parts.



(i) 60 to 70 years old (ii) More than 70 years old  
According to the two parts of age following hypothesis was constructed.

**HO<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to age.

**Table-2**  
**The Indication t table of suicidal Tendency among aged persons with references to Age**

Age	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t	Sig
60 to 70 Yrs old	71	120.5	8.34	1.41	2.23	2.76	0.01
More than 70 Yrs old	40	114.34	7.91	1.24			

0.05 = 1.98

0.01 = 2.63

From the above result table no 2 we can see that t test was used to know the difference in level of suicidal tendency among aged persons with reference to age. where mean suicidal tendency of 71 aged persons who was 60 to 70 years old was 120.5 & SD was 8.34 similarly mean suicidal tendency of 40 aged persons who was more than 70 years old was 114.34 & SD was 7.91 and difference between their t value is 2.76. it is significance with 0.01. level of suicidal tendency is higher in above 70 years old age person than 60 to 70 years old age person.

### 3. The study of suicidal tendency according to the Presentness of spouse among aged persons:

According to the present ness of spouse total numbers of aged persons were divided in two parts.

(i) With spouse (ii) without spouse

According to the two parts of presentness of spouse following hypothesis was constructed.

**HO<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to present ness of spouse.

**Table-3**  
**The Indication t table of suicidal Tendency among aged persons with references to presentness of spouse**

Present ness of spouse	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t	Sig
With Spouse	53	113.11	7.64	1.52	1.87	3.1	0.01
Without Spouse	58	118.91	8.48	1.59			

0.05 = 1.98

0.01 = 2.63

From the above result table no 3 we can see that t test was used to know the difference in level of suicidal tendency among aged persons with reference to presentness of spouse where mean suicidal tendency of 53 old aged persons who was live with spouse was 113.11 & SD was 7.64 similarly mean suicidal Tendency of 58 old aged persons who was lived without spouse was 118.91 & SD was 8.48 and difference between their t value was 3.1. it is significance with 0.01 level. Here nul hypothesis was rejected so the level of suicidal tendency is higher in old age persons who lived in without spouse with compared to live with spouse.

### 4. The study of suicidal tendency according to the residential area among aged persons:

According to the residential area total numbers of aged persons were divided in two parts.

(i) Home (ii) old age home

According to the two parts of residential area following hypothesis was constructed.

**HO<sub>4</sub>:** There is no significant difference in level of suicidal tendency between the aged persons with reference to residential area.

**Table-4**  
**The Indication t table of suicidal Tendency among aged persons with references to residential area**

Residential Area	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t	Sig
Home	84	113.61	7.84	1.34	1.84	3.6	0.01
Old age Home	27	120.25	8.12	1.41			

0.05 = 1.98

0.01 = 2.63

From the above result table no - 4 we can see that t test is used to know the difference in level of suicidal tendency among aged persons with reference to residential area. where mean suicidal tendency of 84 who lived in home aged persons was 113.61 & SD was 7.84 similarly mean suicidal tendency of 27 aged persons who lived in old age home was 120.25 & SD was 8.12 and difference between their Value is 3.6. it is significance with 0.01 level. Here nul hypothesis was rejected. So the level of suicidal tendency is higher in old aged persons who lived in home than old aged persons who lived in home.



#### IV. CONCLUSION

- (1) The level of suicidal tendency is higher in male than female aged persons.
- (2) The level of suicidal tendency is higher in above 70 years old aged persons than 60 to 70 years old aged persons.
- (3) The level of suicidal tendency is higher in aged persons who lived without spouse compared to lived with spouse.
- (4) The level of suicidal tendency is higher in aged persons who lived in old age home area as compared to lived in home.

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