



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SUICIDAL IDEATION AND AGGRESSION IN CONTEXT TO PRISONER'S STATUS AND TYPES OF PRISON IN AGRA CITY

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Abstract: A comparison of suicidal ideations and aggression amongst prisoners of Agra prisons, Uttar Pradesh in context to the status of prisoners and different types of prison environment is important to investigate. The objectives of the study were to compare the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of Convicts and Undertrials in prisons and to compare the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of prisoners in Agra District and Agra Central prisons. A convenient sample of 70 prisoners was selected from prisons of Agra. Both male and female, married and unmarried and prisoners having at least their primary education, were included in the sample. The data was analyzed using t-test to make comparisons in the groups. Results indicate that there is no significant difference in the Suicidal Ideation ($t=0.05$, $p>0.05$) and Aggression ($t= 0.77$, $p> 0.05$) of Convicts and Undertrials. There is a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations ($t= 2.30$, $p<0.05$), but no significant difference in Aggression ($t= 0.31$, $p> 0.05$) of prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central prisons. The findings have implication for the mental health of the prisoners in prisons.

Index Terms - Suicide, Ideations, Aggression, Prisoners, Convicts, Undertrials, Prisons

I. INTRODUCTION

Suicide is the most serious mental health related issue of concern worldwide. When considered in Indian context, Kumar (2019) mentions in his studies conducted (1975-1985, 1985-1995, and 1995-2005) that suicide rate has increased by almost 43%. Similarly, according to the National Crime Report Bureau (2022) under the Home Ministry revealed that 'around 1,64,033 (12% of overall population) people took their life in India only in the year 2021', which is an alarming situation altogether. Apparently, suicides in Indian prisons, in 2021 were reported as 150 deaths out of 185 in Uttar Pradesh prisons, were suicides. Many determiners underlie the suicide attempts and suicides that may be situational, psychological and environmental factors related to imprisonment leading aggression and suicide ideations. Prisoner bear the status of either convicts or undertrials. In this regard Sarchiapone, Carli, Giannantonio, and Roy (2009) reveal that prisoners attempting suicide have psychiatric disorders, indulge in substance abuse, have family history of suicidal behaviour, convicted for violent crime, consequently demonstrate aggressive behaviour while in prison. Moreover, Conner, Duberstein, Conwell and Caine (2003); McCloskey and Ammerman (2018), emphasized that aggressive behaviour is delivered in suicide ideations amongst human beings. Research with one hundred thirty six depressed adult inpatients, demonstrated that abuse history significantly associates with suicide attempt even after adjustment for impulsivity, aggression and presence of borderline personality disorder (Brodsky, Oquendo, Ellis, Haas, Malone and Mann, 2001). It was reviewed by Zhong, Senior, Yu, Perry, Hawton, Shaw and Fazel (2021) and suggested that significant institutional factors associating with suicides in prisons are with prisoners occupying single cell and having

no social visits. Criminological factors associated include remand status and serving a life sentence, particularly convicted for a violent offence eg. Homicide. Considering the discussion mentioned it appears that personal mental status plays a significant role in suicidal thoughts and aggression in prisoners. So, the researcher explores in the current research 'the difference between aggression and suicide ideation in context to prisoner's status (convict or undertrial) and the types of prisons (Agra central or Agra district prison).

Research Method

Objectives:

- (1) To compare the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of Convicts and Undertrials of prisons of Agra city.
- (2) To compare the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central prisons in Agra city.

Hypotheses:

- 1) There will be a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of Convicts and Undertrials of prisons of Agra city.
- 2) There will be a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central prisons Agra city.

Variables:

Independent Variables

- (1) Status of Prisoner (Convicts / Undertrials)
- (2) Types of Prisons (Agra District / Agra Central)

Dependent Variables

- (1) Suicidal Ideation (2) Aggression

Sample Description A convenient sample of 70 prisoners [N= 70 (Convicts N= 30 and Undertrials N= 40) and (Agra District N= 50 and Agra Central N= 20)] was selected from prisons of Agra city , Uttar Pradesh, after due permission from authorities of Police HQ Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Both male and female prisoners, married and unmarried and prisoners having at least their primary education, were included in the sample. They belonged to rural and urban areas and lived in a nuclear and joint family before coming to the jail. The sample was checked for is normal distribution. The prisoners who had committed crimes of different kinds but were not amongst the hard-core terrorists and were a part of inclusion criteria. Prisoner already declared as having severe mental health issues as declared in their medical report , were excluded from the sample .

Tools

(1) **Suicidal Ideation Questionnaire (SIQ)** by Reynolds (1988) consists of 30 items, with test-reliability equal to 0.72, and factorial validity also found good. The scale is widely used on Indian population in many research studies.

(2) **Aggressions Inventory (AI):** adapted by Sultania (2006) has 67 items. Reliability determined by Spearman – Brown formula is 0.90 (males) and 0.85(females); Test-retest reliability is 0.82 (males) and 0.79 (females). The construct validity is satisfactory and significant at $p < 0.01$ level. Percentile norms for males and females are prepared for interpretation.

Research Design Two group design is used for the present study

Statistical Analysis The t test is used to make comparison in between the groups along with explanations of mean scores through the bar diagrams

Results and Interpretation

Data is analysed using t-test for making comparison in between groups. The results are presented in the Table 1. A comparison of the Convicts and Undertrials on their Suicidal Ideation and Aggression is done. The Mean scores of convicts is 22.40, whereas for the Undertrials it is 21.98 for Suicidal Ideation. Further, the t value is equal to 0.05 for Suicidal ideation. At $df = 68$, this value is not significant ($p > 0.05$). This means that there is no significant difference between the suicidal ideation of convicts and undertrials of Agra prison.

Table 1: Showing the Comparison of Convicts and Undertrials in prisons of Agra on their Suicidal Ideation and Aggression [N= 70 (Convicts (30) and Undertrials(40)]

Variables	Convicts/ Undertrials	Mean Scores	SD	SE _D	t values	df	Significance Level
Suicidal Ideation	Convicts	22.40	32.6	8.0	0.05	68	$p > 0.05$
	Undertrials	21.98	33.1	2			
Aggression	Convicts	34.80	8.4	2.0	0.77	68	$p > 0.05$
	Undertrials	36.38	8.5	4			

The mean scores for convicts (34.80) and undertrials (36.38) for aggression are also presented in the table 1. The comparison of Aggression of the convicts and undertrials also indicates that $t = 0.77$, at $df = 68$, the value is not significant ($p > 0.05$). This indicates that the convicts and undertrials do not differ significantly on aggression also. These results are also explained with the help of a Bar diagram explained through mean scores of the groups.

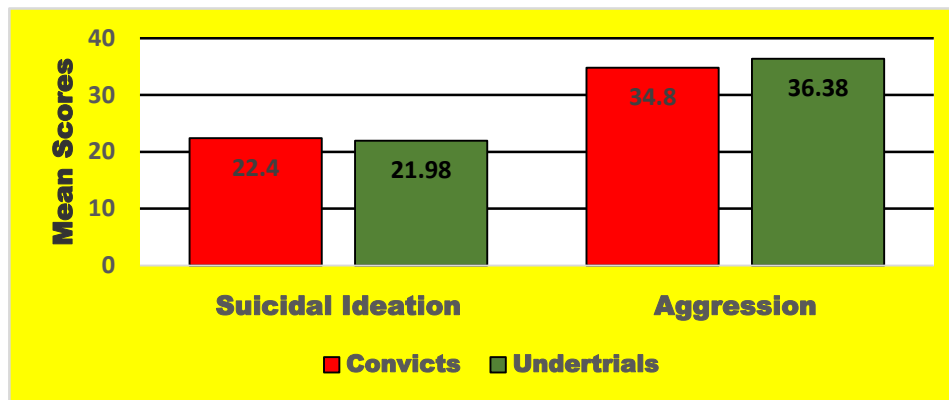


Figure 1: Comparison of Suicidal Ideation and Aggression in between Convicts and Undertrials of prisons in Agra

Here, in the Figure 1 the bars for suicidal Ideation, as well as for aggression of convicts and undertrials do not display any significant difference while comparing, which lends support for the findings regarding the convicts and undertrial prisoners in prisons of Agra.

Further, a comparison is also done for suicidal ideation and aggression of prisoners (Convicts and Undertrials) of Agra District and Agra Central prison. The results of the same are displayed in the Table 2. In the table, the mean scores for suicidal ideation for Agra District prisoners is 27.74 and for the Agra Central prisoners is 8.20.

The value of $t = 2.30$, at 68 df is significant at 0.05 level ($p < 0.05$). This means that there is a significant difference in the suicidal ideations in between the prisoners of Agra district and Agra central prisons. The mean scores enable us to understand that the higher mean score for the Agra district prisoners indicate higher suicidal ideations amongst the prisoners.

Table 2: Showing the Comparison of Agra District and Agra Central prison inmates on their Suicidal Ideation and Aggression [N= 70 (Agra District (50) and Agra Central(20)]

Variables	Prisons	Mean Scores	SD	SE _D	t values	df	Significance Level
Suicidal Ideation	Agra District	27.74	36.51	8.51	2.30*	68	$p < 0.05$
	Agra Central	8.20	16.32				
Aggression	Agra District	35.50	8.79	2.24	0.31	68	$p > 0.05$
	Agra Central	36.20	7.60				

Apparently, a comparison for aggression amongst Agra district ($M = 35.50$) and Agra central ($M = 36.20$) prison prisoners shows that the value of $t = 0.31$, where $p > 0.05$ level of significance. This means that there is no significant difference in the aggression of prisoners in Agra district and Agra central prisons. The mean scores indicate that prisoners in both types of prisons bear higher aggression level.

These results are also explained with the help of a bar diagram in Figure 2. It is clearly indicated in the figure that the bar for Suicidal Ideation of prisoners in Agra Central prison is significantly lower as compared to the Agra District prisoners. This is interpreted as the prisoners in Agra Central prisoners experience less of suicidal ideation as compared to the Agra District prisoners, who have higher suicidal ideations.

Conversely, the results of aggression amongst prisoners of both prisons clearly indicate that the difference is not significantly evident when explained through the diagram, as both the bars do not indicate much difference. So, aggression is equally experienced by prisoners of both the prisons.

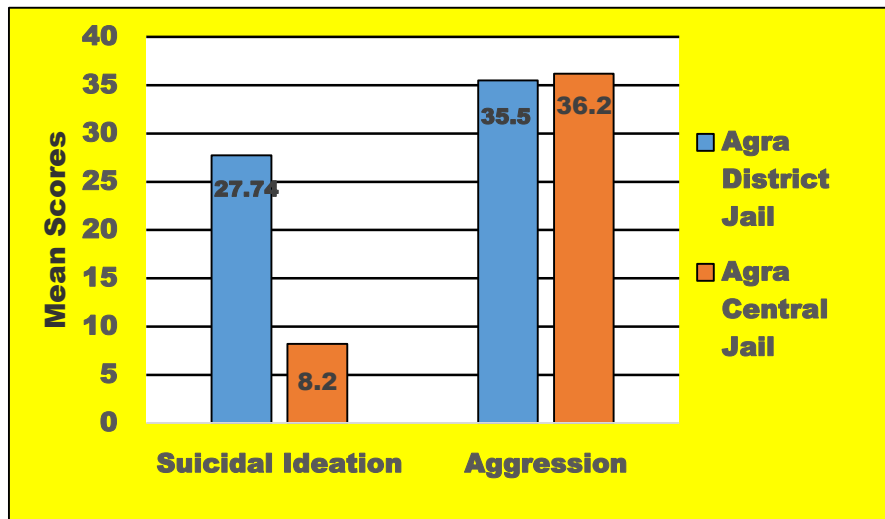


Figure 1: Comparison of Suicidal Ideation and Aggression in between prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central Prisons in Agra

Thus, the data analysis and the results obtained lead towards the findings as stated.

Findings

- 1) The first finding indicates that there is no significant difference in the Suicidal Ideation ($t=0.05$, $p>0.05$) and Aggression ($t= 0.77$, $p> 0.05$) of Convicts and Undertrials of prisons in Agra city. With these findings the hypothesis stating ‘There will be a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of Convicts and Undertrials of prisons of Agra city’ is rejected.
- 2) The second finding reveals that there is a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations ($t= 2.30$, $p<0.05$), but no significant difference in Aggression ($t= 0.31$, $p> 0.05$) of prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central prisons in Agra city. Comparatively, prisoners of Agra District prison experience more suicide ideations. So, the hypothesis stating that ‘There will be a significant difference in the Suicidal Ideations and Aggression of prisoners of Agra District and Agra Central prisons of Agra city’ is only partially accepted.

Discussion:

While interpreting the results of the research, it is notified that, no significant difference is found in between the prisoners (convicts and undertrials) in the prison of Agra city for suicide ideation and aggression. Suicide ideation and aggression is experienced equally amongst convicts and undertrials. Although in an article based on the National Crime Report, Pandit (2022) points out that 1.5 lakh out of the total 4.88 lakh prisoners in Indian prisons suffer from mental illness, while 42% of them were convicted and 57% undertrials. There can be reasons for the lack of difference in suicide ideations and aggression between prisoner (convicts and undertrials), such as family distance, social isolation and prison environment, etc. The second hypothesis is partially accepted as the difference in the suicidal ideations are reflected amongst the prisoners of Agra district prison and Agra central prison, but the differences related to aggression are not evident for these types of prison. Sneha and Garg (2012) points out that prisoners imprisoned in jail awaiting trial by law face many physical and mental difficulties. Since the Agra district prison had more of undertrials therefore the mean suicide ideation score is also higher on suicide ideation as compared to the prisoners in the Agra central prison. However, adjustment is the nature of human beings. In this regard Mac Kenzie and Goldstein, (1985) suggested that when a prisoner remains in prison for a long time, he learns coping strategies and adjust within the jail circumstances and have less of suicide ideations. These researches support the findings of the current research as well where the Agra central prison with more of convicts did not show a significant difference in suicide ideations.

Conclusion: Finally, it is concluded that the status of the prisoners i.e. convicts and undertrials has shown no significant difference in the SI and Aggression of the prisoners but the difference is significant for SI, only when compared in between the types of prisons i.e. Agra District and Agra Central prisons. However, the difference is not significant for aggression in context to the different types of prisons.

Implications

In this empirical study on prisoners, efforts are made to understand suicide risk in prison circumstances. Free assistance by top authorities regarding restructuring faulty cognitions of prisoners, will reduce suicidal deaths in prisons. Using the research data counseling by psychologists and psychiatric departments of government hospitals, in a combined team will help in changing the ways these prisoners develop ideations about suicide. Ultimately, an insight about reducing suicidal ideations for prisoners prevents mishaps in prisons. The psycho-social study with a motive and a need to demonstrate humanity and assisting prisoners is a significant step for rehabilitation.

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Conflict: there is no conflict.

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