

A CROSS CULTURAL STUDY OF DEPRESSION IN RELATION TO SOME SOCIAL CORRELATES

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Abstract

The present study was conducted on 200 tribal and non-tribal respondents equal in number selected from Hazaribagh and Ara towns. The main purpose was to examine the effect of culture, caste prejudice, religiosity and SES on the depression of the respondents. For the Purpose Jamuar's Manifest Depression Inventory, Prasad and Singh's Caste Prejudice Scale, Prasad and Singh's Religiosity Scale and Bhardwaj's SES Scale were used to measure the variables under study. Besides these a PDS was used to get other necessary information's about the respondents. The data were obtained as per the directions of the manuals. The data were analyzed using t-test. The result confirmed the hypotheses. It was concluded the depression the conducive to culture caste prejudice, religiosity, and SES of the respondents.

Keywords : Median values, participation, reviews of literature, effect

The present study embodies three components to be explained here. The first component is depression which is a bipolar component and used in the present study as dependent variable. Depression refers to a sense of inadequacy a feeling of despondency, a decrease in activity or reactivity, pessimism, sadness and related symptoms. It is normal and short lived phenomenon (Davison et al. 1996). The second component is religiosity which has been defined as religious beliefs. According to Chaplin (1975) religiosity refers to a complex system of beliefs, attitudes etc. which relates to the individual to Divine being. Reber and Reber (2003) defined religiosity as involvement, interest and participation in religion. Para chan Caste prejudice is also an important component of the present study. Kleinberg (1996) defined prejudice as a feeling or response to persons or things which is prior to, therefore, not based upon actual experiences. Chapline (1975) has defined caste prejudice as a belief based on my tholotgical propositions of ancient religious tenets which predisposes the individual to think

An overall inspection of the reviews of literature indicated that there is a shortage of studies related to depression and other factors affecting it directly or indirectly. The present study is an attempt to study depression in relation to some prevalent social factors. So the study seems justified and warranted.

Objective

The main objective of the present study is to investigate into the effect of culture, caste prejudice, religiosity and SES on the depression of the respondents.

Hypotheses

The following four hypotheses were formulated for empirical verification : (i) Tribal respondents will be found with more amount of depression as compared to their non – tribal counterparts. (ii) There will be significant effect of caste prejudice on depression of the respondents. (iii) Religiosity will

have significant effect on depression of the respondents. (iv) There will be significant effect of SES on depression of the respondents.

METHODS

Sample

The present study was conducted on 100 tribal and 100 non – tribal undergraduate respondents selected from Hazaribagh and Ara Towns. Incidental – cum – purposive sample techniques was used for the purpose selected respondents were as such they are equal in respect of high and low groups in respect of caste prejudice, religiosity and SES. In other respect they were matched so far as practicable.

Tools

- (i) Manifest Depression Inventory – K.K. Jamuar (1986).
- (ii) Prasad and Singh’s Caste Prejudice Scale (1977).
- (iii) Prasad and Singh’s Religiosity Scale (1977).
- (iv) Bhardwaj’s R.L. (2006) SES Scale.
- (v) A Personal Data Sheet (PDS).

Procedure

Caste Prejudice Scale, Religiosity Scale and SES scale along with PDS were employed on 400 respondents and scores were obtained There after. Median values of scores on each scale were determined. Then high and low groups were formed in respect of caste prejudice, religiosity and SES selecting 100 respondents in each group. There after depression inventory was employed and score were obtained. The obtained data were analysed using t-test.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETAION
TABLE – 1

t-ratio showing the effect of cultural affiliation on Depression of the respondents.

Respondent	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	P
Tribals	100	57.49	11.57	6.28	198	<. 01
Non-tribals	100	45.68	10.45			

It is obvious from the Table – 1 that cultural affiliation has significant effect on depression of the respondents (t = 6.28, df = 198, P = <. 01). Thus the first hypothesis is retained. The finding might be interpreted on the ground of limited facilities availed by tribal leading into high level of anxiety, tension resulting into more depression in tribals than non – tribals.

TABLE – 2

t-ratio showing the Caste Prejudice, Religiosity and SES on Depression of the Respondents.

Variable	Groups	N	Mean	SD	t-ratio	df	P
Caste Prejudice	High	100	46.36	11.35	5.42	198	<. 01
	Low	100	37.95	10.61			
Religiosity	High	100	34.13	11.09	8.66	198	<. 01
	Low	100	48.07	11.74			
S.E.S	High	100	44.23	10.95	6.99	198	<. 01
	Low	100	33.82	10.11			

The results displayed in table 2 showed significant effect of caste prejudice, religiosity and SES on depression of the respondents (Caste Prejudice : $t = 5.42$, $df = 198$, $P < .01$; Religiosity : $t = 8.66$, $df = 198$, $P < .01$; SES: $t = 6.99$, $df = 198$, $P < .01$). Thus second hypothesis is retained. The finding relating to high caste prejudiced group than their counterpart respondents belong to low caste prejudiced group. The finding relating to religiosity might be interpreted on the ground of greater tolerance on the part of respondents belonging to high religious group than the respondents belonging to low religious group leading to less depression. The finding of SES might be interpreted on the ground of higher level of need structure leading to more anxiety, tension and depression in high SES respondents.

CONCLUSIONS

- (i) Cultural affiliation has significant effect on depression of the respondents.
- (ii) Amount of depression is attributed by caste prejudice, religiosity and SES.

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