



PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AMONG CANCER PATIENTS IN RELATION TO GENDER

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference in the Psychological Well-being among Cancer patients in relation to Gender in Gujarat State. The sample consisted of 240 Cancer patients. Out of which 120 were Male patients and 120 were Female patients. For this purpose of study "Psychological well-being Scale" (2005) by D.S. Sisodhiya and Pooja Chaudhary was used. The obtained data was analyzed through 't' test to know the mean difference between Male patients and Female patients. The results show that there is no significant difference between the mean score of Male patients and Female patients of Cancer in relation to the Satisfaction, Efficiency, and Mental Health. And there is a significant difference between the mean score of Male patients and Female patients of Cancer in relation to the Sociability and Interpersonal Relations.

Key words : Gender, Well-being, Satisfaction, Efficiency, Mental Health, Sociability, Interpersonal Relations, Cancer

INTRODUCTION:

Well-being is one of the most important goals which individuals as well as societies strive for. The term denotes that something is in a good state. It doesn't specify what the 'something' is and that is meant by 'good'. Well-being can be specified in two ways; first by the specifying the 'what' and secondly by spelling out the criteria of wellness.

Well-being is the subjective feeling of contentment, happiness, satisfaction with life's experiences and of one's role in the world of work, sense of achievement, utility, belongingness and no distress, dissatisfaction or worry, etc. These things are difficult to evaluate objectively, hence the emphasis is on the term 'subjective' well-being. It may well be maintained in adverse circumstances and conversely, may be lost in favorable situation. It is related to but not upon the physical/psychological conditions.

Thus defined and conceptualized, the general well-being may show some degree of positive correlation with quality of life, satisfaction level, sense of achievement etc. and negatively related with neuroticism, psychoticism and such variables. However, the degree of overlap with such variables should not be high if this concept a separate independent entity is to be considered as a valid one. Also, it should show relative stability over time (reasonable time gap

without any significant life events intervening). Its utility will depend upon these relationships/ a network of relationship with other variables.

According to Diener and Smith (1999), Psychological or subjective well-being as a broad construct, encompassing four specific and distinct components including (a) pleasant or positive well-being (e.g. joy, elation, happiness, mental health), (b) unpleasant affect or psychological distress (e.g. guilt, shame, sadness, anxiety, worry, anger, stress, depression), (c) life satisfaction (a global evaluation of one's life) and (d) domain or situation satisfaction (e.g. work, family, leisure, health, finance, self).

The term Well-being cannot a wide range of meanings, usually associated with wellness. Most studies in the past defined 'well nesses as not sick, as an absence of anxiety, depression or other forms of mental problems. The Well-being includes meaning in life, absence of somatic symptoms, self-esteem, positive effect, daily activities, satisfaction, absence of suicidal ideas, personal control, social support, absence of tension and general efficiency (Bhogle and Prakash, 1995).

The Indian perspective identifies four aspects, viz. the five elements, the person or Jeeva, the life or Ayu and the health or Arogya. Well-being as per Indian perspective related to well-being or physical, psychological and spiritual planes. The Indian

approach to well-being refers to Maitri, Karuna, Mudita and Upeksha meaning Relatedness, compassion, pleasant disposition and avoidance of conflict. In other word well-being refers to uniting self with self by negating the ego. This in turn indicates that well-being is a combination of survival, well-being freedom and identity. The purpose of this study was to measure the Psychological well-being among Cancer patients in relation to Gender.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Abdel khalek, Ahmed (2005) administered the Arabic Scale of Death Anxiety (ASDA) individually, to 7 groups (N = 765) of Egyptian normal participants (non-clinical), anxiety disorder patients, and patients suffering from schizophrenia (male & female) and addicts (male only). They were generally matched as groups according to age, occupation, and education. The female and male anxiety disorder patients means were, respectively, significantly higher than the means of the other 5 groups, including the non-clinical 2 groups, all female groups have higher mean scores than their male counterparts.

Madnawat, A V. Singh, Kachhawa, P. Singh (2007) examined the effect of age, gender, and living circumstances on elderly person's death anxiety. For this purpose, 299 persons attending public parks (average age = 70 years) were interviewed using the Death Anxiety Survey Schedule, which is a set of 10 questions related to death anxiety from an Indian perspective. Women, those relatively older, and those living with family were significantly more anxious about the word "death" The gender and age results in this Indian sample are similar to that in some western samples. The results reveal that those living with family have significantly higher death anxiety are not in agreement with past western studies and may reflect cultural differences in anxiety about death.

Keller, John W. & et al (1982) focused on death anxiety in general, more recent studies have recognized the need for multilevel measures for assessing the fear of death. A 12- item questionnaire was used to

produce three factors; evaluation of death in general, belief in the hereafter, and death anxiety related to self. The study sample consisted of 901 subjects from young adults to older adult. Data showed that middle age and late –middle age persons were significantly less anxious in regard to "evaluation of death in general" than their older and younger counterparts. Old age groups showed the least anxiety toward death anxiety related to self. Old age groups showed the least anxiety toward death anxiety related to self. Future research should differentiate between the concept of death and the process of dying.

Sadowski, Cyril J; (1979) examined the relationship between locus of control and death anxiety. The Reid Ware Three Factor locus of control scale and Templar Death Anxiety scale were administered to college students aged 17 to 49 Death anxiety loaded significantly on the Fatalism dimension for males and on the social system control dimension for females.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- (1) The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference related to the Satisfaction among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (2) The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference related to the Efficiency among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (3) The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference related to the Sociability among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (4) The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference related to the Mental Health among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (5) The purpose of the present study is to find out the difference related to the Interpersonal Relations among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

- (1) There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Satisfaction among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

- (2) There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Efficiency among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (3) There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Sociability among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (4) There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Mental Health among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.
- (5) There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Interpersonal Relations among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

(A) SAMPLE: In present study sample will be selected randomly. Research will take 120 Male patients and 120 Female patients of Cancer in Gujarat State. So total 240 samples were selected for this study. Approximately 300 samples were selected in each category for the research study. After disposing off incomplete and unclear details total of 240 samples were selected for this study.

(B) TOOL: In the present study to measure the Psychological Well-being among Cancer patients, researcher was used “Psychological well-being Scale” (2005) by

D.S. Sisodhiya and Pooja Chaudhary. The scale was developed by using likert technique. Suggestions were invited from the experts from different fields such as psychology, sociology, human development, family relations and psychiatry. The final form of scale was thus prepared comprising of 50 statements with a view to measures several aspects of well-being like satisfaction, Efficiency, Sociability, Mental Health and Interpersonal Relations. This scale is considered likely to be useful in a variety of research and applied settings such as a quality of life index, a mental health status appraisal and a measure of psychotherapy outcome evaluation and a social indicator of measuring population changes in sense of well-being over time. The reliability of the scale was determined by (a) test-retest method and (b) internal consistency method. The test-retest reliability was 0.87 and the consistency value for the scale is 0.90. and Validity of Psychological Well-being scale is 0.94.

TECHNIQUE FOR DATA ANALYSIS:

‘t’ test was applied to know the significant differences between Satisfaction, Efficiency, Sociability, Mental Health and Interpersonal Relations levels of Male patients and Female patients of Cancer.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Table : 1: Mean, S.D. and ‘t’ value of the Satisfaction of Male patients and Female patients

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D.	‘t’ Value	Level of sig.
Male	120	67.71	6.48	1.23	NS
Female	120	68.53	6.08		

The above table shows the Satisfaction level of Male patients and Female patients for Male patients mean is 67.71 for Female patients mean is 68.53 and S.D. is 6.48 and 6.08 for both group ‘t’ level value is 1.23 which is not significant. It means Male

patients and Female patients are not significantly different with each other in relation to the Satisfaction and the hypothesis, “There will be no significant difference between the mean score of the Satisfaction among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender” is accepted.

Table : 2: Mean, S.D. and ‘t’ value of the Efficiency of Male patients and Female patients

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D.	‘t’ Value	Level of sig.
Male	120	68.37	7.25	1.86	NS
Female	120	69.03	7.84		

The above table shows the Efficiency level of Male patients and Female patients for Male patients mean is 68.37 for Female patients mean is 69.03 and S.D. is 7.25 and

7.84 for both group ‘t’ level value is 1.86 which is not significant. It means Male patients and Female patients are not significantly different with each other in relation to the Efficiency and the hypothesis,

“There is no significant difference between the mean score of the Efficiency among Cancer

patients in relation to their Gender” is accepted.

Table : 3: Mean, S.D. and ‘t’ value of the Sociability of Male patients and Female patients

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D.	‘t’ Value	Level of sig.
Male	120	71.21	13.91	2.33	0.05
Female	120	67.96	12.57		

The above table shows the Sociability level of Male patients and Female patients for Male patients mean is 71.23 for Female patients mean is 67.96 and S.D. is 13.91 and 12.57 for both group ‘t’ level value is 2.33 which is significant at 0.05 level. It means

Male patients have more Sociability in comparison of and Female patients and the hypothesis, “There is no significant difference between the mean score of the Sociability among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender” is rejected.

Table : 4: Mean, S.D. and ‘t’ value of the Mental Health of Male patients and Female patients

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D.	‘t’ Value	Level of sig.
Male	120	27.26	13.85	0.97	NS
Female	120	26.07	8.82		

The above table shows the Mental Health level of Male patients and Female patients for Male patients mean is 27.26 for Female patients mean is 26.07 and S.D. is 13.85 and 8.82 for both group ‘t’ level value is 0.97 which is not significant. It means Male

patients and Female patients are not significantly different with each other in relation to the Mental Health and the hypothesis, “There is no significant difference between the mean score of the Mental Health among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender” is accepted.

Table : 5: Mean, S.D. and ‘t’ value of the Interpersonal Relations of Male patients and Female patients

GROUP	N	MEAN	S.D.	‘t’ Value	Level of sig.
Male	120	28.59	13.89	3.19	0.01
Female	120	24.73	8.37		

The above table shows the Interpersonal Relations level of Male patients and Female patients for Male patients mean is 28.59 for Female patients mean is 24.73 and S.D. is 13.89 and 8.37 for both group ‘t’ level value is 3.19 which is significant at 0.01 level. It means Male patients have more Interpersonal Relations in comparison of and Female patients and the hypothesis, “There is no significant difference between the mean score of the Interpersonal Relations among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender” is rejected.

(2) There was no significant difference between the mean score of the Efficiency among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

(3) There was a significant difference between the mean score of the Sociability among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

(4) There was no significant difference between the mean score of the Mental Health among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

(5) There was a significant difference between the mean score of the Interpersonal Relations among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

CONCLUSION:

(1) There was no significant difference between the mean score of the Satisfaction among Cancer patients in relation to their Gender.

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