

## A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People

Dr. Vandana N Solanki<sup>1\*</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The study was intended to examine the effect of mental health on old people. **Aim:** The aim was to estimate the prevalence of mental health in old people and to determine the association of mental health with types of family and gender. **Sample:** The sample consists of 120 old people from different old age home and family in Rajkot district area. The sample was selected from randomly. **Design:** 2\*2 research design was used the present study. Tools: Mental Health was measured through a questionnaire 'Mental Health Inventory' was used. Test developed by Bhatt D & Gida G. in (1992). The data was analyzed by the t test. **Results:** There will be no significant difference between Gender and Types of Area in relation to their mental health. **Conclusions:** Our study demonstrates a higher prevalence of mental health in old people.

**Keywords:** Mental Health, Old People, Old Age Home, Family

**M**ental health refers to our cognitive, and/or emotional wellbeing - it is all about how we think, feel and behave. Mental health, if somebody has it, can also mean an absence of a mental disorder. Approximately 25% of people in the UK have a mental health problem during their lives. The USA is said to have the highest incidence of people diagnosed with mental health problems in the developed world.

According to **WHO** (World Health Organization), mental health is "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community". WHO stresses that mental health "is not just the absence of mental disorder".

**Jahoda (1958)** emphasized positive striving as the most important quality of health and outlined three basic features of mental health - mastery of environment, a unified or integrated personality and the accurate perception of oneself and the external world.

According to **Sullivan**, a healthy person is one who has syntaxes (no parataxis) relationships with others and who reacts to people as they really are, not as symbols of past relationships. Thus emphasis is on interpersonal relationships.

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India

\*Responding Author

Received: September 29, 2017; Revision Received: October 28, 2017; Accepted: November 22, 2017

## A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People

### *Factors Affecting Mental Health*

Some of the factors that affect the mental health of youth are as follows.

1. Self-esteem
2. Feeling loved
3. Confidence
4. Family breakup or loss
5. Difficult behavior
6. Physical ill health
7. Abuse

### *Older people and mental health*

Mental health needs change as people age. This is the result of changes in the biological, social, and psychological world each person inhabits. Common mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety remain, but the symptoms can be different in older people. Age-related cognitive changes also impact on mental health.

### *Mental health resources for seniors*

Getting older brings its share of challenges, and you may find it difficult to stay mentally healthy and strong at times. If feelings like sadness or worry are preventing you from getting the most out of life, help and support is available for seniors with mental health issues.

### *Common mental health issues for seniors*

Many seniors may have mental health issues at one point or another. This may be due to:

1. Illness
2. Grief and loss
3. Financial stress
4. Changing living arrangements or
5. Increasing social isolation.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Lum T., Lightfoot E. (2005)**, examine the present study is to build on the growing body of literature examining the correlations between volunteering and health among older persons. Longitudinal data from the 1993 and 2000 panels of the Asset and Health Dynamics among the Oldest Old Study (AHEAD) were used to measure health and mental health outcomes of people over age 70 who volunteered at least 100 hours in 1993. The findings provide empirical support to earlier claims that volunteering slows the decline in self-reported health and functioning levels, slows the increase in depression levels, and improves mortality rates for those who volunteer. However, volunteering had no effect on the number of physician-diagnosed health conditions or nursing home residence rates. The findings provide support for the concept of role enhancement.

**D Ashish(2016)**, It is universally accepted that Mental Health problems is a major health issue among elderly denizen of our planet. Mental health disorders constitutes to about 12 %

## A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People

of the global burden of diseases, which effects about 10% of the global population, i.e. 450 Million people. Among the causes of disability 5 out of 10 are psychiatric disorders. Unfortunately these astounding statistics remains grossly under represented by prevailing public health statistics in most countries.

### Objectives

This present study aims to investigate the effect of diabetic patient's anxiety. The study has the following specific objectives in view:

1. Investigation of difference between Mental Health of Male and Female towards old People.
2. To examine of Mental Health among institutionalized and non-institutionalized old people.

### Hypotheses

Ho1 There will be no significant difference between male and female old People in relation to Mental Health.

Ho2 There will be no significant difference between old age home and family setup old People in relation to Mental Health.

### Variable

In the study major variables as per following:

No.	Variable	Types of Variable	Level	Name of the Level
1.	Gender	2	Independent	Male Female
2.	Types of Family	2	Independent	Old Age Home Family
3.	Mental Health	1	Dependent	

### Sample

To select the sample Type of Gender and Type of Family were considered as per independent variable taken in this research. Stratified random sampling method was old people of select the unit of sample. Total sample of the present investigation comprised 120 old People, in which 60 men were from Male and 60 Female. Both groups entail equal number of old age home and Family old people. Thus total sample as shown in the following table.

Old People 120			
Old Age Home 60		Family 60	
Male 30	Female 30	Male 30	Female 30
Total 120			

## A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People

### Design

In this way, the research design happens of 2x2 factorial, which appends upon sample.

### Tools

Quite often questionnaire is considered as the heart of a research operation. Hence it should be very carefully constructed. If it neither is not properly set up, then the research is bound to fail. This fact requires us to study the main aspects of a questionnaire viz., the general form, question sequence and question formulation and wording.

**Mental Health Inventory (1992)** The mental health scale was developed and standardization by Dr. D. J. Bhatt and Miss. Geeta R. Geeda. In this scale 40 statements pertaining to five domains aim of mental health, three five dimensions include perception of reality, integration of personality, positive self-evolution, group oriented attitudes and environmental mastery to be rated a 2-point scale. In this scale statements no. 1, 3, 7, 9, 14, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 33, 34, 37, 38 are negative and others are positive. Which statements are positive and for agree, disagree, 0, 1 score is used. Reliability of present study is checked by three methods in which 0.81 by logical similarity 0.94 by half divided method, and test, re-test has 0.87

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

*Table 1; There will be no significant difference between male and female old People in relation to Mental Health.*

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEM	t
Male	60	23.07	4.01	0.52	0.3627
Female	60	22.80	4.04	0.52	

It is revealed in table no.1 that Mean score of mental health in male and female belonging to old age people are 23.07 and 22.80 respectively. These means indicate that old people male of the highest level of mental health (23.07). As compared to the old people female (22.80).The result indicate this as first sight when 't' value was calculated to know statistical significant of mean difference, insignificant difference was observed between male and female. 't' value is 0.3627 show table no.1. This is statistically insignificant? Hence the null hypothesis (No.1) was accepted. Thus the results show that type of sex has no significant effect on mental health.

*Table 2; There will be no significant difference between old age home and family old People in relation to Mental Health.*

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEM	t
Old age home	60	22.67	3.96	0.51	0.4414
Family	60	22.98	3.89	0.50	

It is revealed in table no.2 that Mean score of mental health in old age home and family belonging to old age people are 22.67 and 22.98 respectively. These means indicate that family of the highest level of mental health (22.98). As compared to the old age home (22.67).The result indicate this as first sight when 't' value was calculated to know statistical

## A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People

significant of mean difference, insignificant difference was observed between old age home and family. 't' value is 0.4414 show table no.2. This is statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis no.2 was accepted. Thus the results show that type of family has significant effect on mental health.

### CONCLUSION

1. There is no significant difference between male and female old people in relation to Mental Health.
2. There is significant difference between old age home and family setup old people in relation to Mental Health.

### Acknowledgments

The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

**Conflict of Interests:** The author declared no conflict of interests.

### REFERENCES

- Bhatt, D J and Gida G R. (1992), mental health inventory (MHI), Construction and standardization, Unpublished M.Phil. dissertation, Department of psychology, Saurashtra university, Rajkot
- Burnam M, et al.(2001), use of mental health and substance abuse treatment services among adults with HIV in the united states, *arch gen psychiatry*, 58 (8), 729-736
- D Ashish (2016), 'A Study of Mental Health among Old People Living In Old Age Home and Within Family Set-Up in Utrakhand', *the International Journal of Indian Psychology* 3(4), No. 59, ISBN: 978-1-365-26307-1
- Jani S (2017), A Study of Mental Health among Old People Living In Old Age Home and Within Family Set-Up, *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 4 (3), DIP:18.01.231/20170403
- Lum T., Lightfoot E. (2005), The Effects of Volunteering on the Physical and Mental Health of Older People, *Research On Aging*, 27(1), DOI: 10.1177/0164027504271349, Page 31-55
- Who (2003), Investing in mental health, World health organization, ISBN 9241562579
- Who (2015), Mental health a state of well-being, receive from [www.who.int/feature/factfiles/mental\\_health/en](http://www.who.int/feature/factfiles/mental_health/en)

**How to cite this article:** Solanki V N (2017). A Comparative Study of Mental Health among Old People. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, Vol. 5, (1), DIP: 18.01.038/20170501, DOI: 10.25215/0501.038