

A Comparative Study of Mental Health Status and Stress Level between Male and Female College Students

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ABSTRACT

The major objective of present study was to compare the mental health status and stress level of college students. A total of 200 (100 male and 100 female) students were randomly selected from different colleges of Azamgarh city of U.P ranging between 25-45 years of age. Dr. Anand & Giridhar.P Thakur's Mithila Mental Health Status Inventory(MMHSI) and Dr. Rajendra singh's Stress Scale were administered to measure the mental health and stress level of college students. The results indicated that there was significant differences between mental health status and stress level of male and female college students.

Keywords: *Mental Health, Stress And Male & Female College Students.*

Mental health is a way of describing cognitive, behavioural, social and emotional wellbeing- it is all about how we think, feel, and behave..Good mental health is central to your child's healthy development. Mental health is a level of psychological well-being, or an absence of mental illness. It is the "psychological state of someone who is functioning at a satisfactory level of emotional and behavioural adjustment". From the perspective of positive psychology or holism, mental health may include an individual's ability to enjoy life, and create a balance between life activities and efforts to achieve psychological resilience. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental health includes "subjective well-being, perceived self-efficacy, autonomy, competence, inter-generational dependence, and self-actualization of one's intellectual and emotional potential, among others."The WHO further states that the well-being of an individual is encompassed in the realization of their abilities, coping with normal stresses of life, productive work and contribution to their community.

Mental health is concern with the process of adjustment of a person's potential in an expressed in a balanced way and motivation towards the goal. Mental health is a dynamic functioning of the whole organism. It brings a harmony of movement in the organism to achieve and end which is completeness or fulfillment. Hadfield considers that "In general terms we may say that mental health is the full harmonious functioning of the whole

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personality."(Hadfield: mental and psycho- neurosis, p-1). Stress is a natural part of life. Stress is hard to define because it means different things to different people, however it's clear that most stress is a negative feeling rather than a positive feeling. Some stress can be positive. Research shows that a moderate level of stress makes us perform better. It also makes us more alert and can help us perform better in situations such as job interviews or public speaking. But stress is only healthy if it is short-lived. Excessive or prolonged stress can lead to illness and physical and emotional exhaustion.

Health problems can occur if the stress response goes on for too long or becomes chronic, such as when the source of stress is constant, or if the response continues after the danger has subsided. With chronic stress, those same life-saving responses in your body can suppress immune, digestive, sleep, and reproductive systems, which may cause them to stop working normally.

Different people may feel stress in different ways. For example, some people experience mainly digestive symptoms, while others may have headaches, sleeplessness, sadness, anger or irritability. People under chronic stress are prone to more frequent and severe viral infections, such as the flu or common cold.

Routine stress may be the hardest type of stress to notice at first. Because the source of stress tends to be more constant than in cases of acute or traumatic stress, the body gets no clear signal to return to normal functioning. Over time, continued strain on your body from routine stress may contribute to serious health problems, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other illnesses, as well as mental disorders like depression or anxiety.

Stressful life events have been consistently linked to a number of mental health problems such as depression (Kessler; 1997), Psychosis (Bebbington, Bowen & Ramana, 1997), Substance abuse (Kilpatrick, et.al, 1997), as well as physical health issues (craig & Brown, 1984; Niaura, & Goldstein, 1992) in the general population.

Review of literature reveals that there are contrasting findings about the mental health and stress level between male and female college students. Consequently, the present study is designed to compare the mental health and stress level between male and female college students.

Objectives:

- To compare the mental health status of male and female college students.
- To compare the stress level of male and female college students.

Hypotheses:

- There will not be significant difference between the mental health status of male and female college students.

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- There will not be significant difference between the stress level of male and female college students.

METHODOLOGY

Sample:

The present study was conducted on 200 sample(100 male & 100 female) college students belonging to 20-25 years of age group and were randomly selected from different colleges of Azamgarh city .

Tools:

In this present study tools used are:

1- Mithila Mental Health Status Inventory (MMHSI): It scale constructed and standardized by Dr. Anand Kumar (Department of Psychology, Kashi Vidyapith University Varanasi) & Giridhar. P Thakur (Department of Psychology, Kashi Vidyapith University, Varanasi).

2-Stress Scale: It scale constructed and standardized by Dr. Rajendra singh (M.G.K.V.P.University, Varanasi).

Procedure:

In the Present Study researcher personally approached the respondents and collected information about them. After that questionnaires were administered and scored as per manual of the scale.

Statistical Techniques used

Mean, Standard deviation and ‘t’ test were the statistical techniques used for carrying out the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

Delimitation of the study

- The study was delimited to 200 college students only.
- The study was restricted only to college students.
- The sample is delimited only Azamgarh city.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE-1, Values of Mean, Standard deviation & ‘t’ of mental health of college students

Variables	N	M	S.D	‘t’ value
Male	100	132.79	13.94	15.45 *
Female	100	124.29	18.13	

*.05 significance level

A perusal of table-1 shows that mean score of mental health of male students (**M=132.79±13.94**) is comparative higher than female college students (**M=124.29±18.13**).

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It is evident from table -1 that obtained 't' value between male and female college students is **15.45** respectively. Mental health with reference to gender were found to differ significantly at respectable level of significance.

TABLE-2 Values of Mean, Standard deviation & 't' of stress level of college students

Variables	N	M	S.D	't' value
Male	100	27.48	6.87	2.45*
Female	100	28.39	8.50	

*.05 significance level

An inspection of table-2 reveals that mean score of stress level of female college students (**M=28.39±8.50**) is comparative higher than male college students (**M=27.48±6.87**). It is evident from table -2 that obtained 't' value between male and female college students is **2.45** respectively. Stress level with reference to gender were also found to differ significantly at respectable level of significance.

The finding might be interpreted on the ground that the male students more mentally healthy than female students. because they possess positive attitude towards life ,they have more capable in expression of thoughts and feelings, they have more capable in determining of realistic life goals, they positively evaluate their self and life events, they are completely convinced of capabilities, potentials ,abilities and talents, and on the basis of that they determine life goals ,they have more capable in self decision making.

The female students have exhibited less mental health and more feel of stress, because female students encode and negatively interpret the life events, suggesting greater cognitive vulnerability to depression (Hankin & Bromson,2001).some researches indicate that female also report greater levels of negative affect depression associated with interpersonal stress (Udolph and Hammen,1999), and greater emotional difficulties (Crick and Zahn-Waxler, 2003; Hankinet al, 2007; Quatman & Watson, 2001) than males.

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