

Level of Curiosity and Risk-Taking Behavior in Adult Male Smokers

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ABSTRACT

Curiosity a fundamental human trait, can influence individuals to try various experiences including engaging in not so healthy behavior like smoking. Whereas risk taking refers to decisions that a person does or make that involves certain level of risk. "Risk taking is any consciously or non-consciously controlled behavior with a perceived uncertainty about its outcome, and/or about its possible benefits or costs for the physical, economic or psycho-social well-being of oneself or others." The interplay between curiosity and risk-taking tendencies significantly impacts the initiation, continuation and cessation of smoking. This study aims to see the level of curiosity and level of risk-taking behavior among young adult smokers. A sample size comprising of 120 male adults (59 smokers and 61 nonsmokers), within the age range of 18 to 25 years were taken. Curiosity and Exploration Inventory given by Kashdan, Rose and Fincham and Domain Specific Risk Taking given by Bali's, A.R, Weber, E.U., were administered for data collection. The data was analyzed using independent sample t test and Pearson correlation, i.e., mean and relationship between two variables. The results indicated that there was no significant difference in curiosity of adult male smokers and nonsmokers. It also showed that there was a significant difference in risk taking of adult male smokers and nonsmokers. Results also showed that there is a statistically significant strong positive correlation.

Keywords: *Curiosity, Risk Taking, Young Adults, Smokers and Non-Smoker*

In simple words curiosity is referred to desire to know something. According to, Philosopher and psychologist William James (1899) curiosity is "the impulse towards better cognition," meaning that it is the desire to understand something that you don't know. He noted that, in children, it drives them towards objects of novel, sensational qualities—that which is "bright, vivid, startling".

We can see that people who starts smoking are very much curious about cigarettes, how it works, how it smells and how it tastes. People are curious to know about smoking and the literature by John P. Pierce, supports this as this study tells about The role of curiosity in smoking initiation, (2005). Before starting the smoking people develop the cognition related to smoking that increases their chances of smoking in future. It is very much evident that the

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advertising and promotional activities that are done by tobacco industries influences people or adolescents to smoke. This tells that the level of curiosity in a person might impact their behavior in future.

The other factor that we will be studying in this research is risk taking, in simple words risk taking refers to decisions that person does or make that involves certain level of risk. "Risk taking is any consciously or non-consciously controlled behavior with a perceived uncertainty about its outcome, and/or about its possible benefits or costs for the physical, economic or psycho-social well-being of oneself or others." According to some studies it has been proven that young adults who smoke can take part in risk taking behavior or may exhibit certain negative unwanted behavior. Like according to the research done by Agnieszka Malkowska- Szkutnik, Anna Dzielska, Joanna Mazur on Tobacco smoking and risky behaviour taking by youth.,the aim of this study was to recognize that tobacco smoking is one of the forecaster of many general syndromes that is measured on "Adolescents Risk Taking Scales". In this research it can be seen that there are certain adverse effect specially for the young people who smoke, this adverse effect may include not driving safely, it can affect their behavior as well. These young people may even manifest so called negative identity, they may even have low self-confidence and can even get into any kind of dangerous situation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Aim - The aim of the study is to examine The Curiosity and Risk-Taking Behavior in Adult Male Smokers.

Objective-

1. To examine the Curiosity level in Adult Male Smokers.
2. There will be a significance difference in the Level of Curiosity between Adult Male Smoker and Non-Smokers.
3. To examine Risk Taking Behavior in Adult Male Smokers.
4. There will be a significance difference in the level of Risk-Taking Behavior of Adult Male Smoker and Non-Smokers.
5. To examine the relationship between Curiosity level and Risk-Taking Behavior in Adult Male Smokers.

Hypothesis

1. There will be a significant difference in level of curiosity between adult male smokers and non-adult smokers.
2. There will be a significant difference in risk taking behavior in adult smokers and non-adult smokers.
3. There will be a significant relationship between curiosity level and risk-taking behavior in adult male smokers.

Sample

The sample for this research mainly consisted of male adult smokers and nonsmokers. The total population for the research consisted of 120 participants. Further they were classified into 59 male adult smokers and 61 male adult nonsmokers, within age range of 18-25 years old. All 120 participants were asked to fill in the questionnaire and their details will be kept confidential.

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Smokers	Inclusive criteria	Exclusive criteria
	Adult male	Adults who used to smoke but now they have given up
	Age group (18-25yrs)	Anybody taking any other drug or alcohol
	Minimum 5 years of smoking	People who use I get , vape
Non smokers	Inclusive criteria	Exclusive criteria
	Adult male	Anybody who is having any psychiatric condition
	Age 18 to 25 years	
	Have not tried smoking even once	

Sample Design

Sample design	Smokers	Nonsmokers	Total
Young male adults Age (18-25years)	59	61	120

Research Design

This research is a quantitative study.

It's a comparative research design and the statistics uses here are t-test and Pearson correlation.

Materials/ Description of Tools

1. **Curiosity and Exploration Inventory (CEI):** this tool was given by the American authors Kashdan, Rose and Finchman in 2004. This is a 7-point scale that was developed to assess how individuals perceive, actively seek and incorporate novel and stimulating stimuli and encounters. This measurement tool consists of two components, exploration and absorption. Participants express their agreement using a 7- point Likert's scale that ranged from 1 that is strongly disagree to 7 that is strongly agree). The test-retest reliability of CEI ranges between 0.753-0.829.
2. **Domain Specific Risk Taking (DOSPERT):** this tool was given by Weber, Blair and Betz in the year 2002. This tool is shorter, and can be used for different range of cultures, ages and educational levels. Multilevel modeling was used to examine the connection between risk taking and risk perception across 5 different domains of risk. The 30 items revised DOSPERT Scale's risk-taking measure assesses individuals' inclinations towards engaging in risky behavior across 5 domains that are ethical, financial, health/safety, social and recreational, through a 7-point scale gauging the probability from 1 to 7 that is from extremely unlikely to extremely likely. Reliability of 5 DOSPERT risk behavior sub scales are as follows 0.44 is for financial, 0.58 (social), 0.72 (ethics), 0.75 is for health and 0.80 is for recreational.

Data Collection

For this study, young male adults aged 18-25 years were selected as participants. Initially, rapport was established with the subjects, and permission was sought to conduct the study. Participants were asked to confirm their age and provided consent to participate. They were then given a questionnaire, including the Curiosity and Exploration Inventory by Kashdan, Rose, and Finchman, and the Domain Specific Risk-Taking tool by Weber, Blair, and Betz, along with instructions. Subjects were instructed to read all instructions carefully, complete the demographic details, and answer all questions without a time limit. They were assured that there were no right or wrong answers and that their responses would be kept

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confidential and used solely for research purposes. Over five days, responses were collected from 120 male adults, comprising 59 smokers and 61 non-smokers. The responses were scored according to the manual's guidelines, entered an Excel sheet, and analyzed using IBM SPSS software to perform t-tests and Pearson correlation. The study findings were tabulated, and detailed analyses of the results were conducted.

Variables

- **Independent variable-** Adult Smoker
- **Dependent variable-** Curiosity and risk-taking behavior
- **Control variable-** Age, Gender

RESULT

Statistical Analysis

Table 1 Add table Name

		N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. Error Mean	t
Curiosity	Adult male smokers	59	36.932	6.4671	.8419	1.520
	Adult male non smokers	61	35.016	7.2950	.9340	

t- value = 1.520

Degree of freedom(df) = 118

P- value(2- tailed) = 0.131

In table 1 the findings displayed the mean, standard deviation, standard error deviation of Curiosity among male adult smoker and male adult non smokers, where n is 59 for adult male smokers and 61 for adult male non smokers. The mean score for adult male smokers is 36.932 and for adult male non smokers is 35.016 with the corresponding standard deviation are 6.4671 for adult male smokers and 7.2950 for adult male non smokers, with standard error mean as .8419 for adult male smokers and .9340 for adult male non smokers. The t test results shows that there is no statistically significant difference in curiosity level between smokers and non smokers. The p value which is 0.131 is greater than the significance value 0.05, which shows that the result is insignificant. ($p > 0.05$)

Table 2 Add table Name

		N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. Error Mean	t
Risk taking behaviour	Adult male smokers	59	171.15	32.659	4.252	2.969
	Adult male non smokers	61	153.79	31.411	4.022	

t- value = 2.969

Degree of freedom(df)= 118

P value= 0.004

In table 2 the findings displayed the mean, standard deviation and standard error deviation of risk taking behavior among adult male smokers and adult male non smokers. The mean score for adult male smokers is 171.15 and for adult male non smokers is 153.79 with the corresponding standard deviation of 32.659 for adult male smokers and 31.411 for adult

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male non smokers, with standard error mean as 4.252 for adult male smokers and 4.022 for adult male non smokers. The t value is 2.969, with df of 118 and p value is 0.004 respectively. So, the t test result shows that there is statistically significant difference in risk taking behaviour among adult male smokers and adult male non smokers as the p value is 0.04 which is less than significant value 0.05. So, there can be seen a significant difference in risk taking behavior among smokers and nonsmokers with smokers scoring high on average.

Table 3 Pearson correlation

	Curiosity	Risk taking
Curiosity	1	
Risk taking	.531	1

***correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 tailed). Do you smoke = smokers*

In table 3, the n for both curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among smokers are 59. The results shows that the correlation coefficient between curiosity and risk taking is 0.531. This shows the positive correlation between curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among adult male smokers. The p value here is less than 0.01 ($p < 0.01$). This means that the correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2- tailed). This shows that smokers who have high curiosity levels they tend to engage in higher level of risk-taking behavior.

Table 4 Pearson correlation

	Curiosity	Risk taking
Curiosity	1	
Risk taking	.676	1

***correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 tailed). Do you smoke = nonsmokers*

Table 4 shows the correlation between curiosity level and risk talking behavior among adult male nonsmokers. The n for both curiosity and risk-taking for adult male nonsmokers are 61. The correlation coefficient between curiosity and risk taking for non smokers is 0.676. The p value is less than 0.01 ($p < 0.01$). This shows that correlation is statistically significant at 0.01 level (2 tailed). This shows that there is statistically strong positive correlation between curiosity and risk-taking behavior among non smokers. This shows that non smokers having curiosity level tend to engage in higher level of risk taking behavior.

DISCUSSION

Curiosity can be described as the eagerness to learn or find out about something. According to the philosopher and psychologist William James in 1899, curiosity is essentially the drive to gain a better understanding of things we're not familiar with. Risk-taking means making decisions or doing things that have a certain level of uncertainty and could potentially lead to positive or negative outcomes.

The goal of this study is to assess the curiosity levels and the extent of risk-taking behavior among young adult smokers. The sample of 120 male adults, with 59 smokers and 61 non-smokers, aged between 18 to 25 years. To collect data, two assessment tools were utilized: the Curiosity and Exploration Inventory developed by Kashdan, Rose, and Fincham, and the Domain Specific Risk Taking questionnaire by Bali's, A.R, Weber, E.U.

The collected data was analyzed using two statistical methods: the independent sample t-test and Pearson correlation. The t-test helped in comparing the means of two groups (smokers

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and non-smokers), while Pearson correlation was used to determine the relationship between the two variables, curiosity, and risk-taking behavior.

In reference to table 1 The study's findings include the statistical measures of curiosity among adult male smokers and adult male non-smokers. The sample size for adult male smokers was 59, and for adult male non-smokers, it was 61. Statistics are: Mean (average) curiosity score for adult male smokers: 36.932, Mean curiosity score for adult male non-smokers: 35.016, Standard deviation for adult male smokers: 6.4671, Standard deviation for adult male non-smokers: 7.2950, Standard error of the mean for adult male smokers: 0.8419, Standard error of the mean for adult male non-smokers: 0.9340. The results of t-test indicate that there is no statistically significant difference in curiosity levels between smokers and non-smokers. The p-value, is 0.131, is greater than the significance level of 0.05. This suggests that the observed difference in curiosity between the groups is not significant ($p > 0.05$).

In reference to table 2 the findings present the statistical measures of risk-taking behavior among adult male smokers and adult male non-smokers. Statistics are: Mean (average) risk-taking behavior score for adult male smokers: 171.15, Mean risk-taking behavior score for adult male non-smokers: 153.79, Standard deviation for adult male smokers: 32.659, Standard deviation for adult male non-smokers: 31.411, Standard error of the mean for adult male smokers: 4.252, Standard error of the mean for adult male non-smokers: 4.022. The t-value is 2.969, with df of 118, and p-value is 0.004. This t-test result indicates that there is a statistically significant difference in risk-taking behavior between adult male smokers and adult male non-smokers. Specifically, the p-value of 0.004 is less than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference in risk-taking behavior, with smokers, on average, scoring higher than non-smokers. In other words, adult male smokers tend to exhibit more risk-taking behavior compared to adult male non-smokers.

In reference to Table 3, the sample size (n) for both curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among smokers is 59. The results indicate a correlation coefficient of 0.531 between curiosity and risk-taking behavior among adult male smokers. This positive correlation suggests that there is a relationship between curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among this group. The p-value is less than 0.01 ($p < 0.01$), indicating that the correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

In reference to Table 4, the sample size (n) for both curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among adult male non-smokers is 61. The results reveal a correlation coefficient of 0.676 between curiosity and risk-taking behavior among this group. This strong positive correlation suggests a robust relationship between curiosity level and risk-taking behavior among adult male non-smokers. The p-value is less than 0.01 ($p < 0.01$), indicating that this correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

CONCLUSION

This study aims to see the level of curiosity and level of risk-taking behavior among young adult smokers. There was no significant difference in the curiosity level of adult male smokers and adult male nonsmokers, whereas there was significant difference in the risk-taking level of adult male smokers and nonsmokers. It could be seen that there was a positive correlation between curiosity level and risk-taking level of adult male smokers. There was also positive correlation seen between curiosity level and risk-taking behavior of

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adult male nonsmokers, which means if person does not smoke and is high on curiosity level then they tend to engage in risky behaviors.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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