

Does Suicidal Risk Among Adults Get Influenced by Their Attitude Towards Artificial Intelligence?

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ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated with daily life; a concern about its impact on mental health is growing. This study aimed to investigate the influence of attitude towards artificial intelligence on suicidal risk among adults. The data were collected through online Google form and the sample size is n=178. **The measuring tools:** The General Attitude Towards artificial intelligence (AI) scale (GAAIS), (this scale has two dimensions which are positive attitude towards AI and negative attitudes towards AI). Suicide Behavior Questionnaire - Revised (SBQ-R) were used to collect data. The study undertook correlation research design. **Conclusion:** The regression analysis predicts the attitude towards artificial intelligence on suicidal risk. Independent samples t-test shows no statistically significant difference between female and male groups in relation to attitude towards AI; whereas male have significantly higher suicidal risk than female.

Keywords: *Suicidal Risk, Adults, Influenced, Attitude, Artificial Intelligence*

John McCarthy, an emeritus professor at Stanford, first used the term artificial intelligence (AI) in 1955. He defined it as “*the science and engineering of making intelligent machines*”. AI is changing many facets of our lives, such as decision-making, communication, work, and information access. AI presents ethical, legal, and social issues despite its advantages. (Choi and Moon, 2023; Xu, 2019). Analyzing how people's attitude of AI is important because it affects how widely new tools get adopted and used in society. (Marangunić and Granić, 2015; Schepman and Rodway, 2020). The term "public attitudes" refers to the general feelings, sentiments, or emotional states of the general public toward things, goods, services, brands, commercials, or any other social stimuli. The adoption and usage of developing technologies may be significantly impacted by these attitudes, which are influenced by a variety of factors, including individual views, experiences, and societal influence. (Jowell, 2005). Positive, negative, or neutral public attitudes of AI can influence people's willingness to use or interact with these technologies. Negative perceptions of AI, for instance, can result in scepticism about the technology's potential, concerns about the dangers and ethical impacts of using it, and eventually, a decline in acceptance and use. (Ikkatai, Hartwig, Takanashi, and Yokoyama, 2022).

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Suicidal risk is the second variable in this study. Suicide is a serious problem in India, where it claims over 100,000 lives per year. Throughout the last two decades, the suicide rate has risen from 7.9 to 10.3 per 100,000. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines suicide attempt as 'an act with a non-fatal outcome, in which an individual deliberately initiates a non-habitual behavior that without intervention from others will cause self-harm, or deliberately ingests a substance in excess of the prescribed or generally recognized therapeutic dosage, and which is aimed at realizing changes which the subject desired via the actual or expected physical consequences (Bille-Brahe, 1998, p.3; World Health Organization, 1986a). "Suicidal risk refers to the likelihood that an individual will attempt or complete suicide. Suicidal risk is the probability of suicidal behavior, including both attempts and completions, within a specific time frame (Rudd, 2006)".

METHODOLOGY

Aim

The aim of this study is to investigate the influence of attitude towards Artificial Intelligence (AI) on suicidal risk among adults.

Objectives

- To examine the relationship between attitude towards AI and suicidal risk.
- To examine the influence of attitude towards AI on suicidal risk.
- To analyze the difference in attitude towards AI and suicidal risk between male and female.

Hypotheses

- **H₁**: There will be a significant correlation between positive attitude towards AI and suicidal risk.
- **H₂**: There will be a significant correlation between negative attitude towards AI and suicidal risk.
- **H₃**: There will be a significant prediction of attitude towards AI on suicidal risk.
- **H₄**: There will be a significant difference in attitudes towards AI between male and female.
- **H₅**: There will be a significant difference in suicidal risk between male and female.

Variables

- **Independent variable:** Attitude towards artificial intelligence (AI)
- **Dependent variable:** Suicidal risk
- **Extraneous variable:** Gender

Sampling

- **Population:** The population of this study consists of adults in the age group of 20 to 35 in Tamil Nadu.
- **Sample Size:** 178 data were collected from adults.
- **Sampling Technique:** Convenient Sampling was employed to collect data for this study. This method allowed for the deliberate selection of participants with rich insights and experiences related to the AI, ensuring targeted and efficient data collection.

Inclusion Criteria:

- **Age:** Participants must be between 20 to 35 years old.

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- **Mental Competence:** Participants must be mentally competent to provide informed consent and complete the survey/questionnaire.
- **Language Proficiency:** Participants must be proficient in the language in which the survey/questionnaire is administered (e.g., English)
- **Literates:** Participants must be literate.

Exclusion Criteria

- **Age:** Participants outside the 20-35 age range.
- **Cognitive Impairment:** Participants with severe cognitive impairment or intellectual disability that may impact their ability to understand and complete the survey/questionnaire.
- **Prior Participation:** Participants who have already participated in the study to avoid duplicate data.

Tool Description

The **General Attitudes towards Artificial Intelligence Scale (GAAIS)** is a 20-item assessment tool used to evaluate people's attitude towards AI. Astrid Schepman and Paul Rodway (2017) developed the GAAIS, which evaluates both positive and negative perspectives, human-AI collaboration, and AI's social impact.

Suicidal Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised (SBQ-R) is a short self-report tool used to evaluate suicidal behaviors and risk. The SBQ-R was created by Osman et al. (2001) and it comprises four measures that assess different facets of suicidal behavior, such as;

- Lifetime suicidal ideation and/or attempts
- Frequency of suicidal ideation in the past year
- Future suicidal intent
- Self-reported likelihood of suicidal behavior in the future

The SBQ-R is a widely used, reliable, and valid tool for assessing suicidal risk in clinical and research settings.

Statistical Techniques

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests are used to verify normality. Additionally, skewness and kurtosis were examined; the distributions fall within the range. Pearson's correlation coefficient is used to determine the significance of the relationship. regression analysis is used to determine whether a negative attitude toward artificial intelligence significantly predict suicidal risk;The t-test is used to determine the significance of gender differences among the study variables.

RESULTS

Table 1 Descriptive statistics of study variables

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SKEWNESS	KURTOSIS
Positive attitude towards AI	178	39.71	5.54	0.15	0.25
Negative attitude towards AI	178	20.64	4.36	0.11	-0.05
Suicidal risk	178	5.73	3.27	1.17	0.50

The Skewness values for the variables 0.15, 0.11, and 1.17 which are between acceptable range of -2 to +2 and the Kurtosis values for the variables are -0.25, -0.05 and 0.50 which are between the acceptable ranges of -7 to +7.

Table 2 *Normality testing of the study variables*

Variables	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Static	df	Sig.	Static	df	Sig.
Positive attitude towards AI	0.07	178	0.01	0.99	178	0.41
Negative attitude towards AI	0.06	178	0.05	0.99	178	0.31
Suicidal risk	0.23	178	0.00	0.81	178	0.00

The results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests indicated that the data was not significantly normally distributed. But the skewness and kurtosis values fell within acceptable ranges. Hence, it was assumed that the data could be treated as normally distributed.

Table 3 *Correlation between positive attitude towards artificial intelligence and suicidal risk.*

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r value
Positive attitude towards AI	178	39.71	5.55	0.11
Suicidal risk	178	5.73	3.27	

There is a weak positive relationship ($r=0.11$, $p<0.01$) between positive attitude towards AI and suicidal risk, but it is not statistically significant, indicating no reliable association between the two variables.

Table 4 *Correlation between negative attitude towards artificial intelligence and suicidal risk*

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r value
Negative attitude towards AI	178	20.64	4.36	-0.21**
Suicidal risk	178	5.73	3.27	

There is a significant negative correlation ($r=-0.21$, $p<0.01$) between negative attitude towards AI and suicidal risk, which is statistically significant. This suggests that as negative attitude towards AI increase, suicidal risk tends to decrease. This relationship is statistically reliable and suggests a potential protective effect of negative AI attitude on suicidal risk.

According to Putri et al. (2024), artificial intelligence (AI) technology decreases social connection, increases social inequality, and leads to an excessive reliance on technology. A greater dependence on technology may result in fewer and lower-quality social contacts, undermining the emotional support that comes from interpersonal relationships and thereby lowering life quality (Turtle, 2015). Strong social support networks have been demonstrated to have a protective impact, reducing the chance of suicidal actions, while social isolation is associated with an increased risk of suicide (Motillon et al., 2022).

These studies imply that an over-reliance on technology may have detrimental impacts on social and mental health, thereby raising the probability of suicidal thoughts. On the other hand, a negative view of AI may, ironically, lower the risk of suicide by encouraging a more balanced use of technology and social connection, which would lessen the isolating consequences of an over-reliance on technology.

Table 5 Regression analysis for negative attitude towards artificial intelligence and suicidal risk

Model	Unstandardizd Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	
(Constant)	9.06	1.16		7.78 0.00
Negative attitude towards AI	-0.16	0.05	-0.21	2.92 0.00
R=0.22		R ² = 0.46 F= 8.53		

The R value represents the correlation coefficient between the independent variable (attitude towards AI) and the dependent variable (suicidal risk). A value of 0.22 indicates a weak positive linear relationship between the two variables. This means that as the attitude towards AI increases, the suicidal risk also tends to increase, but the relationship is not strong.

The R² value is 0.46 indicates that only about 4.6% of the variation in suicidal risk can be explained by the attitude towards AI. F value of 8.53 is statistically significant (typically at a p-value < 0.05), indicating that the regression model is a better fit to the data than a model with no predictors.

Table 6 Significance of gender differences in attitude towards AI and suicidal risk

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	
Positive attitude towards AI	M	96	39.42	4.97	0.76
	F	82	40.05	6.17	
Negative attitude towards AI	M	96	20.43	4.09	0.70
	F	82	20.89	4.68	
Suicidal risk	M	96	6.26	3.41	2.36
	F	82	5.10	3.00	

The t-values for positive and negative attitudes towards AI are 0.76 and 0.70, respectively. These values are not significant, indicating that there is no significant difference between male and female in attitude towards AI.

The t-value for suicidal risk is 2.36, which is statistically significant. This means that the difference in suicidal risk between male and female is not due to chance, and male are more likely to have a higher suicidal risk compared to female.

DISCUSSION

The first hypothesis (H₁) is statistically analyzed using correlation analysis and the result showed that there is a weak positive relationship but not statistically significant relationship between positive attitude towards AI and suicidal risk. So, positive attitude towards AI does not reliably predict an increase in suicidal risk. Hence hypothesis (H₁) is rejected. But, there is a statistically significant negative correlation between negative attitude towards AI and suicidal risk, indicating that as negative attitude towards AI increases, suicidal risk tends to decrease. This suggests a potential protective effect of negative AI attitude on suicidal risk. Hence hypothesis (H₂) is accepted. The third hypothesis (H₃) is statistically analyzed using linear regression and the results showed that only 4.6% of the variation is predict the influence of the attitude towards AI on suicidal risk. Hence hypothesis (H₃) is accepted. The

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third and fourth hypothesis (H_4 & H_5) are analyzed using independent t-test, the t-values for positive and negative attitudes towards AI are not significant ($t = 0.76$ and $t = 0.70$, respectively), indicating that there is no statistically significant difference in attitudes towards AI between male and female. Hence the hypothesis (H_4) is rejected, the t-value for suicidal risk is statistically significant ($t = 2.36$), indicating that there is a statistically significant difference in suicidal risk between male and female, with male being more likely to have a higher suicidal risk compared to female. Hence hypothesis (H_5) is accepted.

CONCLUSION

The study suggests that having a negative attitude towards AI may have a protective effect on suicidal risk, while having a positive attitude towards AI does not reliably predict an increase in suicidal risk. A negative attitude towards AI may decrease suicidal risk by: Promoting a healthier balance between technology use and social interaction, reducing reliance on technology for emotional support, encouraging more opportunities for human connection. And the attitude towards AI is one of the predicting factor of suicidal risk. Additionally, the study found that male are more likely to have a higher suicidal risk compared to female, but there is no significant difference in attitudes towards AI between male and female. These findings have implications for the development of strategies to mitigate suicidal risk and promote positive mental health outcomes.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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