IAT Paper

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## Introduction

It has been reported that suicide rates among males are more as compared to females in western countries. Various studies have shown that there is a remarkable cultural diversity in the patterns of suicidal behaviors. The studies have shown that suicidal rates in males are three to four times higher in males as compared to females. It has been observed that in several countries suicidal rates are often designated as a masculine phenomenon due to higher mortalities among males. In Asian countries, the rate of suicides among males is not prevalent as compared to western countries, however, the pattern of suicide is higher significantly (Chen, Yip, Tsai, & Fan, 2012). Several studies have shown that suicidal rates in Chinese women are higher as compared to males and other countries (Chen, Yip, Tsai, & Fan, 2012). It has been reported that in China, suicide is often termed as female behavior because of higher tendencies of suicides. The studies have reported that suicidal patterns are changed in recent years and it was observed that various socio-economic contexts are responsible for this pattern (Chen et al., 2012). Considering the importance of the issue, current study has pointed the direction of importance towards this issue to further evaluate certain socio-economic and cultural behavioral patterns to understand gender differences towards suicide.

# Review of Literature

Certain factors have been analyzed that can significantly prevent suicides among communities of Asian countries. It has been reported that Asian Americans are the vastly growing community in the United States of America. Empirical studies have shown that suicidal rates are more prevalent among Asian individuals however, suicidal patterns should not be marked based on ethnic groups. Certain researchers have utilized ecological patterns and models to evaluate the factors that influence suicidal behaviors (Cheng et al., 2010). It has been observed that suicidal behaviors are interdisciplinary and are influenced strongly by societal, individual and cultural factors.

Various studies have shown that culture is a significant element in Asian Americans' suicidal patterns. Culturally related factors such as family conflicts, gender discrimination, and other ethnic identity are the elements that have been studied under the context of suicidal patterns. The results are more correlated with these elements and can cause serious mental health issues among communities (Cheng et al., 2010). Household poverty, education, marital status, and age are some socio-demographic factors that are also related to anxiety and depression related health issues among communities (Cheng et al., 2010). Media represent cultural and social processes that might help shape cultural realities (Cheng et al., 2010). It has been observed that media is a strong platform to represent and disseminate suicidal patterns in society and impact can be well understood. Media a platform that can play its role in the dissemination and distribution of an important message to society (Cheng et al., 2010). It has been observed that in Asian countries, suicidal patterns are more commonly displayed in newspapers (Chen et al., 2012). It has been reported through various studies that suicidal gender patterns have not been highlighted in other platforms than in media (Cheng et al., 2010). No previous studies have highlighted the gender differences towards suicidal behaviors.

It has been observed that suicidal ideation and attempts with the proportion of 8.8% and 2.5% are recorded (Chen et al., 2012). It has been observed that men particularly Asians have more rates of suicidal ideation and have higher proportions of mental health problems as compared to females (Cheng et al., 2010). The results have shown that Asians have higher rates of suicidal attempts, higher proportions of mental health problems and the factors associated with this pattern are reported to be gender issues and cultural factors.

# Methodology

The methodology chosen for the study was the mixed-method approach, a questionnaire was developed that was designed with specific questions such as a slight automatic preference for thin over fat, slight automatic preference for fat over thin, slight automatic preference for young over old, moderate automatic preference for light skin over dark skin. Similarly, one neutral in skin tone preference, strong preference for white over black, and slight, moderate, and strong Automatic preference for a male with a career over a female with career were selected as questions (Cheng et al., 2010). Other related questions were a strong automatic association of males with career and female with family, moderate automatic association of male with career and female with family. Slight automatic association of male with career and female with family and little to no automatic preference between gender and family or career was recorded (Cheng et al., 2010). Also, the moderate automatic association of males with family and females with career and strong automatic association of male with family and female with a career was recorded with results.

# Results

The IAT results calculated as 24% strong association of male with career and female with family, 32% having moderate automatic association of male with career and female with family. 20% of the recorded results were a slight automatic association of males with career and female with family and 17% of the respondents' reported that little or no automatic preferences between gender and family or career. 4% of the respondents have answered a slight automatic association of males with family and females with a career. The limited or no significant results were analyzed as 2% and 0.3% as a moderate and strong automatic association of males with family and females with careers respectively.

Figure 1Results from IAT test

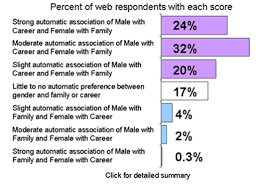


Figure 2 Results from a typical IAT test

# Discussion

It has been observed that it is a common phenomenon that men and women are equally represented in the context of suicidal patterns. There was no significant difference portrayed in media and other platforms to show that males have higher proportions of suicides as compared to females (Chen et al., 2012). Certain factors may influence this pattern however, socio-economic elements are more responsible behind the event (Chen et al., 2012). Through media, gender patterns and differences can better identify responsible factors and better preventive measures can be taken for the control of suicides among males.

Different media have represented different pictures of suicidal behaviors such as Taiwan newspapers portray and over reported pattern of suicides among males higher as compared to females (Chen et al., 2012). The major factors behind these issues were represented as work-related stresses and legal issues, however, the reports are not true in all cases (Chen, Yip, Lee, Gunnell, & Wu, 2015). Women have been reported towards suicidal behaviors because of relationship issues and mental health diseases (Chen et al., 2012). The studies have shown that mental health problems are prevalent among communities equally in males and females.

Media has been observed to follow societal and communal assumptions to represent this issue in reports. Media professionals have been observed to have more over-reporting behaviors in certain cases and therefore, it is significantly important for media representatives to follow ethics and should be more careful in reporting sensitive issues such as mental health problems and suicidal patterns (Chen et al., 2012). Sensitive issues such as health-related problems have to be reported more precisely and accurately according to the evidence-based research (Chen et al., 2012). Media should not be engaged in over-reporting and to create sensational news juts for the publicity of the media platforms.

# References

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