

Suicidal Behaviour:

A Case Study on Gender Differences

Introduction

In recent times there has been increase in studies related to suicide. The researchers want to understand the reasons that people choose to take their lives. The WHO reports that during the last 45 years suicide rates have increased by 60% worldwide. In addition, it also states that suicide is now among the three leading causes of death among those aged 15-44. Moreover, it is also estimated that suicide attempts are up to 20 times more frequent than completed suicide. It is estimated that over 100,000 people die by suicide in India every year and India alone contributes to more than 10% of suicides in the world. The suicide rate in India has been increasing steadily and has reached 10.5 (per 100,000 of population) in 2006 registering a 67% increase over the value of 1980. The important aspect of suicidal behaviour studies is to analyze if there is any difference in the suicide rate between the two gender groups.

Results

The comparison of suicide rates for the two gender groups is shown in Figure 1. The yearly suicidal rate for the female group is consistently lower than the yearly suicidal rate for the male group. The suicidal rate data in Table 2 indicates that female suicidal rate is highest in the year 1999 and the male suicidal rate is highest in the year 2006.

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics

	Male	Female
Mean	6.06	3.95
Standard Deviation	0.59	0.27
Minimum	4.95	3.51
Maximum	6.76	4.57
Skewness	-0.35	0.78
Kurtosis	-1.38	0.39

Figure 1

Comparison of suicide rates for the two gender groups

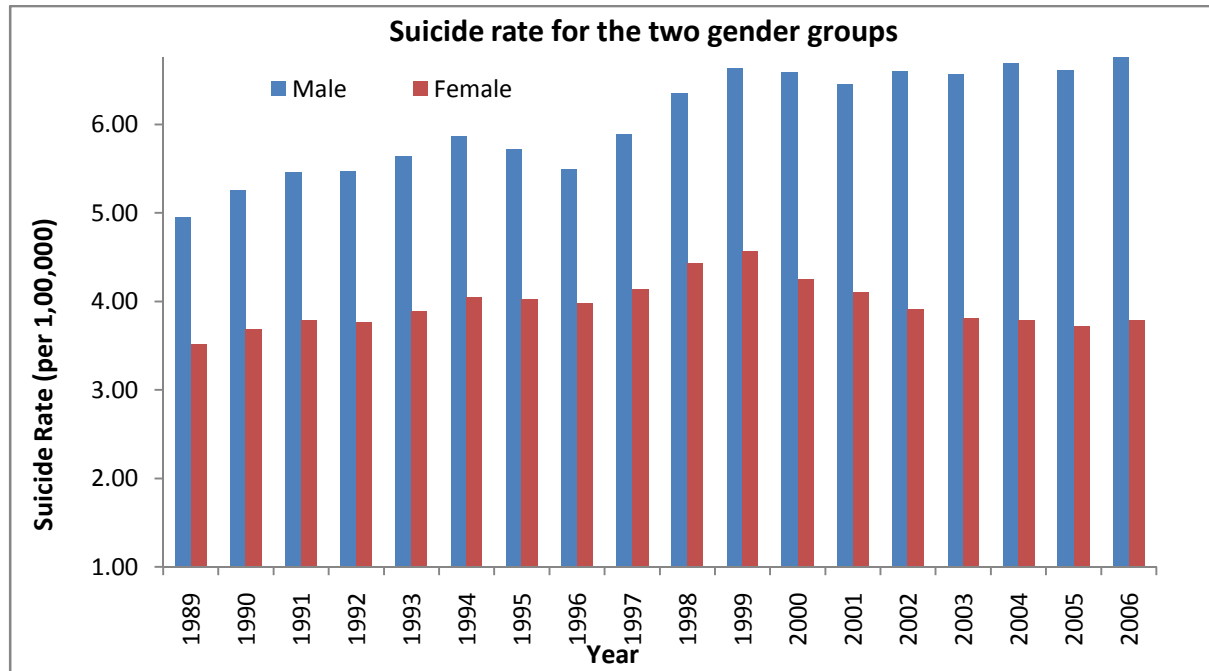


Table 2

Incidence and rate of suicidal deaths in India (1989-2006)

Year	Suicide Incidence			Estimated Mid-year Population (in lakhs)	Suicide Rate (per 100,000)	
	Male	Female	Total		Male	Female
1989	40212	28532	68744	8118	4.95	3.51
1990	43451	30460	73911	8270	5.25	3.68
1991	46324	32126	78450	8496	5.45	3.78
1992	47481	32668	80149	8677	5.47	3.76
1993	49851	34393	84244	8838	5.64	3.89
1994	52752	36443	89195	8999	5.86	4.05
1995	52357	36821	89178	9160	5.72	4.02
1996	51206	37035	88241	9319	5.49	3.97
1997	56281	39548	95829	9552	5.89	4.14
1998	61686	43027	104713	9709	6.35	4.43
1999	65488	45099	110587	9866	6.64	4.57
2000	66032	42561	108593	10021	6.59	4.25
2001	66314	42192	108506	10270	6.46	4.11
2002	69332	41085	110417	10506	6.60	3.91
2003	70221	40630	110851	10682	6.57	3.80
2004	72651	41046	113697	10856	6.69	3.78
2005	72916	40998	113914	11028	6.61	3.72
2006	75702	42410	118112	11198	6.76	3.79

Further, the t-test results indicate that the mean suicidal rate among male population (M=6.06, SD=0.59) is significantly higher than the mean suicidal rate among the female population (M=3.95, SD=0.27), t (DF=24) = 13.75, $p < 0.05$. Thus, it is safe to conclude that the suicidal rate is higher among the male population compared to the female population.

References:

1. http://www.maithrikochi.org/india_suicide_statistics.htm#State_Rate
2. <http://www.stat.ucla.edu/cases/>

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