A Study of Psychosocial Factor Affecting Attitude toward Suicide of Adult Male and Female Inhabiting in a Province of Korea

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Background: Individual attitudes toward suicide are known to markedly influence suicidal ideation and suicidal behavior. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the factors associated with attitudes toward suicide.

Methods: This study was conducted on 3,213 adult men and women living in a province of Korea. After excluding 281 participants because of unreliable responses, the remaining 2,932 were included in the data analysis. Demographic factors were investigated, and psychological factors were evaluated. Attitudes toward suicide were evaluated using the Attitudes Towards Suicide-20, physical symptoms were evaluated using the Patient Health Questionnaire-15 (PHQ-15), self-compassion was evaluated using the Korean Self-Compassion Scale, and stress was evaluated using the Global Assessment of Recent Stress (GARS) scale. One-way analysis of variance was used to examine the psychological characteristics of attitudes toward suicide.

Conclusion: This study explored the demographic and psychological factors affecting attitudes toward suicide. Adequate mediation of these factors is needed

Table 2. Comparisons suicidal ideation, suicidal plan, and suicide attempt among subgroups of attitude towards suicide

Variable		N(%)	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Suicidal ideation	None (a)	2124(72.4)	19.23±5.30	13.53±3.15	10.93±2.74	11.93±2.97
	<1 year (b)	278(9.5)	21.82±5.64	14.07±2.90	11.73±2.97	11.81±2.88
	>1 year (c)	530(18.1)	20.57±5.11	14.41±2.74	11.14±2.72	11.60±2.85
	F/p value		F=37.73	F=19.50	F=10.77	
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		0	2	3	F=2.715
			p<0.001	p<0.001	p<0.001	F=0.066
Suicidal plan	None (a)	2605(88.8)	19.45±5.28	13.71±3.08	11.00±2.73	11.93±2.96
	<1 year (b)	104(3.6)	22.56±5.55	13.62±2.98	12.19±3.14	12.03±2.89
	>1 year (c)	223(7.6)	21.55±5.57	14.10±3.11	11.09±2.86	10.96±2.67
	F/p value		F=31.43		F=9.453	F=11.36
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		2	F=1.692	7	
			p<0.001	p=0.184	p<0.001	p<0.001
Suicide attempt	None (a)	2789(95.2)	19.95±5.33	14.63±2.61	11.42±2.73	11.87±2.95
	<1 year (b)	36(1.2)	22.67±4.84	12.25±4.18	11.78±4.15	11.42±3.99
	>1 year (c)	107(3.6)	20.89±7.01	13.73±3.07	11.60±2.99	11.62±2.47
	F/p value		F=18.04	F=8.738	F=1.574	F=0.797
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		0	p<0.001	p=0.058	p=0.451
			p<0.001	a>c>b		

Table 3. Comparisons factors of attitude towards suicide among groups according to the severity of physical symptoms

ATTS-20	Mild (a) (n=1653)	Moderate (b) (n=776)	Severe (c) (n=503)	F/p value	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)
Factor 1	19.26±5.34	19.88±5.36	20.98±5.27	F=20.332 p<0.001	a<b<c
Factor 2	14.01±2.74	13.55±3.24	13.96±2.97	F=7.700 p<0.001	a<b,c
Factor 3	10.81±2.79	11.29±2.67	11.43±2.77	F=13.741 p<0.001	a<b,c
Factor 4	11.81±3.03	11.92±2.83	11.92±2.83	F=0.530 p=0.589	n.s.

Table 1. Comparisons demographic characteristics among subgroups of attitudes towards suicide

Variable		N(%)	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Sex	Male	1408(48.0)	19.95±5.49	13.47±3.18	11.21±2.74	11.75±3.01
	Female	1524(52.0)	19.51±5.24	13.99±2.96	10.87±2.79	11.96±2.87
	t/p value		t=2.235 p=0.026	t=-4.606 p<0.001	t=3.352 p<0.001	t=-1.875 p=0.061
	20s (a)	580(19.8)	20.58±5.24	14.28±2.74	10.77±2.62	11.44±2.76
Age (years)	30s (b)	553(18.9)	18.98±5.42	14.25±3.07	10.58±2.69	11.75±2.84
	40s (c)	567(19.3)	19.45±5.24	14.04±3.07	11.11±2.86	11.75±2.99
	50s (d)	542(18.5)	19.65±5.52	13.43±3.15	11.40±2.71	12.08±2.99
	Above 60s (e)	690(23.5)	19.87±5.32	12.88±3.09	11.32±2.86	12.21±3.05
	F/p value		F=6.897 p<0.001	F=25.177 p<0.001	F=9.573 p<0.001	F=6.557 p<0.001
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		e>b, a>b,c,d	a,b,c,>d>e	c,d,e>b, d,e>a	d,e>a
Education (years)	<6 (a)	301(10.3)	20.41±5.22	12.58±3.29	11.43±2.93	11.80±3.13
	7-9 (b)	185(6.3)	20.36±5.22	12.62±3.26	11.42±2.86	12.10±3.00
	10-12 (c)	809(27.6)	19.83±5.57	13.27±3.21	11.16±2.85	12.01±3.02
	13-16 (d)	1365(46.5)	19.76±5.29	14.29±2.81	10.91±2.65	11.82±2.82
	Above 16 (e)	272(9.3)	17.99±5.08	14.43±2.74	10.71±2.77	11.48±3.06
	F/p value		F=9.199 p<0.001	F=37.787 p<0.001	F=4.510 p<0.001	F=2.104 p=0.078
Job	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		a,b,c,d>e	d,e>a,b,c c>a	a>d,e	
	Professional (a)	364(12.4)	19.03±5.62	14.01±3.15	10.82±2.92	11.54±3.03
	Office work (b)	654(22.3)	19.53±5.19	14.28±2.76	10.94±2.64	11.63±2.75
	Production (c)	535(18.2)	20.28±5.36	13.18±3.13	11.17±2.81	12.08±2.91
	Student (d)	384(13.1)	20.43±5.21	14.46±2.58	11.26±2.58	11.45±2.76
	Others (e)	995(34.0)	19.52±5.41	13.31±3.27	10.73±2.54	12.16±3.08
Marital status	F/p value		F=5.183 p<0.001	F=20.895 p<0.001	F=3.856 p<0.001	F=7.192 p<0.001
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		c,d>a, d>e	a,b,d>c,e	d>e	e>a,b,d c>d
	Unmarried (a)	941(32.1)	20.46±5.34	14.24±2.79	10.71±2.65	11.44±2.78
	Married (b)	1717(58.6)	19.32±5.24	13.58±3.10	11.20±2.75	12.04±2.94
	Divorced (c)	95(3.2)	20.55±6.25	13.55±3.33	11.24±3.08	12.14±2.97
	Bereaved (d)	179(6.1)	19.29±5.75	12.72±3.66	11.21±3.12	12.16±3.55
Income	F/p value		F=10.357 p<0.001	F=16.720 p<0.001	F=6.686 p<0.001	F=9.636 p<0.001
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		a>b,d	a>b>d	b>a	b,d>a
	Low (a)	629(21.4)	20.27±5.51	13.22±3.27	11.32±2.91	11.91±3.14
	Medium-low (b)	703(24.1)	19.70±5.24	13.59±3.11	10.92±2.76	11.67±2.65
	Medium (c)	622(21.2)	19.85±5.39	13.76±2.96	10.92±2.78	11.65±2.96
	Medium-high (d)	480(16.4)	19.50±5.29	13.87±3.05	11.11±2.78	12.00±2.85
Religion	High (e)	271(9.2)	19.13±5.39	14.27±2.89	11.07±2.51	12.04±2.85
	Very high (f)	227(7.7)	19.08±5.30	14.89±2.60	10.83±2.53	12.34±2.88
	F/p value		F=2.883 p=0.013	F=12.093 p<0.001	F=2.123 p=0.060	F=2.937 p=0.012
	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)		a>e	f>a,b,c,d c,d,e>a, e>b		f>b,c
	Yes	1690(57.7)	20.72±5.25	13.70±3.03	11.08±2.78	11.67±2.84
	No	1242(42.3)	18.99±5.34	13.77±3.11	11.02±2.76	12.00±3.01
K-SCS	t/p value		t=8.765 p<0.001	t=-0.646 p=0.518	t=0.584 p=0.559	t=-3.025 p=0.003
	Self-kindness		14.64±4.07	14.30±4.09	13.21±3.84	F=15.780 p<0.001
	Self-judgement		18.99±3.75	17.53±4.13	15.68±4.18	F=107.529 p<0.001
	Common-humanity		11.45±3.26	11.96±3.25	11.27±3.15	F=6.357 p<0.01
	Isolation		15.15±3.24	14.07±3.55	12.50±3.66	F=88.864 p<0.001
	Mindfulness		12.15±3.46	12.23±3.55	11.14±3.22	F=11.231 p<0.001
GARS	Over-identification		14.52±3.09	12.99±3.47	11.74±3.62	F=121.568 p<0.001
	Sum of self-compassion		86.90±12.16	83.08±13.85	75.54±14.83	F=105.867 p<0.001
			23.13±13.74	30.01±14.23	35.37±13.85	F=129.843 p<0.001
			4.98±4.55	7.30±5.28	9.79±6.48	F=146.937 p<0.001

Table 4. Comparisons K-SCS, GARS, and PHQ-15 among groups according to the duration of suicidal ideation

Variable		Suicidal ideation :none (a) (n=2,124)	Suicidal ideation : more than 1 year (b) (n=530)	Suicidal ideation : within 1 year (c) (n=278)	F/p value	Post-hoc (Bonferonni)
K-SCS	Self-kindness	14.64±4.07	14.30±4.09	13.21±3.84	F=15.780 p<0.001	a,b>c
	Self-judgement	18.99±3.75	17.53±4.13	15.68±4.18	F=107.529 p<0.001	a>b>c
	Common-humanity	11.45±3.26	11.96±3.25	11.27±3.15	F=6.357 p<0.01	b>a,c
	Isolation	15.15±3.24	14.07±3.55	12.50±3.66	F=88.864 p<0.001	a>b>c
	Mindfulness	12.15±3.46	12.23±3.55	11.14±3.22	F=11.231 p<0.001	a>c, b>c
	Over-identification	14.52±3.09	12.99±3.47	11.74±3.62	F=121.568 p<0.001	a>b>c
GARS	Sum of self-compassion	86.90±12.16	83.08±13.85	75.54±14.83	F=105.867 p<0.001	a>b>c
		23.13±13.74	30.01±14.23	35.37±13.85	F=129.843 p<0.001	c>a>b
		4.98±4.55	7.30±5.28	9.79±6.48	F=146.937 p<0.001	c>a>b