

ORIGINAL RESEARCH**A comparative study on risk taking behaviour among male and female adults in selected college of district Hoshiarpur, Punjab****¹Sakshi Sharma, ²Ramanjit Kaur, ³Divya Sethi**^{1,3}Nursing Tutor, Desh Bhagat University School of Nursing, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, India²Assistant Professor, Shri Guru Ram Das College of Nursing, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India**Correspondence:**

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Abstract

A comparative study was conducted on risk taking behaviour among male and female adults in Hoshiarpur. Total 80 samples were taken by using purposive sampling technique. Socio demographic tool and modified DOSPERT Scale (Domain-specific risk – taking Scale) to assess risk taking behaviour. The reliability of the DOSPERT scale to assess risk taking behavior was 0.81 as measured by Cronbach alpha.

Introduction

Risk taking is any consciously or unconsciously controlled behavior with a perceived uncertainty about its outcome, and about its possible benefits or dangers for the physical, economic or psycho-social wellbeing of oneself or others.¹ Many studies have noted that young human males are more prone than females to take risks in relation to conflict and sexual behavior as Sex differences in risk-taking as well as in such situations as car driving, accident risk, gambling and financial decisions and outdoor activities³.

Methodology

A Non- experimental comparative research design was considered appropriate for the present study to compare the Risk taking behavior behaviour among 80 male and female adult. The study was conducted at Govt. college of district Hoshiarpur, Punjab. The sample was selected using purposive sampling technique. Two tools were used in the study. Modified DOSPERT Scale (Domain-specific risk – taking Scale) to assess risk taking behaviour. Standardized DOSPERT scale was a used to assess risk taking behaviour. Content validity of the tool was established by obtaining the valuable opinion and suggestion from experts in the field of Mental Health Nursing. The investigator took the written permission from concerned authority for the condition of study. The reliability of the DOSPERT scale to assess risk taking behavior was 0.81 as measured by Cronbach alpha.

Results**Major Findings****Findings of Sample characteristics**

It was found that 44% (18) male adults were having age of 20-21 year, whereas 52% (21) female adults were having the age of 20-21 years. As per the area of residence, 63% (25) male adults were from rural area. On the other hand majority i.e. 60% (14) females belong to rural area. As per educational status of parents 45% (18) of the male adults had their father educated up to 10th, while on the other hand 43% (17) of the female adults had their father

educated up to 12th. On the basis of occupation of mother's majority i.e. 85% (34) mothers of male adults and 93% (37) of the mothers of female adults were Homemaker. As per source of information 68% (27) male adults got the information from the internet, whereas 35% (14) of the female got the information from T.V/ Radio.

Table 1 Risk taking behaviour among male adults

N=40				
S.NO	Level of Risk Taking Behaviour	Criteria Measures	Male Adults (n)	%
1	Not at all risky	24-40	2	5
2	Moderately risky	41-56	35	87
3	Extremely risky	57-72	3	8

Maximum score – 72

Minimum score – 24

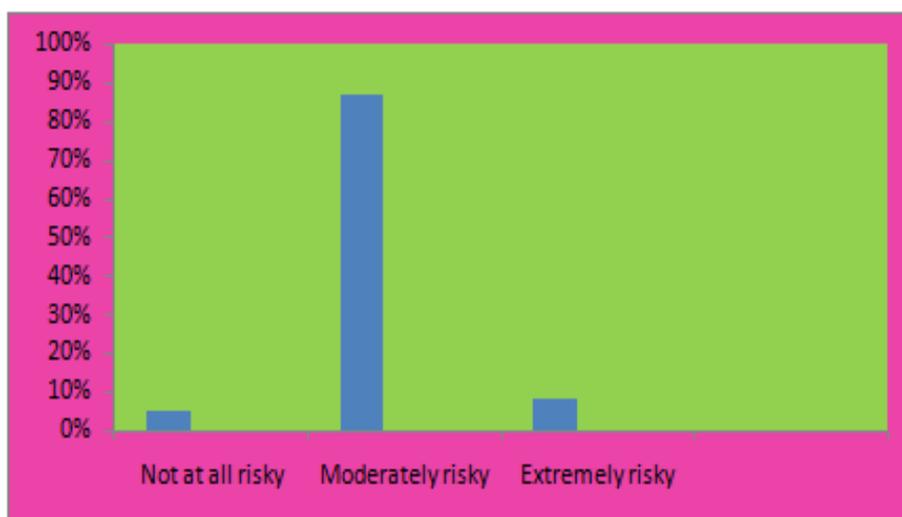


Fig 1 Assessment of risk taking behaviour among male adults

Table 2 Risk taking behaviour among female adults

N=40				
S.NO	Level of Risk Taking Behaviour	Criteria Measures	Female Adults (n)	%
1	Not at all risky	24-40	13	33
2	Moderately risky	41-56	17	42
3	Extremely risky	57-72	10	25

Maximum score – 72

Minimum score – 24

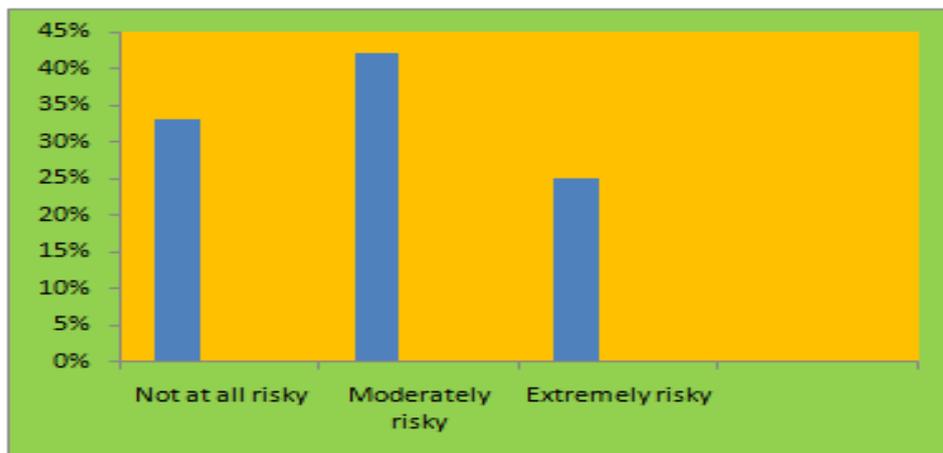


Fig 2 Assessment of risk taking behaviour among female adults

Table 3 Comparison of the risk taking behaviour among male and female adults

N=80

S.NO	Groups	n	Mean Scores	SD	't'
1	Male Adults	40	48.65	5.17	0.56 ^{NS}
2	Female Adults	40	47.60	10.67	

NS=Non Significant at p<0.05level

Maximum scores - 72

Minimum Scores - 24

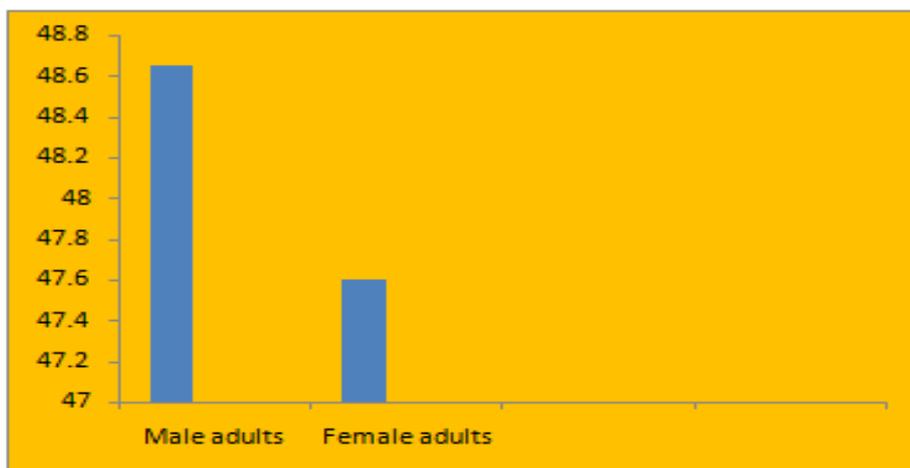


Fig 3 Comparison of the risk taking behaviour among male and female adults

Table 4 Relationship of risk taking behaviour with selected socio-demographical variables among male and female adults

N=80

Sample characteristics	Male Adults			Female Adults		
	n	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD
1. Age						
a) 18-19	17	48	5.47	12	45.50	11.20
b) 20-21	18	49.50	4.93	21	48.05	11.37

c) 21-22	3	45.33	6.35	6	50	8.74
d) >23	2	51.50	0.71	1	49	0
		df=3,36	F=0.85 ^{NS}		df=3,36	F=0.25 ^{NS}
2. Religion						
a) Sikh	16	49	5.23	10	48.10	10.66
b) Hindu	24	48.42	5.22	30	47.43	10.85
		df=38	t=0.34 ^{NS}		df=38	t=0.16 ^{NS}
3. Area of Residence						
a) Rural	25	48.84	5.70	24	46.58	10.93
b) Urban	15	48.33	4.30	16	49.13	10.42
		df=38	t=0.29 ^{NS}		df=38	t=0.73 ^{NS}
4. Type of family						
a) Nuclear	31	49.45	5.06	20	47.90	11.07
b) Joint	9	45.89	4.81	20	47.30	10.53
		df=38	t=1.879 ^{NS}		df=38	t=0.17 ^{NS}
5. Family income (in ₹/month)						
a) <10,000	11	50.45	6.23	25	47.72	11.24
b) 10,001-20,000	14	48.71	3.65	8	47.38	9.64
c) 20,001-30,000	7	46.86	5.01	5	42.80	9.36
d) >30,000	8	47.63	6.12	2	59.00	5.66
		df=3,36	t=0.82 ^{NS}		df=3,36	t=1.11 ^{NS}
6. Parental education						
(a) Father education						
a) No formal education	5	47.80	3.96	3	48.67	18.01
b) Up to 10 th	18	49.33	5.46	4	38.25	9.60
c) Up to 12 th	7	49.43	5.09	17	47.59	10
d) Graduation	9	46.44	5.20	9	50.67	8.79
e) Postgraduate & above	1	55	0	7	48.57	11.91
		df=4,35	F=0.934 ^{NS}		df=4,35	F=0.973 ^{NS}
(b) Mother education						
a) No formal education	9	47.78	4.29	5	50.60	9.02
b) Up to 10 th	22	49.18	5.64	25	45.28	11.64
c) Up to 12 th	4	47	4.24	7	50.86	7.76
d) Graduation	4	49	6.98	3	54.33	7.51
e) Postgraduate & above	1	50	0	0	0.00	0.00
		df=3,36	F=0.227 ^{NS}		df=3,36	F=1.15 ^{NS}
7. Parental occupation						
(a) Father occupation						
a) Unemployed	2	43	1.41	4	51.50	1.29
b) Government job	8	48.50	7.19	3	48	14.80
c) Private job	6	50	3.74	6	44.50	6.38
d) Self-employed	13	49.15	4.58	6	52.33	11.48
e) Laborer	11	48.45	5.26	21	46.33	11.93
		df=4,35	F=0.715 ^{NS}		df=4,35	F=0.605 ^{NS}
7.2 Mother occupation						
a) Homemaker	34	49.35	5.24	37	46.97	10.74
b) Government job	1	44	0	1	50	0

c) Private job	0	0	0	1	53	0
d) Self-employed	1	48	0	1	63	0
e) Laborer	4	44	1.63	0	0	0
		df=3,36	F=1.642 ^{NS}		df=3,36	F=0.828 ^{NS}
8.Source of information						
a) T.V/Radio	7	50.57	7.14	14	41.29	10.77
b) Newspaper	4	49.50	7.33	6	49.83	11.75
c) Internet	27	48.67	3.86	13	49.92	8.65
d) Other sources	2	40.00	2.83	7	54.00	8.16
		df=3,36	F=2.41 ^{NS}		df=3,36	F=3.345 ^{NS}

Non – Significant at $p < 0.05$ level

*=Significant at $p < 0.05$ level

Discussion

As per present study half of male adults i.e.87% (35) had Moderately risky behaviour, followed by 8%(3) had Extremely risky while only 5% (2) had Not at all risky behaviour.

A similar study was conducted by Buswell and James in 2006 examined students who were attending a mid-size university and majority in health, physical education, recreation and elementary education concerning their risk taking behaviour interests and preferences.332 students completed a written survey consisting of a set of demographic questions and 40 forced choice items from the risk taking behaviour scale .Analysis was completed using a two way mixed model ANOVA, which indicated that males scored significantly higher on the risk taking behaviour scale. A comparative cross sectional study was conducted among 306 adolescents by multistage sampling from two selected schools with involvement of their parents. Results: The prevalence of risk taking behaviours was 81.7% in the urban and 83.7% in the rural area ($p = 0.650$). Parental background factors such as parent's education level, marital status, health status, and income were unrelated with risk taking behaviour among adolescents. The multiple logistic regression test showed that being a male (AOR = 4.55, 95% CI = 2.28–9.07), inadequate number of bedrooms (AOR = 11.54, 95% CI = 1.48–89.75), and presence of family conflict (AOR = 3.64, 95% CI = 1.49–8.89) were the predictors among adolescents for risk taking behaviour in rural areas. It concluded that the absence of a balanced healthy family and conducive environment can lead to a negative influence towards adolescent behaviour, which may affect both the individual and community.³

The mean score of risk taking behaviour among male adults 48.65 which is more than that of female adults mean scores i.e. 47.60. A comparative study was conducted on adventure seeking by using Zukerman adventure seeking scale. Adventure seeking scale is divided into four subscale, namely, thrill, and adventure seeking, distribution experience seeking, and boredom susceptibility. They choose a normative sample from university of Dalaware's undergraduate student which consist of 410 men and 807 women i.e. total sample was 1217 and age group was 17 to 23. Characteristics and systematic factor are studied to explain the gender difference in choosing adventure seeking level. Results indicated higher level of adventure seeking among males than in females.⁴

In present study, according to age , in male adults 51.50 were the highest mean score in the age group of >23years , 49.50 adults were among age group of 20-21 years , 48.00 adults were among age group of 18-19 years and 45.33 were in the age group 22-23 .In female adults highest means score 50.00 were in age group of 22-23 years , 49.00 adults were among age group >23 , the minimum mean score 48.05 were having 20-21 years of age group and 45.50 mean score were in the age group 20-21 years. The relationship of mean scores of risk

taking behaviour male and female according to age was found statistically non significant at $p < 0.05$ level.

According to religion, highest mean score of 49.00 was found among male adults who were Sikhs and 48.42 was obtained who were Hindu religion. 48.10 were the highest mean score in female was obtained by subjects who were Sikhs and 47.43 was obtained by subjects who were Hindu religion. The relationship of mean scores of risk taking behaviour among male and female adults according to religion was found statistically non significant at $p < 0.05$.

According to area of residence maximum mean score i.e. 48.84 were found among male adults and 48.84 in urban area of male adults. On the other hand area of residence 49.13 were the mean score of urban area of female adults and 46.58 in rural area of female adults. The relationship of mean scores of risk taking behaviour among male and female adults area of residence was found statistically non significant at $p < 0.05$ level.

The finding of study were consistent by the Kish, George B; Busse, William on relation of individual differences in the risk taking scale score to various measures. Using hospitalized alcoholics, and college students, the following relationship were found: (1) risk taking was positively related to educational attainment, intelligence level, and was negatively related to age, i.e. risk taking behaviour decrease with increased age. (2) No relationship was found between to risk taking scores and rural- urban factors.

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