

## Research Article

# Sociocultural Context of Suicidal Behaviour in the Sundarban Region of India

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The role of mental illness in nonfatal deliberate self-harm (DSH) is controversial, especially in Asian countries. This prospective study examined the role of psychiatric disorders, underlying social and situational problems, and triggers of DSH in a sample of 89 patients hospitalised in primary care hospitals of the Sundarban Delta, India. Data were collected by using a specially designed DSH register, Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (EMIC), and clinical interviews. Psychiatric diagnosis was made following the DSM-IV guidelines. The majority of subjects were young females (74.2%) and married (65.2%). Most of them (69.7%) were uncertain about their "intention to die," and pesticide poisoning was the commonest method (95.3%). Significant male-female differences were found with respect to education level, occupation, and venue of the DSH attempt. Typical stressors were conflict with spouse, guardians, or in-laws, extramarital affairs, chronic physical illness, and failed love affairs. The major depressive disorder (34.6%) was the commonest psychiatric diagnosis followed by adjustment disorder (6.7%); however 60.7% of the cases had no psychiatric illness. Stressful life situations coupled with easy access to lethal pesticides stood as the risk factor. The sociocultural dynamics behind suicidal behaviour and community-specific social stressors merit detailed assessment and timely psychosocial intervention. These findings will be helpful to design community-based mental health clinical services and community action in the region.

## 1. Introduction

Presently both fatal and nonfatal deliberate self-harm (DSH) are major public health concerns globally. Fatal DSH (i.e., suicidal death) accounted for more than 900,000 lives lost in 1995 [1]. The rate of non-fatal DSH is 10 times more than fatal DSH [2]. In India, the suicide rate is approximately 11.6 per 100,000 populations [3]. Research has revealed that young age, female sex, low educational level [4], being married [5], and housewife status [6] are potential risk factors for both fatal and non-fatal DSH. Several studies also document psychiatric illness, especially major depression, as associated with DSH behaviour [7, 8]. However, the relationship between suicidal behaviour and designated psychiatric illnesses is a matter of great controversy. Unlike some western

studies [9–11] in which psychiatric and personality disorders are referred to as predominant DSH antecedents, some Indian urban studies [12, 13] have pointed out that many people who come to clinical attention after DSH do not have any designated Axis I (DSM-IV) psychiatric disorder; rather they are stressed by psychosocial factors like adjustment problems or social and situational factors. Few recent western and other studies also highlighted the fact that mental health factors are "not the sole indicators of risk of self-harm" [14, 15]; on the contrary, the life events and psychosocial factors [16] play a significant role in DSH behaviours. Detailed psychiatric assessment of self-harm patients is always difficult, and especially so at the primary care level. There is no convincing data available till date to comment on the relation of designated

# Suicidal Behaviour In The Asiapacific Region

**S. M. Yasir Arafat, Sujita Kumar Kar**



## **Suicidal Behaviour In The Asiapacific Region:**

**Suicidal Behaviour in the Asia-Pacific Region** Lee Peng Kok, Wen-Shing Tseng, 1992 In addition to various biological and psychological factors sociocultural factors have a tremendous impact on suicidal behaviour It is therefore possible to examine patterns of suicidal behaviour as observed in various sociocultural environments Asia and Pacific societies have many unique features history culture geographic background and recent economic development This book examines and compares for the first time suicidal behaviour among the various societies in these regions which include Japan Korea mainland China Taiwan Hong Kong the Philippines Thailand Singapore Malaysia Indonesia and Hawaii This volume should be of value to health professionals and administrators mental health workers employers as well as the general public

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**Clinician's Guide to Cultural Psychiatry** Wen-Shing Tseng, 2003-05-07 Increasingly psychologists are becoming aware of sensitivity needs with respect to treating patients from differing cultures Culture can play an important role both in what a patient discloses about themselves how likely they are to follow a therapist's advice and whether specific therapies are likely to be effective for them Following on the heels of Tseng's Handbook of Cultural Psychiatry comes this Clinical Application of Cultural Psychiatry This more concise book focuses on information most relevant to treating patients The book discusses how culture plays a role in specific disorders depression anxiety eating and sexual disorders substance abuse schizophrenia etc relevant sensitivities to keep in mind in treating specific patient populations age groups differing religions and differing ethnicity's Written by a nationally and internationally recognized scholar clinician and author Has the proper combination of knowledge skill and conceptual discussion for clinical practicalities Provides comprehensive and systematic coverage of major topics for clinical application Enhanced by more than 120 tables and figures and nearly 30 case illustrations Will serve as a major textbook in the training of psychiatric residents and clinical psychologists

**The International Handbook of Suicide and Attempted Suicide** Keith Hawton, Kees van Heeringen, 2000-11-21 Recent research in the area of suicidology has provided significant new insights in the epidemiological psychopathological and biological characteristics of suicidal behaviour The International Handbook of Suicide and Attempted Suicide is the first book to bring together this expertise and translate it into practical guidelines for those responsible for policy issues and for those involved in the treatment and

prevention of suicidal behaviour Leading international authorities provide a truly comprehensive and research based reference to understanding treating and preventing suicidal behaviour They explore concepts and theories which best guide work within this field and detail key research which has supported conceptual developments preventive interventions and clinical treatment No self respecting worker in deliberate self harm and suicide prevention either clinical or research can afford to be without access to this comprehensive handbook possession and regular use may well become a marker of serious involvement in the subject This is the most comprehensive up to date informative and well written source of information on suicide and suicidal behaviour an invaluable work of reference which will be essential for clinicians and researchers for many years to come Andrew Sims Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry St James s University Hospital Leeds UK British Journal of Psychiatry

**Handbook of Cultural Psychiatry** Wen-Shing Tseng, 2001-06-06 Cultural psychiatry is primarily concerned with the transcultural aspects of mental health related to human behavior psychopathology and treatment At a clinical level cultural psychiatry aims to promote culturally relevant mental health care for patients of diverse ethnic or cultural backgrounds From the standpoint of research cultural psychiatry is interested in studying how ethnic or cultural factors may influence human behavior and psychopathology as well as the art of healing On a theoretical level cultural psychiatry aims to expand the knowledge and theories about mental health related human behavior and mental problems by widening the sources of information and findings transculturally and providing cross cultural validation This work represents the first comprehensive attempt to pull together the clinical research and theoretical findings in a single volume Key Features Written by a nationally and internationally well known author and scholar The material focuses not only on the United States but also on various cultural settings around the world so that the subject matter can be examined broadly from universal as well as cross cultural perspectives Proper combination of clinical practicalities and conceptual discussion Serves as a major source for use in the training of psychiatric residents and mental health personnel as well as students of behavior science in the areas of culture and mental health A total of 50 chapters with detailed cross referencing Nearly 2000 references plus an appendix of almost 400 books 130 tables and figures

**Suicide in Asia** Paul S.F. YIP, 2008-09-01 Over one million people worldwide commit suicide every year and more than 60% of suicide deaths occur in Asia However very little reliable information is available to permit a good understanding of the multifaceted and complex issues involved in suicide prevention in the region This book provides detailed analyses of suicide in eight Asian societies While each society has its own unique characteristics Asia as a whole is under rapid transition and transformation and the associated stress and depression are both closely linked to suicide Hopefully a better evidence based understanding of suicide will enable governments and non government organizations to establish effective and culturally sensitive suicide prevention strategies for the region

*Suicide in Twentieth-Century Japan* Francesca Di Marco, 2016-01-29 Japan s suicide phenomenon has fascinated both the media and academics although many questions and paradoxes embedded in the debate on suicide have remained

unaddressed in the existing literature including the assumption that Japan is a Suicide Nation This tendency causes common misconceptions about the suicide phenomenon and its features Aiming to redress the situation this book explores how the idea of suicide in Japan was shaped reinterpreted and reinvented from the 1900s to the 1980s Providing a timely contribution to the underexplored history of suicide it also adds to the current heated debates on the contemporary way we organize our thoughts on life and death health and wealth on the value of the individual and on gender The book explores the genealogy and development of modern suicide in Japan by examining the ways in which beliefs about the nation s character historical views of suicide and the cultural legitimation of voluntary death acted to influence even the scientific conceptualization of suicide in Japan It thus unveils the way in which the language on suicide was transformed throughout the century according to the fluctuating relationship between suicide and the discourse on national identity and pathological and cultural narratives In doing so it proposes a new path to understanding the norms and mechanisms of the process of the conceptualization of suicide itself Filling in a critical gap in three particular fields of historical study the history of suicide the history of death and the cultural history of twentieth century Japan it will be of great interest to students and scholars of Japanese Studies and Japanese History **Asia-Pacific Population Journal** ,1998 **Suicide Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups**

Frederick T.L. Leong,Mark M. Leach,2010-04-15 Suicide Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups pulls together cutting edge empirical research from general cultural diversity literature and applies it to suicide assessment treatment and prevention theory and practice By looking outside of the limited cross cultural studies done within suicidal populations the contributors all established experts in both multicultural counseling and suicidology expand the available empirical literature base in order to provide a deeper look into how culture can act as an important catalyst in suicidal intentions Culture And Psychopathology: A Guide To Clinical Assessment Wen-Shing Tseng,Jon Strelzer,2013-06-17 published in 1997 Culture and Psychopathology A Guide To Clinical Assessment is a valuable contribution to the field of Psychiatry Clinical Psychology

**Handbook of Multicultural Mental Health** Freddy A. Paniagua,Ann-Marie Yamada,2013-07-19 The Handbook of Multicultural Mental Health Second Edition discusses the impact of cultural ethnic and racial variables for the assessment diagnosis treatment service delivery and development of skills for working with culturally diverse populations Intended for the mental health practitioner the book translates research findings into information to be applied in practice The new edition contains more than 50% new material and includes contributions from established leaders in the field as well as voices from rising stars in the area It recognizes diversity as extending beyond race and ethnicity to reflect characteristics or experiences related to gender age religion disability and socioeconomic status Individuals are viewed as complex and shaped by different intersections and salencies of multiple elements of diversity Chapters have been wholly revised and updated and new coverage includes indigenous approaches to assessment diagnosis and treatment of mental and physical disorders spirituality the therapeutic needs of culturally diverse clients with intellectual developmental and physical disabilities suicide

among racial and ethnic groups multicultural considerations for treatment of military personnel and multicultural curriculum and training Foundations overview of theory and models Specialized assessment in a multicultural context Assessing and treating four major culturally diverse groups in clinical settings Assessing and treating other culturally diverse groups in clinical settings Specific conditions presenting problems in a cultural context Multicultural competence in clinical settings

**Ageing in the Asia-Pacific Region** David R. Phillips, 2002-11 First Published in 2004 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company

**Suicidal Behaviour, Bereavement and Death Education in Chinese Adolescents** John W.L. Tse, Christopher Bagley, 2018-02-06 This title was first published in 2002 Why are rates of suicidal behaviour in Chinese adolescents so high What factors in school community family and interpersonal relationships cause this tragedy Using key new research from leading researchers and social workers with first hand knowledge of these problems in Hong Kong this enthralling study examines those most at risk and signposts the most effective interventions in therapy and strategic prevention programmes The result is a highly original and readable account which will be compulsive reading for social workers and academics around the world

**Suicide and Suicide Prevention From a Global Perspective** Ella Arensman, Diego De Leo, Jane Pirkis, 2020-04-06 Suicide is one of the most personal yet one of the most complex acts anyone can perform and it continues to be a major global public health problem with an estimated 800 000 deaths annually Suicide prevention is an important target in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals SDGs for 2030 which aims to reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one third Suicide is a global problem but what differences are there is the challenges faced and the solutions found regionally Written by leading experts the nine chapters of this volume provide a clear outline of the major milestones and achievements that have been reached so far in six different geographical regions according to data collated by IASP and the WHO Recent progress in the development and implementation of national suicide prevention programs in different countries is also explored In two concluding chapters the evidence base and best practice of suicide prevention programs are reviewed as well as a look at the future directions for suicide prevention at the global level This is essential reading for all those involved in suicide research and prevention as well as public health policy and epidemiology who want to keep up to date with the latest global developments

**Suicidal Behavior in Muslim Majority Countries** S. M. Yasir Arafat, Mohsen Rezaeian, Murad M. Khan, 2024-06-07 The book is about suicidal behavior in Muslim majority countries Islam is the second largest religion in the world There are also sizable Muslim populations in non Islamic countries Suicide is strongly prohibited in Islam and based on this tenet suicide and self harm remain criminalized acts in many Islamic countries When compared to the global estimates for suicide rates and to non Islamic countries Muslim majority countries have lower rates indicating that Islamic faith and practice may be protective against suicidal behaviors However several factors such as criminal status stigma toward suicide extreme dearth of research low quality data and under reporting make it difficult to draw any firm conclusions Hence this book aims to do a deeper study of suicidal behaviors in

Muslim majority countries covering epidemiology risk factors and the challenges of suicide prevention in Muslim majority countries

**Kaplan and Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry: Behavioral Sciences/Clinical Psychiatry** Benjamin J. Sadock, Virginia A. Sadock, Pedro Ruiz, 2014-09-22 Synopsis of Psychiatry Behavioral Sciences Clinical Psychiatry 11th Edition is the only authoritative textbook for clinicians residents and students covering all psychiatric conditions It is a complete concise overview of the entire field of psychiatry for psychiatrists in training and practice and all others who study and provide mental health care Its multidisciplinary approach encompasses the biological psychological and sociological factors at work in health and disease The latest information about specific diseases psychopharmacotherapeutic and behavioral treatments and scientific research is incorporated into this revision ICD International Classification of Disease World Health Organization diagnostic criteria and numerical codes used for reimbursement purposes are included Case studies throughout reinforce the clinical relevance of specific topics The 11th edition is set apart from any other reference you have Contains DSM5 tables on every major psychiatric disorder Use it to supplement the DSM5 offering current diagnostic and treatment protocols Over 50 years of compounded knowledge in psychiatric medicine offered by world renowned experts

*Ecological and Social Determinants of Suicidal Behavior* S. M. Yasir Arafat, Sujita Kumar Kar, 2025-06-12 This book discusses the association between ecological and social determinants and suicidal behavior Suicidal behavior is an extremely complex human behavior It is an outcome of complex interactions among multiple factors like gene and environment biopsychosocial proximal and distal factors Several risk factors such as psychiatric disorders life events social deprivation personality traits and disorders and substance abuse have been identified even though those vary based on culture time country and methods of assessment In recent times evidence has shown associations among ecological variables like the human development index the income of the country the GINI index educational attainment the green environment climate change and suicidal behavior At the same time there are interlinked confounding variables that challenge the findings Given the lack of literature discussing these findings this book seeks to compare and contrast the ecological aspects and suicidal behavior holistically

*Reader's Guide to the Social Sciences* Jonathan Michie, 2014-02-03 This 2 volume work includes approximately 1 200 entries in A Z order critically reviewing the literature on specific topics from abortion to world systems theory In addition nine major entries cover each of the major disciplines political economy management and business human geography politics sociology law psychology organizational behavior and the history and development of the social sciences in a broader sense

Spirituality and Psychiatry Chris Cook, Christopher C. H. Cook, Andrew Powell, Andrew Sims, 2009-06 This book explores the nature of spirituality its relationship to religion and the reasons for its importance in clinical practice Different chapters focus on the key subspecialties of psychiatry including psychotherapy child and adolescent psychiatry intellectual disability psychiatry substance misuse psychiatry and old age psychiatry

**Suicidal Behaviour** Updesh Kumar, 2014-11-13 Suicidal Behaviour Underlying dynamics is a wide ranging collection of articles that builds upon an earlier volume by the same editor

Suicidal Behaviour Assessment of people at risk 2010 and delves deeper into the dynamics of suicide by synthesizing significant psychological and interdisciplinary perspectives The volume brings together varied conceptualizations by scholars across disciplines from around the globe thereby adding on to the available theoretical understandings as well as providing research based inputs for practitioners in the field of suicidal behaviour This book contains sixteen chapters divided into two broad sections The volume opens with a discussion about the Theoretical Underpinnings of suicidal behaviour spread through the initial eight chapters that conceptualize the phenomenon from different vantage points of genetics personality theory cognitive and affective processes stress and assessment theories The second section brings in the Varied Research Evidences and Assessment Perspectives from different populations and groups Building upon the theoretical foundations the chapters in this section discuss the nuances of dealing with suicidal behaviours among sexual minority populations alcoholics military personnel and within in specific socio cultural groups The section closes with an intense focus on a significant issue encountered often in clinical practice that of assessment of suicide risk and ways of resolving the cultural ethical and legal dilemmas



Suicidal Behaviour In The Asiapacific Region: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have charmed audiences this year. Suicidal Behaviour In The Asiapacific Region : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Suicidal Behaviour In The Asiapacific Region : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens crafts a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of engaging stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and gripping novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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