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**TITLE: " A STUDY OF COPING MECHANISM, SUICIDAL IDEATION AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT OF HIV INFECTED AND CANCER PATIENTS"**

**Abstract:** The present study has been designed to investigate the relationship among Coping Mechanism, Suicide Ideation, and Social Adjustment in HIV – infected, Cancer patients and disease free group. Total sample of the present study comprise 120 subjects; age range of the sample was 30-40. This sample size is further categorized into three groups. The obtained data will be analyzed by t-test, correlation and ANOVA techniques. The present study provides the significant differences among the group and gender on different dimension of coping mechanism, suicidal ideation and social adjustment.

**Findings:** Cancer and HIV are a universal problem and a leading cause of death in many different parts of the world. Since these diseases are more or less life threatening, persons living with these diseases are confronted not only with the disease but also to various threats to their physical, social, mental and sexual existence throughout the disease period. The impact of any potentially stressful event is substantially influenced by how a person appraises the events which have occurred in their lives (Straub, 1979). Although a number of studies have been conducted on patients with such diseases and its psychological correlates, the present study has been designed to investigate the relationship among Suicide Ideation, Coping Mechanism, and Social Adjustment in HIV – infected, Cancer patients and disease free group.

Total participants of the present study had 120 subjects, 40 each in three groups, i.e., cancer, HIV and disease free group. The patients groups was selected out of the patient seeking treatment from different Hospitals like Ram Manohar Lohia, Delhi, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital Shadara, Delhi and different NGO's.

The privacy of patients taken for the study was respected as much as possible as the patients was approached by the candidate of the oncologists at the treatment centre informed all the cancer patients about the purpose of the study and invited them to participate.

After analyzing the results, it can be reported from chapter: 4, table: that significant main effect were found among group (i.e., HIV-infected, Cancer patients and Disease free) on Humor, Using emotional support, Self-blame, Suicidal ideation, Emotional maladjustment and Social adjustment and significant main effect of Gender were found on substance use, and emotional maladjustment (i.e., Male and Female). Similarly, interactional effects were found significant on Emotional maladjustment. Table revealed that no significant main effects were found among group and gender (i.e., HIV-infected, Cancer patients and Disease free) on the other dimension of coping mechanism at 0.05 level of significant.

Further, to find out the relationship between dependent and independent variables the statistical method of correlation was used. In chapter 4, table: 4.41 to 4.46 correlation among different dimension of coping mechanism, suicidal ideation and dimension of social adjustment in HIV/AIDS-infected, Cancer patient and Disease free group (male & female) shows that there was significant correlation between different dimensions of coping mechanism. Further, table showed suicidal ideation and dimensions of coping mechanism was significantly positively and negatively correlated. Similarly, significant positive and negative correlation was found between different dimension of coping and Emotional maladjustment. Further, significant positive correlation was found between suicidal and emotional maladjustment at 0.05 levels of significance.

This study may help in future research as well as in formulating various intervention strategies targeting the source of stress, using good coping skills to fight with the life threatening disease, enhance their coping to reduce suicide ideation and improve their adjustment in life and society. The study will contribute significantly to the available literature.

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