

Effect of Age on Death Anxiety

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to investigate the mean difference between the differed age group and their death anxiety. The total sample consisted of 250 male subjects with the age range of 18-65 year of Amreli city. The research tool used to elicit information was Thakur death anxiety scale. The collected data were analyze using 't' test. The interpretation of the results indicated that there was significant mean difference between the low and middle age group and low and high age group and their death anxiety. There is no significant mean difference between the middle and high age group and their death anxiety.

Keywords: Death Anxiety.

I. INTRODUCTION

Death anxiety is common in the society. A high degree of death anxiety results in poor adjustment. Right the beginning of life, everybody is acquainted with fact that death is sure to come yet they try their best to avoid this reality. This evidence rather leads to on anxiety of death. Death which is supposed to be annihilation and extinction of existence. The fear of death is a universal phenomenon present amounts people of all age, religion and belief. But the intensity of anxiety is not equal for everybody.

Accounting to Harland (1964) death is "a cardinal condition of existence" and Jung (1959) says that the meaning of life is death. Fiefel and Heller (1989) hold death to be 'an absent -present' which is present even before it's arrival. Anxiety originates from two sources. i.e. Organism and Environmental. Watson (1925) explained fear to be an emotion which is innate and uncured.

Out of these the clinical literature has placed death anxiety in the category of neurotic anxiety. Literally neurotic anxiety is said to be a fear because of which the instincts of the person gets out of control. This anxiety is enhanced by suppressed conscious expectations, suffering emotions, mourning guilt, disappointments etc.

But Freud, however said that the in born instincts of person play a far more importance role in the dynamics

of personality rather than the external or environmental level. But a person moves towards abnormality regarding death anxiety due to Psychological factors.

The mental deficiency cause death fear in an individual in greater extant. In such situation person becomes prone to death anxiety.

Death anxiety cannot be dealt with significant psychological technique when it becomes pathological and clinical problem. Death anxiety is common and general phenomenon but when, it becomes an abnormal mental tendency it is more disastrous and dangerous for one's mental health. It makes the individual helpless, invalid and incapable. Such persons cannot face the problem of life in a healthy and adjusting manner.

Objective:

The objective of the study was to find out the impact of age on death anxiety

Hypotheses:

1. There is no significant mean difference between low and middle age group and their death anxiety.
2. There is no significant mean difference between middle and high age group and their death anxiety.
3. There is no significant mean difference between low and high age group and their death anxiety.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sample:

250 male subjects with the age range of 18-65 year constituted the sample of this study. The sample consisted of the Amreli city.

Data collection:

The aim of study was to ascertain the effect of age on death anxiety. For the measurement of Thakur death anxiety scale was administered. The scale had shown sufficient reliability and validity on Indian sample.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To study the age on death anxiety the data were analyzed using 't' test of significance. Age had three groups, viz. low aged, middle and old aged group. Mean scores of age dimensions were reported in the table given below.

Table 1. Mean comparisons of low and middle aged group and death anxiety.

Group	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Low	125	26.22	8.7	3.61	248	<.01
middle	125	30.01	8.21			

The examination of table 01 indicates that the differences between the mean of low and middle aged group are significant for death anxiety (at.0.01 level). The middle aged group has significantly higher mean for death anxiety than the low aged group. The mean value of the low aged was 26.22 with 8.7 SD and the middle aged group was 30.01 with 8.21 SD. It might be inferred that person of middle aged group has developed fear of death anxiety as compared to persons with low aged group. The hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2. Mean comparisons of middle and high aged group and death anxiety.

Group	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Middle						

	125	30.01	9.7	0.92	248	NS
High	125	31.11	8.9			

A look into the table 02 would further revealed that another comparison viz.the middle aged group Vs the high aged group did not differ significantly on the mean value of death anxiety. The 't' value of 0.92 was not significant at <.01 level. The mean value of high aged group was 31.11 with 8.9 SD and the middle aged group was 30.01 with 9.7 SD. The difference observed in the two means had come due to change factor. It might therefore, be inferred that the two groups had developed death anxiety fear. The hypothesis is accepted.

Table 3. Mean comparisons of low and high aged group and death anxiety.

Group	N	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Low	125	26.22	7.6	5.82	248	<.01
High	125	31.11	6.2			

It would be clear from table 03 that the low and high aged groups did differ significantly on mean scores on the death anxiety scale. The 't' value of the score 5.82 was significant at 0.01 level and the low aged group was 26.22 with 7.6 SD. It might be,therefore,inferred that the low aged group had less fear of death as compared to high aged group. The hypothesis is rejected.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the present study the following conclusions were drawn.

1. The low aged people had less fear of death than the middle aged people.
2. The middle aged people and the high aged people had approximately a similar attitude towards death anxiety as compared to the low aged people.
3. The high aged people had most death anxiety than the low and middle aged people.

V. REFERENCES

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