Study of Relationship Between Humor Styles and Attitude Toward Suicide with Psychological Well-Being in Teenagers

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To cite this article:

Abstract: The adolescence is considered a dangerous period for the suicide. In this period, the suicide commitment as a behavior sometimes is regarded as a solution for the mental and external conflicts. The suicide is of mental health problems. The researches done in the case of suicide study three crucial phenomena including suicidal thoughts, attempting suicide and suicide itself. The present research aims to study the relationship between the humor styles and attitude toward suicide with the psychological well-being in the teenagers. Descriptive- surveying method has been applied in this study. The statistic population of present study includes all the male and female teenagers of Zahedan city during the school year 2018-19. The studied sample was selected by random sampling and Cochran formula that its volume was equal to 270 members. The tools used for collecting data were the questionnaires including Martin and his colleagues’ questionnaire (1998) and Multi-Attitude Suicide Tendency Scale (MAST) questionnaire presented by Orbach and his colleagues. SPSS25 software was used for analyzing the data. According to the descriptive statistics of the data, among the dimensions of humor styles and dimensions of attitude toward suicide, the most average is related to the self-defeating style and the affiliative style, respectively. The results of data analysis confirmed all the existing hypotheses and revealed that there is relationship between the humor styles and the attitude toward suicide with the psychological well-being in the teenagers.

Keywords: Low Humor, Suicide, Psychological Well-Being

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduce the Problem

Nowadays, the individuals make their maximum effort to access a comfortable and appropriate life. In such situations in which the human being encounters constantly to the economic developments and social revolutions, there exist many individuals who suffer the mental problems such as stress, anxiety and other emotional problems which are resulted in losing the tolerance and self-confidence in some of them. Ultimately, these individuals try to leave their life because of severity of social and mental pressures and commit the suicide [1].

According to the World Health Organization, every year almost one million people die by suicide around the world, and it is the second leading cause of death in the 15 to 19 years age group [2]. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death worldwide [3]. Approximately 800,000 persons die from
suicide each year, which is more than one suicide per minute [2]. According to Akotia et al [4], the reasons of suicide attempting include:

1) lack of support; 2) abandonment; 3) shame; 4) existential struggles; and 5) supernatural reasons.

Suicide ideation is a multifaceted issue that involves bio-psychosocial and cultural factors. As Park [5] pointed out, suicidal ideation precedes suicidal acts, so the identification of predictors of ideation might lead to a better understanding of suicide risk, and it may help to prevent suicide [5].

If the teenager attempt the suicide, there are always the cultural shackles for encountering that. The learning theory emphasizes the individual's reactions in the etiology of suicidal behavior [6].

Enhanced psychological resilience may help to reduce the incidence of suicide ideation in adolescents [7]. The humor and its different styles is the other phenomenon which has recently attracted the attention of many individuals and is not unrelated to the research variables. The humor is a coping strategy against the tension which is regarded as a mechanism against the anxiety and is expressed as a method for solving the life difficulties. Indeed, it is a survival skill for distancing from a problem [8]. The humor styles were introduced for the first time by Martin [9]. He has categorized that into four styles: 1- self- enhancing style, 2- affiliative style, 3- aggressive style, 4- self- defeating style. The researches indicate that the adaptive humor correlates with the mental health [10]. The humor has positive consequences of which it can be referred to the contentment, satisfaction, compatibility with physical inabilities, satisfaction with life, encountering with the stress and the individual's protection against diseases such as cancer and suicide prevention. The people require a meaningful life, they don't want to awake with a sense of depression and live their lifetime with irritation and disturbance. The historical evidence and daily life experience indicate that the most salient human attitudes is the access to the welfare and happiness [11].

Factors such as material deprivation, family financial strain, parental well-being and experience of being bullied emerge as important in the analysis [12]. Physical and psychosocial changes during adolescence could influence the psychological well-being.

1.2. Explore Importance of the Problem

With regard to the positive aspects of psychological health, the concept of psychological well- being is a multi- element concept including the self- acceptance and positive relation with others, self- autonomy, environmental mastery, purposeful life and personal growth that special attention has been paid to that and positive mental health in recent decades. Riff's model is one of most important models in the psychological well- being. Riff considers the psychological well- being as an effort for the fulfillment of the individual's potential real abilities [28].

Armsden and Greenberg [29] used self-esteem, life satisfaction and affect to indicate adolescents’psychological well-being; Shek [13] examined hopelessness, purpose in life and general psychiatric morbidity in addition to life satisfaction and self-esteem in a series of studies about psychological well-being of adolescents. The effects of a peer’s suicide on adolescents’ mental health problems and suicide risk has been the focus of myriad studies. The majority of cross-sectional analyses examining adolescents’ exposure to a peer’s suicidal behavior have found a significant association with adolescent suicidal ideation and attempts [14, 15], examined hopelessness, purpose in life and general psychiatric morbidity in addition to life satisfaction and self-esteem in a series of studies about psychological well-being of adolescents. Some other indicators have also been adopted, such as mental health, hope, anxiety and depression [16-18]. Much research has been done on these variables [19-26].

But the relationship between these three variables has been studied in no research in this form. It is obvious that the prevention or treatment approaches can have positive effects on the individuals' psychological well- being. With regard to the studies done in the case of suicide, the life of human beings is changed and the suicide has been increased in comparison to the past years. The number of teenagers' suicides has been three- to four- fold during the past [27]. Regarding what was said, because the adolescence is the period of severe crises and involves different challenges, so it requires specific cares in the social environment and family. If the humor elements in the teenagers and their attitude toward suicide be recognized, it can be expected that their mental health and psychological well- being would be positively improved, they would easily encounter the crisis of this period and balance their life as possible.

A lack of systematic approach to investigating psychological well-being may be due to the absence of sound theoretical framework of psychological well-being in adolescent studies.

So, the recognition of factors effective on suicide would help the healers to take required measures in their clinical services in the control of these factors. On the other side, increase of amount of suicide among this group of people reveals the necessity of such researches. In this respect, the present research aims to answer this question that is there relationship between the humor styles and attitude toward suicide with the psychological well- being among the teenagers?

1.3. State Hypotheses and Their Correspondence to Research Design

The problem with this research can be summed up in the following hypotheses:

There is a relationship between attitude styles and suicide and humor jokes and psychological well-being.

Humorous styles can predict suicidal ideation.

Humorous styles predict psychological well-being.

The dimensions of psychological well-being predict a suicidal attitude
2. Method

The present research is a descriptive-surveying applied study that is based on the recognition of relationship between the variables. The statistic population of present research includes all the 15 to 17 years old teenagers (male and female) in Zahedan city during the school year 2018-19.

2.1. Participant (Subject) Characteristics

Adolescent selection was not based on specific input criteria based on gender. All stages of the study were discussed with the parents of the adolescents, and those who wished to have their child participate in the study signed a conscious consent before the study began.

2.2. Sampling Procedures

At first, from among three districts of Zahedan city, district 1 and from among nine regions of this city, region 1 were selected by cluster random sampling. Then, from among the secondary schools of mentioned region, 9 schools were randomly selected. Three classed were selected from every school and, regarding the majors existing in secondary school, 10 students were randomly selected. With regard to the aforementioned calculations, the research sample includes 270 male and female teenager students (junior and senior) from among all the majors (experimental sciences, mathematics and human sciences) that are educating during the school year 2018-19 in the region 1 of education department in Zahedan city. The sample includes 270 students of secondary schools. From among them, 144 and 126 students are female and male, respectively. 89, 98, and 83 students respectively are 15, 16, and 17 years old. In this study, Martin and his colleagues' (1988) humor styles standard questionnaire, multi-attitude suicide tendency scale (MAST) and Ryff [33] psychological well-being scale were used as tools for collecting data from the selected sample.

2.3. Measures and Covariates

1. Ryff Psychological Welfare Scale [33]: The 18-page short version of the Reef Psychological Welfare Scale was designed by Reef in 1989 and revised in 2002. This questionnaire has 18 questions and its purpose is to evaluate and evaluate psychological well-being from various dimensions including: independence, mastery. It is about the environment, personal growth, positive communication with others, purposefulness in life, self-acceptance. The correlation of the short version of the Rif psychological well-being scale with the main scale varies from 0.7-0.89. In general, by juxtaposing the results of various studies, it can be concluded that Form 18 of the Welfare Question has a high internal validity and similarity. Its scoring range is based on the six-choice Likert range.

2. Martin and his colleagues’ [34] humor styles standard questionnaire: The Joke Styles Questionnaire was designed by [34] This questionnaire has 32 items and 4 factors. Identify each item in the five-part Likert range from very low (score 1) to very high (score 5).

Humor styles: Humor is a positive and inclusive activity that people from social and cultural backgrounds around the world experience. The term refers to a quality of action, speech, writing that entertains and entertains. Humor is defined as a person's habitual differences in behaviors, experiences, emotions, attitudes, and ability to engage in entertainment, laughter, joking, and so on.

Operational Definition of Variable Questionnaire: In this study, humor means a score that the respondents give to the 32-item questions of humor.

Validity or validity deals with the extent to which a measuring instrument measures what we think [30]. In the research [31] the validity of the questionnaire has been confirmed by professors and experts in this field. The questionnaire is scored in the range of 5 point Likert.

3. Multi-attitude suicide tendency scale (MAST): MAST Suicide Scale (MAST) was developed by Orbach and et al [32] with 30 items and 4 subscales of life attraction, non-acceptance of life, attraction of death, and The non-acceptance of death is formed to measure adolescent suicidal ideation.

Operational definition: In this study, the standard score for suicidal ideation is the score that a person gives to a 30-item questionnaire of Orbach et al.

In Orbach's research, the instrument has a good internal consistency with an alpha coefficient ranging from 0.76 (for non-acceptance of life and attraction of death) to 0.83 (for attraction of life and non-acceptance of death).

This tool has a good validity with a significant correlation between the scales of life attraction (negative) and non-acceptance of life and death attraction (positive) and the suicide risk index. Also, due to the significant differences between the three groups of healthy, suicidal tendencies and mental patients, this tool has a relatively good narrative by comparing it with the known groups as follows: In terms of life attraction, the normal group score was higher than the two groups. In the case of non-acceptance of life, all 3 groups were different, the highest scores were in the suicidal group and the lowest scores were in the normal group; and in the case of death attraction, the suicidal group was the highest.

The questionnaire is scored in the range of 5 point Likert.

3. Results

The present research aimed to study the relationship between the humor styles and attitude toward suicide with the psychological well-being in the teenagers of Zahedan city during the school year 2018-19. The results of present study are as following:

Statistics and Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using descriptive and inferential statistics using spss25 software.
The results of table 1 indicate that the relationship between attitude toward suicide and two dimensions of life non-acceptance and death attraction with the affiliative style and self-enhancing style is negative and their relationship with two aggressive and self-defeating styles is positive (P≤0.05); while the findings reveal that two dimensions of life attraction and death non-acceptance have positive relationship with two affiliative and self-enhancing styles and negative and reverse relationship with two aggressive and self-defeating styles (P≤0.05). Furthermore, the study of relationship between the psychological well-being and two elements of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life have negative relationship with the attitude toward suicide and two dimensions of life non-acceptance and death attraction and have positive relationship with two dimensions of life attraction and death non-acceptance (P≤0.05). However, the findings revealed no meaningful relationship between the elements of autonomy, environmental mastery, personal growth and self-acceptance with the attitude toward suicide and its dimensions (P>0.05). In addition, the results obtained from the study of relationship between the psychological well-being and its elements with the humor styles show that the psychological well-being, autonomy, environmental mastery, positive relation with others and purposefulness in life have positive relationships with the attitude toward suicide and two dimensions of life non-acceptance and death attraction and have positive relationship with two dimensions of life attraction and death non-acceptance (P≤0.05).
relationship with two affiliative and self-enhancing styles and negative relationship with two aggressive and self-defeating styles (P<0.05). While the results reveal the negative relationship between the personal growth with two affiliative and self-enhancing styles, its relationship with two aggressive and self-defeating styles is positive (P<0.05). Furthermore, the findings of descriptive statistic indicate that the mean of attitude toward suicide, psychological well-being, affiliative style, self-enhancing style, aggressive style and self-defeating style is respectively 4.03, 2.89, 3.40, 3.42, 4.87 and 4.72. In addition, the kurtosis and skewness indexes were used for evaluating the normality of data. As it is observed in table 1, the amount of skewness and kurtosis observed for all the variables is between -2 and +2; it indicates that the studied variables are normal in terms of skewness and kurtosis and their distribution is symmetrical.

### Table 3. Summary of linear sample regression coefficients of humor styles based on psychological well-being.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor variable</th>
<th>Criterion variable</th>
<th>β</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R²</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychological well-being</td>
<td>Affiliative style</td>
<td>1.132</td>
<td>0.339</td>
<td>0.115</td>
<td>5.894</td>
<td>0.344</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>34.744</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-enhancing style</td>
<td>1.255</td>
<td>0.379</td>
<td>0.144</td>
<td>6.712</td>
<td>0.351</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>45.050</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggressive style</td>
<td>-0.982</td>
<td>0.345</td>
<td>0.119</td>
<td>-6.022</td>
<td>0.364</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>36.263</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-defeating style</td>
<td>-1.129</td>
<td>0.380</td>
<td>0.144</td>
<td>-6.726</td>
<td>0.453</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>45.239</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As it is observed in table 3, the effect of psychological well-being on all four humor styles is meaningful. According to the findings, the effect of well-being on two affiliative and self-enhancing styles is positive and its effect on two aggressive and self-defeating styles is reverse (negative) (P<0.05; t<1.96); in such a way that it can be said: the psychological well-being with regression coefficients 0.40, 0.38, 0.35 and 0.38 respectively specifies 12, 14, 12 and 14 percent of the variance of affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive and self-defeating styles.
With regard to the results presented in table 4, it can be said that from among dimensions of psychological well-being, only two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life can predict the humor styles ($P \leq 0.05; t \geq 1.96$); while the results indicate that among dimensions of psychological well-being, four dimensions of autonomy, environmental mastery, personal growth and self-acceptance have not been recognized as the predictor of humor styles ($P > 0.05; t < 1.96$). The results of multi-regression analysis reveal that the relationship between two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life with two affiliative and self-enhancing styles is positive and their relationship with two aggressive and self-defeating styles is reverse and negative; in such a way that two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life in interaction with each other respectively with the regression coefficients 0.41, 0.47, 0.40 and 0.44 predict respectively about $17\%$, $22\%$, $16\%$ and $19\%$ of the variance of affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive and self-defeating styles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor variable</th>
<th>Criterion variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R$^2$</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life attraction</td>
<td>-0.923</td>
<td>0.324</td>
<td>0.105</td>
<td>-5.601</td>
<td>31.371</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life non-acceptance</td>
<td>-1.00</td>
<td>0.352</td>
<td>0.124</td>
<td>-6.160</td>
<td>37.946</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death attraction</td>
<td>0.669</td>
<td>0.236</td>
<td>0.056</td>
<td>3.984</td>
<td>15.876</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death non-acceptance</td>
<td>0.404</td>
<td>0.340</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>-5.927</td>
<td>35.124</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As it is observed in table 5, the effect of psychological well-being on the attitude toward suicide and its four dimensions is meaningful. With regard to the findings, the effect of well-being on two dimensions of life attraction and death non-acceptance is positive and its effect on the total score of attitude toward suicide and two dimensions of life non-acceptance and death attraction is reverse (negative) ($P \leq 0.05; t \geq 1.96$); in such a way that it can be said: the psychological well-being with regression coefficients of 0.43, 0.32, 0.35, 0.24 and 0.34 specifies respectively about 19, 11, 12, 7 and 12 percent of the variance of life attraction, life non-acceptance, death attraction, death non-acceptance and total score of attitude toward suicide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor variable</th>
<th>Criterion variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R$^2$</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life attraction</td>
<td>1.267</td>
<td>0.434</td>
<td>0.189</td>
<td>7.893</td>
<td>62.307</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life non-acceptance</td>
<td>-0.948</td>
<td>0.340</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>-5.927</td>
<td>35.124</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Summary of multi-regression coefficients of humor styles based on dimensions of psychological well-being.

Table 5. Summary of linear sample regression coefficients of attitude toward suicide and its dimensions based on psychological well-being.
According to the results presented in table 6, it can be said that from among the psychological well-being dimensions, only two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life can predict the attitude toward suicide and its dimensions (P≤0.05; t≥ 1.96), while the results show that from among psychological well-being dimensions, four dimensions of autonomy, environmental mastery, personal growth and self-acceptance have not been recognized as the predictor of attitude toward suicide and its dimensions (P>0.05; t< 1.96). The results of multi regression analysis indicates that the relationship between two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life with two dimensions of life attraction and death non-acceptance is positive and their relationship with total score of attitude toward suicide and two dimensions of death attraction and life non-acceptance is reverse and negative; in such a way that two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life in interaction with each other respectively with regression coefficients of 0.63, 0.55, 0.46, 0.52 and 0.55 predict respectively 39, 30, 21, 27 and 30 percent of the variance of life attraction, life non-acceptance, death attraction, death non-acceptance and total score of attitude toward suicide.

### 4. Discussion

The present research was accomplished with the aim of studying the relationship between the humor styles and attitude toward suicide with the psychological well-being in the teenager. The findings of present research revealed that from among the psychological well-being dimensions, only two dimensions of positive relation with others and purposefulness in life can predict the humor styles. From among the psychological well-being dimensions, only these two dimensions can predict the humor styles. From among the psychological well-being has relationship with the humor styles and attitude toward suicide styles.

The results of this research with the research of [19-26] Is
aligned.

The direct relationship between the connecting style and the problem-oriented style and the self-increasing style with the emotion-oriented style leads to the adjustment of emotional helplessness and the reduction of the severity of the stressful situation cognitively, thus reducing the attitude towards suicide. Therefore, first of all, breeding and paying attention to these relationships should be considered. As psychologists, psychotherapists, and counselors, especially in schools, as an effective social institution, it is best to lead adolescents into positive moods in order to increase their life expectancy and negative attitudes toward suicide and attraction to life. Increase in them.

According to the results, it is recommended that adequate education be provided to increase the use of positive humor styles in order to reduce the positive attitude towards suicide in adolescents and increase their happiness and psychological well-being; Because prevention is better than cure. Programs can be established to raise people's awareness to enhance their mental health by increasing and strengthening their sense of humor. Humor is a tool for feeling mentally and physically healthy. Having a sense of humor reduces the symptoms of anxiety and depression and increases social functioning. A person with a sense of humor shows a higher level of daily functioning, social functioning and emotion. The higher the level of humor, the better the person has mental health and social functions. However, this study can indicate the importance of humor and suicidal ideation in psychological well-being in adolescents.

The research results can be a guidance for the consulting and psychotherapy centers of education research centers, welfare organization and education department.

Notes

Note 1. This is an example.
Note 2. This is an example for note 2.

Appendix

The Heading to Appendix A

In general, an appendix is appropriate for materials that are relatively brief and that are easily presented in print format. Some examples of material suitable for an appendix are (a) a list of stimulus materials (e.g., those used in psycholinguistic research), (b) a detailed description of a complex piece of equipment, (c) a list of articles that provided the source data for a meta-analysis but are not directly referred to in any other way in an article, and (d) a detailed demographic description of subpopulations in the study and other detailed and/or complex reporting items suggested in the reporting standards section of this chapter.

If your manuscript has only one appendix, label it Appendix; if your manuscript has more than one appendix, label each one with a capital letter (Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.) in the order in which it is mentioned in the main text. Each appendix must have a title. In the text, refer to appendices by their labels: produced the same results for both studies (see Appendices A and B for complete proofs).

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