

Review of: "Social Class, Gender and Psychological Distress in Mumbai: Risk and Protective Factors"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I believe the topic of depression is timely and important. Therefore, the topic is worthwhile and valuable.

I thought both of the samples were collected well. The methodology was clear, and both samples were large enough to (hopefully) demonstrate an effect if one was there. The author should be commended for the door-to-door nature of the data collection; that is not easy, but it produces data that is likely more precise than anonymous surveys done online.

Two particular results stood out to me.

One, the incidence of depression was just a bit higher in the middle-class women, but quite a bit lower in the middle-class men (compared to those in the lower-class samples). The focus was on the women, but the depression scores being lower for men in the middle-class sample but higher for women in the middle-class samples was intriguing. There is some discussion about it, but why the men and women show opposite patterns was not really discussed.

Two, this study provided good evidence for the efficacy of the "perceived health" measure. It appears that it works well and that individuals, for the most part, are able to accurately assess their own health. That has important applications for other research projects.

In conclusion, I think the study is well done and offers some important and valuable data on depression and risk factors among residents of India. Investigating the differences between lower-class SES and middle-class SES residents is an important addition to the research in this area. SES appears to be an important factor which deserves more scrutiny and investigation.