Chapter-V

SUMMARY

The purpose of the present study was to determine the variation in the time taken of patients to arrive at different stages proposed by Suchman (1965) and to find out how the arrival of these stages are contingent upon certain demographic variables such as age, socio-economic status, residence/rural urban area. Social support for the person who fell ill. Considering the above mentioned demographic variables, the relationship between physicians rating of painfulness of symptoms and the patient time to report at hospital was also studied.

The review of existing literature led to the formulation of the following hypotheses.

1. For each specified age range, patients belonging to urban area will differ in time taken to arrive at all stages proposed by Suchman.

2. For each specified age range patients belonging to rural area will differ in time taken to arrive at all stages proposed by Suchman.

3. For each socio-economic status patients belonging to rural area will differ from urban area in time taken with respect of all stages proposed by Suchman.

4. For each social support level patient belonging to rural area will differ from urban area in time taken to arrive at all stages.

5. The time taken by the patient to arrive at the hospital, will be associated with the physicians rating of the
disease for which the patient reported at the hospital, the greater the painfulness the lesser the time, the patient would take to arrive at the hospital.

6. The level of physician's assessment of need for hospitalization will be associated with the time taken by the patient to arrive at the hospital; the greater the necessity rating assigned by the physician, the lesser the time the patient would take to arrive at the hospital.

7. The association between physicians rating for the disease and delay in hospitalization will be moderated by each one of the following differentials, age socio-economic status, social support, Rural/urban residence.

METHOD

In order to test the above hypotheses an interview schedule incorporating Suchman five stages and information about demographic differentials was employed to collect data from 160 subjects.

Sample: The sample comprised of 160 subjects 80 patient from rural area and 80 patient from urban area. The patients were admitted in medicine ward of J.N. Medical College, A.M.U. Aligarh. The age range of subjects was 19-58+. The subjects were subsequently divided into three categories on the basis of their socio-economic status.
Data Collection: Before collecting the data rapport was formed with the subjects by means of conversation. The interviewer approached the subjects one by one and appealed the subjects to respond each question freely, and assured him that his or her responses would be kept confidential. Information from physician about the painfulness of the symptoms and patient time to report the hospital was also obtained.

Statistical Analysis: For statistical analysis Robust Rank Order test and chi square were used. Robust Rank order test was used to find the difference in the number of days taken by a patient to enter into any specific stage of medical care seeking. To analyze the data about the painfulness rating and hospitalization rating assigned by Physician to the patient the chi square test was used.

RESULTS

The following results were obtained.

1. When comparison between young (19-38 yrs.) rural and urban subjects classified into the S.E.S. categories in terms of time taken to arrive at each one of the five stages were made, no significant differences were obtained, but the only exception is the significant difference between rural and urban people of low S.E.S. in time taken to arrive at third stage i.e. medical care contact.
2. When we compared middle aged (39-58 yrs), Rural and urban subjects classified into the S.E.S. categories, in terms of time taken to arrive at each one of the five stages, the significant differences were found at stage two and four, at stage two the differences was found between low S.E.S. and at stage four between people of low and upper middle class of both areas. Whereas no significant difference were obtained at stage one and three between people of rural and urban area.

3. Comparison's in terms of time taken to arrive at each one of the five stages between young (19-38 yrs), Rural and urban subjects further categorized on the basis of the three levels of social support, at stage four significant difference was found between people of Rural/urban area of medium social support and at stage one significant difference was found at .05 level between people of low social support, whereas stage two and three are concerned significant difference was found between people of high and medium level of social support.

4. On making comparison's in terms of time taken to arrive at each one of the five stages between Middle aged (39-58 yrs), Rural and urban subjects further categorized on the basis of the three levels of social support, the result shows significant difference between rural and urban people of low social support in arriving
at stages one, two and three. However no significant difference between people of rural and urban area, further classified into the three support levels (low, medium, high) was obtained in time taken to arrive at stage four.

5. When subjects was compared on the basis of their painfulness rating assigned by physician and the time taken by the patient to arrive at the hospital significant difference was found which indicates the greater the painfulness of the disease, the lesser was the time, taken to seek medical care.

6. When subjects was compared on the basis of their hospitalization rating assigned by physician and time taken by the patient to approach the hospital. Significant difference was found which indicates the greater the hospitalization of the disease is necessary. The lesser the time taken by the patient to seek medical care.

7. When association between physician's painfulness ratings and delay in reporting to the hospital by age, S.E.S. and social support Rural/urban resience differentials were made, on age variable insignificant difference was found between young and middle aged group at V. painful, painful least painful, not at all painful disease, the only exception to the finding is significant difference at moderate level, that shows younger age patients
approach the hospital early as compared to middle aged patients. When subjects were compared on their S.E.S. variable insignificant difference was found between subjects of poor, middle and upper middle class at V. painful, least painful and not at all painful level. Whereas significant difference was found at painful level and moderate levels. In both levels upper middle socio-economic status patients report the hospital early as compared to poor and middle class subjects. When comparison of subjects were made on social support variable the result indicates insignificant difference at painful, moderate, least painful, not at all painful level, the only exception was significant difference at V. painful level between people of low, medium and high level of social support that shows medium and high level of social support patients take less time as compared to low Ss patients to report the hospital.

As far as rural an urban area of subjects are concerned the result shows significant difference at V. painful, painful and moderate level between people of both areas that means Rural/urban area people differ in all the three painfullness levels of the disease. Whereas insignificant difference was found between rural/urban patients at least painful disease and not at all painful disease.