ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to determine the variation in 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 and social support for the person who fell ill. Considering the above mentioned demographic variables, the relationship between physicians painfulness ratings of symptoms and the patient time to report at hospital was also studied. The sample of 160 subjects 80 from Rural and 80 from urban area admitted in medicine ward of J.N. Medical College were taken. The age range of subjects were 18-58+. The subjects were subsequently divided on the basis of their Age, S.E.S., Social support, residence Rural/Urban area. Using Robust Rank order test and Chi square test the data were analysed. It was found that when comparison between Young (19-38 yrs) Rural/urban subjects classified into the S.E.S. categories in terms of time taken to arrive at the five stages were made, no significant difference were obtained, the only significant difference which was found between Rural/urban people is on low S.E.S. at third stage. Whereas Middle aged group (39-58 yrs) are concerned significant differences was found at stage two and four, at stage two between people of low S.E.S. and at stage four between people of low and upper middle class of both
rural/urban areas. But no significant differences were obtained at stage one and three.

When comparison on the basis of the three levels of social support categories (low, medium, high) were made. 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 between people of low social support. As far as stages two and three are concerned significant difference were obtained between people of high and medium level of social support. For middle age group (39-58) the results shows significant difference at stages one, two and three, whereas no significance of difference were obtained at stage four between Rural/urban area people in any of the three levels of social support.

When subjects were compared on the basis of their painfulness rating and hospitalization rating assigned by physician significant association was found. The greater the painfulness and the greater the necessity of hospitalization, the lesser was the time taken by the subject.

When subjects rated to be at different levels of painfulness, were compared for finding the role of different demographic variables in time taken to report for medical care, no significant difference was found between young and middle aged group at 'V. Painful'.
'Painful', 'Least painful' and 'not at all' painful disease, the only exception is significant difference on moderate level of painfulness. On S.E.S. differential, insignificant difference was found at V. Painful, least painful and 'not at all' painful level, whereas, significant difference was found at painful and moderate level. On social support differential, the result shows insignificant difference at painful, moderate, 'least painful' and not at all painful level, between people of low, medium and high level of social support, the only exception was significant difference at V. painful level, between people of low medium and high level of social support. As far as subject of rural and urban areas are concerned, the result shows significant difference at V. painful, painful, and moderate level of disease whereas insignificant difference was found for least painful and 'not at all painful' disease between people of Rural/urban areas.