CHAPTER III
PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESES

All through history, the word ‘Suicide’ has had different meanings for different
dividuals. Numerous meanings credited to the term such as “The murder of oneself”, “nothing
less than a (soft of) exit”, “an end to psychic conflicts”, “a conscious act of self-inflicted
cessation”; “an act of despair of which the result is not known, occurring after a battle between
an unconscious death wish and a desire to live better”, “to love and be loved”, “to live or not to
live” and others. In whatsoever manner the word is defined and understood, undeniably it is an
action of self-injury and a greater loss for the society.
The creation and destruction of manhood has been a matter of intense intrigue for several years.
In current years, the evolving self-directed suicide or violence and homicides or destruction by
others for anextensiverange of reasons has been a matter of debate across the world. Voices are
raised from every corner of the world to understand and preclude or lessen the same in every
country. What drives an individual to the critical situation of self-destruction or deliberate self-
harm has mystified scientists, priests, philosophers, researchers, lawyers, social workers, doctors,
and others for years. Suicide as an entity has cut across societies, countries and communities
within geographical places. No obstacles of gender, age, class, belief exist in suicides. Suicide or
deliberate self-harm, an incident considered as more of a cultural or social phenomenon is
currently acknowledged as a public health problem in every country. The occurrence of suicides
in the current years has become so common that no single day passes without hearing, reading or
seeing an act or attempt in the media.
The field of suicide has fascinated significant attention in current years. Several governments
around the world have established programs of suicide prevention. The chief reason for this has
been an enormous increase in suicide in youngsters specially men, seen in many countries. It is
evident from findings in the extensive research literature, as well as growing number of books
which have been published on the topic in the past few years that suicidal behavior is a harsh
reality for many adolescents and young adults. In a survey conducted by Smith and Crawford
(1986) of a sample size 313 high school students suggest that 8.4 % student indicated that they
had made at least one suicide attempts.
Reynolds and waltz (1986) findings suggest that adolescents frequently find themselves under
tremendous stress. Problems most often occur when stressors at home, school, and with peers
occur within a context of minimal social and emotional support. These problems are further exacerbated when there is a lack of coping strategies, or when behavioral deficits or dysfunctions exist. Furthermore, adolescents who experiences major negative life events, having a lot of “hassles”, and have little social support are at greater risk for suicide. Keeping the relevance of the research area in the mind and on the basis of review of literature in chapter II, the investigator identified the following research problem for the present study:

- **To study the risk and protective factors of Suicidal ideation among students of Professional and Non-Professional courses.**

For the research purpose the two groups of participants were taken i.e. professional courses students (n=150) and Non-professional courses students (n=150). At this stage following objectives were framed:

1. To assess and compare the Suicidal ideation among students of Professional and Non-Professional courses.
2. To assess and compare the risk factors of Suicidal ideation among students of Professional and Non-Professional courses.
3. To assess and compare the protective factors of Suicidal ideation among students of Professional and Non-Professional courses.
4. To assess and compare the male and female students of professional courses on suicidal ideation, risk factors and protective factors.
5. To assess and compare the male and female students of Non-professional courses on suicidal ideation, risk factors and protective factors.
6. To study the association between the suicidal ideation and risk factors.
7. To study the association between the suicidal ideation and protective factors.
8. To examine the contributions of risk and protective factors in suicidal ideation.

**HYPOTHESES**

In the light of review of literature, objectives and problem, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1. There would be significant differences between students of Professional and Non-Professional courses in respect to Suicidal ideation.
2. There would be significant differences between students of Professional and Non-Professional courses at the level of risk factors in relation to suicidal ideation.

3. There would be significant differences between students of Professional and Non-Professional courses at the level of protective factors in relation to suicidal ideation.

4. There would be significant differences between male and female students of professional courses at the level of suicidal ideation, risk factors and protective factors.

5. There would be significant differences between male and female students of non professional courses at the level of suicidal ideation, risk factor and protective factors.

6. There would be significant association between Suicidal ideation and risk factors.

7. There would be significant association between Suicidal ideation and protective factors.

8. Risk and protective factors would significantly predict the Suicidal ideation among students of Professional and Non-Professional courses.

With this much background, the investigator may now pass on to the next chapter dealing with methodology of the study.