## MASCULINITY AND PSYCHOTHERAPY: MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH



## INTRODUCTION

- Literature has shown that men account for the majority of suicides, crimes, drug users, and homeless individuals.
- However, most of them do not seek professional mental health assistance.
- Primary reason is *"socially hegemonic male feature".*
- This emphasized on control of emotion, independence, and lack of vulnerability.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Culturally, it has been implied that men need to hide their emotions to look "manly".
- This increases the feeling of loneliness, humiliation, and emotional spectrum among male (Addis, 2005).
- Consequently, men reluctant to seek professional assistance.
- The quality of service also affect their decision to take mental health therapy.

#### **RESEARCH PURPOSE**

• The purpose of this research is:

"To investigate the obstacles that stops male from having mental health therapy or counselling".

#### **RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS**

• The research hypothesized that:

The client's ability to explain their motion affect the therapeutic relation and impact the quality of therapy. Thus, affect the likelihood of getting therapeutic assistance in future.

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This is a primary research carried out using qualitative research methodology (online survey).

#### SURVEY GOALS

The survey has two primary goals:

- Evaluate feeling of men about mental health assistance
- Identification of obstacles that stop them from seeking assistance

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- The study follows a review of literature on men's experience on counselling and psychotherapy.
- This was a London-based study.
- 18 males fill in the questionnaire.

### AGE OF RESPONDENTS

Age groups	PERCENTAGE
18-28	5.6%
29-38	44%
39-45	38.8%
59-69	11%

#### **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

- About 83% of respondents have dealt with grief/loss/depression/anxiety.
- Most respondents sought assistance from family, friends, and therapists.
- 94% respond that taking therapy was effective.
- However, 6% of respondents felt helpless, burdensome, and vulnerable with treatment.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

- About 61% respondents contacted mental health professionals.
- Whereas, 39% did not seek professional assistance.
  The primary reasons are:
- Uncertainty
- Cost
- Access to good mental health consultant



The ingrained expectations that male can manage situations was also a hinderance to seek professional mental health assistance.

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Few reasons men do not actively seek professional mental health assistance are:

- Proper guidance from top firms in the sector
- Lack of gender socializing training of doctors
- Prejudice of clinicians
- Structural hinderance
- Unattractive service setting

## **RESEARCH EVALUATIONS**

- The findings support the adoption of:
- Activity
- Career and advancement communication style
- Examining socialization and customizing language for male clients

#### **RESEARCH EVALUATIONS**

Therapists can increase the access of male clients through:

- Gender socialization
- Gender-neutral therapy
- Provide attractive service setting

#### **RESEARCH LIMITATION**

The research has following limitations:

- Cross-sectional design
- Unable to examine the transferability of masculinities across a diverse population

