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Indian J Psychol Med. 2017 Jan-Feb;39(1):46-51. doi: 10.4103/0253-7176.198949.

Sociodemographic Correlates of Unipolar and Bipolar Depression in North-East India: A Cross-sectional Study.

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION: Early diagnosis and management of **depression** is important for better therapeutic outcome. Strategies for distinguishing between **unipolar** and **bipolar depression** are yet to be defined, resulting improper management. This **study** aims at comparing the socio-demographic and other variables between patients with **unipolar** and **bipolar depression**, along with assessment of severity of **depression**.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: This **cross sectional study** was conducted in a tertiary care psychiatry hospital in **North-East India**. The **study** included total of 330 subjects selected through purposive sampling technique from outpatient department after obtaining due informed consent. Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.) version 6.0 and Beck **Depression** Inventory (BDI) were applied. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 was applied for analysis.

RESULTS: **Bipolar** group had onset of illness at significantly younger age with more chronicity (32.85 ± 11.084). Mean BDI score was significantly higher in the **unipolar** depressive group.

CONCLUSION: Careful approach in eliciting symptom severity and associated socio demographic profiles in depressed patients may be helpful in early diagnosis of **bipolar depression**.

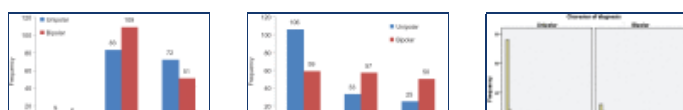
KEYWORDS: Beck **depression** inventory; **bipolar**; **depression**; **unipolar**

PMID: 28250558 PMCID: [PMC5329991](#) DOI: [10.4103/0253-7176.198949](#)

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