

International Journal of Ayurvedic Medicine, Vol 12 (4), 890-896

A correlative cross sectional study on Manas Prakriti and psychological parameters among young females

Research Article

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Abstract

Background: Several scientific studies have documented the relationship among personality types, psychological traits and disorders. Manasika Prakriti, described in Ayurveda, is based on the three qualities of mind i.e Satva, Raja and Tama which determine the three Manasika Prakriti, namely, Satvika, Rajasika, and Tamasika. Among these, Satvika individuals are less prone for psychological disorders than Tamasika and Rajasika type. Few studies have been conducted on relationship of psychological parameters and *Manas Prakriti*, Thus it requires a large sample survey specifically in Indian population to make conclusive statements. Aim and Objective: To find an association between Manasika Prakriti and Psychological parameter i.e Stress, depression and anxiety among healthy females. Methods: A total 450 healthy females (180 Satvika, 145 Rajasika and 125 Tamasika Prakriti) were selected from different department of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Assessment of Manasika Prakriti was done by using Manas Prakriti assessment inventory(MPAI) developed by Aftab A et., al, 2018 and psychological parameters i.e stress, depression and anxiety were assessed by using Stress Scale, Beck depressions inventory II(BDI II) and Sinha's anxiety scale. Result: Significant difference was found in between Manasika Prakriti and Psychological parameters i.e. stress, depression and anxiety at the faculty level(p<0.001). In all the faculty Satvika Prakriti females having very low level of stress and anxiety(63.4%, 34.4%) and minimal level of depression(76.6%) while few Rajasika Prakriti females having mild level of depression(47.6%) and severe level of anxiety(53.8%). Tamasika Prakriti females were having higher chances of severe level of stress, depression and anxiety as compared to other Prakriti.

Key Words: Manasika Prakriti, Stress, Depression, Anxiety.

Introduction

"Ayurveda" deals through individualized approach for the maintenance of health as well as for the management of disease. The dimensions of the individualized approach are- Prakriti, Satva, Sara, Samhanan, Bala etc. Out of these dimensions, Prakriti has been most interested area for the researchers. Prakriti can be classified in to two groups i.e. Deha Prakriti and Manas Prakriti. Deha Prakriti is dependent on the permutation and relative dominance of the three Dosha Vata, Pitta and Kapha Dosha whereas Manas Prakriti by Gunas i.e. Satva, Raja and Tama. These Guna are responsible for psychological variability among individuals, which can be observed in their behavioral expressions, responses against any kind

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of stress and propensity towards *Manasika Vikara* i.e. psychological disorders.(1)

ISSN No: 0976-5921

Ayurveda scholars have given due importance to social, mental and spiritual health among the several dimensions of health. As per WHO,1948 "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Without mental health, there can be no true physical health.(2,3) The previous data show that the worldwide 10%–20% of adolescents experience mental health disorders and 14% of the global burden of diseases is accredited to mental illness like stress, depression, anxiety, dementia, intellectual disabilities etc are growing continuously and imparting a significant effect on health.(4) Global data, 2021 estimates that Major depressive disorders are more than twice as prevalent in young women than men. The prevalence of mental illness i.e depression is higher among females (24.5%) than males (16.3%).(5) In an epidemiological study from India, 14.5% of adolescents were found to be suffering from anxiety disorders, majority of females (20-30%) suffered from Major depressive disorder.(6,7,8)

Ayurveda has an extensive knowledge regarding the role of Satva (psyche) in health and psychotherapy.



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Today's lifestyle contributes to manifest different Manasika Vikaras i.e. Kama (desire), Krodha(anger), Lobha(greed), Moha(infatuation), Irshya(envy), Maan(pride), Mada (arrogance), Shoka(grief), Chittodvega(anxiety), Bhaya(fear), Harsh(elation) etc. Manas Prakriti determines the individual behaviour, thought process, mental activities etc. Ayurveda has described three types of Manas Prakriti i.e. Satvika, Rajasika and Tamasika, having characteristics according to their Guna.(9,10) Our personality, behavior, and lifestyle all have important influences on our stress and anxiety level.(11)

A variety of personality classifications have been proposed over the past century, but in 1980 the Five-Factor Model (FFM) of personality was introduced.(12,13) These "Big Five" traits are Neuroticism, Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, and Openness to experience.(14,15) Studies have reported that depressive disorders and anxiety are characterized by high levels of neuroticism/ negative emotionality (N/NE), and low levels of extraversion/positive emotionality(E/PE).(16,17,18,19) Many studies have found that individuals with MDD report higher levels of N/NE.(20,21,22) Hossein Ali Ghorbani Amir et.al., 2011, have reported that subjects of Type A personality have low quality of mental health in comparison to the subjects having Type B personality.(23) These data suggest the need of clinical research related to personality, stress and psychological disorders.

Material and Method

This study was conducted in the Department of Kriya Sharir, IMS, BHU during the year 2018-2019. Healthy young female students, aged 18-30 years were

selected from different Faculty of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, after getting their written informed consent. The females suffering from chronic illness such as PCOS, hypothyroidism etc.were excluded from the study. Initially total 500 females were registered as per inclusion and exclusion criteria. 50 females were dropped from study as the complete data could not be obtained, thus analysis was done on data of 450 subjects. The participants were categorized into four groups i.e UG-Medical(BAMS, BDS and MBBS), PG-Medical (*Ayurvedic* and Modern Medicine), UG-Social Science (home science, performing art and visual art) and UG-Science (chemistry, mathematics, geography and zoology).

ISSN No: 0976-5921

Assessment of *Manasika Prakriti*, stress, depression and anxiety was done by following validated and reliable scales:

- 1. Manas Prakriti Assessment Inventory(MPAI) (24)
- 2. Stress scale.(SS)(25)
- 3. Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI II).(26)
- 4. Sinha Anxiety Scale.(27)

The Analysis of data was done by using SPSS 16.0. Chi square test, One way ANOVA ,Posthoc test, kruskal-Walis test, Mann-Whitney test and correlation coefficient was applied to infer the result.

Observations and Results

Among the study population, Out of 450 females, 180(40%) volunteers belonged to *Satvika Prakriti* while 145(32.23%) were of *Rajasika Prakriti* and 125(27.77%) were of *Tamasika Prakriti*.

Table No. 1 Stress level as per Manas Prakriti

Manas Prakriti (n=450)	Very low (n=210)	Low (n=141)	Moderate (n=39)	High (n=47)	Severe (n=13)
Satvika Prakriti (n=180)	114(63.4%)	48(26.6%)	16(8.9%)	2(1.1%)	0*(0.0%)
Rajasika Prakriti (n=145)	94(64.9%)	29(20%)	18(12.4%)	4(2.7%)	0*(0.0%)
Tamasika Prakriti (n=125)	2 (1.6%)	64(51.2%)	5 (4%)	41(32.8%)	13(10.4%)

Very low level of stress was observed in 114(63.4%) *Satvika Prakriti* individuals followed by *Rajasika Prakriti* 94(64.9%) while high and severe stress level was observed in 41(32.8%) and 13(10.4%) *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals.(Table No.1)

Table No. 2 Depression level as per Manas Prakriti

Manas Prakriti (n=450)	Minimal (n=197)	Mild (n=98)	Moderate (n= 42)	Severe (n=113)
Satvika Prakriti(n=180)	138(76.6%)	26(14.4%)	8(4.3%)	8(4.3%)
RajasikaPrakriti(n=145)	56(38.6%)	69(47.6%)	20(13.8%)	0*(0%)
TamasikaPrakriti(n=125)	3(2.4%)	3(2.4%)	14(11.2%)	105 (84%)
$\chi 2 = 412.4, p < 0.001$				

The maximum females 138(76.6%) of *Satvika Prakriti* have minimal level of depression while 105(84%) *Tamasika Prakriti* females were found with severe depression level. The frequency of depression level in different *Manasika Prakriti* was found significant(**p<0.001**) on applying chi square test.(Table No.2)

ISSN No: 0976-5921



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Table No. 3 Anxiety level as per Manas Prakriti

Manas Prakriti (n=450)	Very low (n=63)	Low (n=34)	Normal (n=73)	High (n= 98)	Very high (n= 182)
Satvika Prakriti (n=180)	62(34.4%)	21(11.6%)	57(31.6%)	25(13.8%)	15(8.3%)
Rajasika Prakriti (n=145)	0*(0%)	7(4.8%)	12(8.2%)	48(33.2%)	78(53.8%)
Tamasika Prakriti (n=125)	1(0.8%)	6(4.8%)	4(3.2%)	25(20%)	89(71.2%)

62(34.4%) females of *Satvika Prakriti* were found with very low level of anxiety, followed by 73(53.8%) of *Rajasika Prakriti* and 89(71.2%) of *Tamasika Prakriti* females were in severe depression.(Table No.3)

Table No. 4 Correlation analysis of Stress, Depression and Anxiety as per Manas Prakriti

Manas Prakriti (n=450)		Stress	Depression	Anxiety
	Stress	1	r=0.309**, p<0.001	r=0.544**, p<0.001
Satvika Prakriti (n=180)	Depression	r=0.309**, p<0.001	1	r=0.396**, p<0.001
	Anxiety	r=0.544**, p<0.001	r=0.396**, p<0.001	1
	Stress	1	r=0.17*, p=0.041	r=0.316**, p<0.001
Rajasika Prakriti (n=145)	Depression	r=0.17*, p= 0.041	1	r=0.142, p=0.09
	Anxiety	r= -0.316**, p<0.001	r=0.142, p=0.09	1
	Stress	1	r=0.008, p=0.934	r=0.112, p=0.213
Tamasika Prakriti (n=125)	Depression	r=0.008, p=0.934	1	r=0.276**, p=0.002
	Anxiety	r=0.112, p=0.213	r=0.276**, p=0.002	1
**.Correlation is	significant at the 0.01 le	evel, *.Correlation is signific	cant at the 0.05 level.	

The interrelationship among the three parameters i.e stress, depression and anxiety with *Satvika, Rajasika and Tamasika Prakriti* ranging from -0.316 to 0.544. In *Satvika Prakriti* females stress was significantly positively correlated with depression(r=0.309**, p<0.001), anxiety (r=0.544**, p<0.001) although depression was also significantly positively correlated with anxiety(r=0.396**, p<0.001). In *Rajasika Prakriti* females stress is significantly positively correlated with depression(r=0.17*, p=0.041) and stress is significantly negatively correlated with anxiety(r=-0.316**,p<0.001) although depression is positively correlated with anxiety(r=0.142, p=0.09). In *Tamasika Prakriti* volunteers depression is significantly positively correlated with anxiety(r= 0.276**, p=0.002). (Table No.4)

Table No. 5 Stress, depression and anxiety score in young females as per Manas Prakriti

Manasika Prakriti (n=450)	Stress Score	Depression score	Anxiety Score
	Mean ± S	S.D	
Satvika Prakriti (n=180)	25.86±9.99	10.19 ± 8.48	28.06±13.88
Rajasika Prakriti (n=145)	26.81± 10.62	14.78 ± 4.90	49.41±12.96
Tamasika Prakriti (n=125)	42.85± 11.41	41.51± 11.73	53.99±13.57
Test Applied			
	One Way ANOVA & Post Hoc test p< 0.001 F= 110.41 S vs R= 0.42 S vs T< 0.001 Rvs T<0.001	Kruskal-Wallis Test &Mann-Whitney Test p< 0.001 χ2 = 269.305 S vs R< 0.001 Z= -8.137 S vs T< 0.001 Z= -13.178 R vs T<0.001 Z= -13.859	One Way ANOVA & Pos Hoc test p< 0.001 F= 166.87 S vs R<0.001 S vs T< 0.001 R vs T<0.001

The Mean \pm S.D score of stress, depression and anxiety in *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals were 42.85 \pm 11.41, 41.51 \pm 11.73, 53.99 \pm 13.57 respectively. On applying One way ANOVA test in the stress and anxiety score was found significant(p<**0.001**) as per *Manasika Prakriti*. On applying Kruskal-Wallis test on depression score as per *Manasika Prakriti*, it was found significant(p<0.001).(Table No.5).

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Table No. 6 Manas Prakriti and	stress level as ner Faculty
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	Stress Level	Satvika Prakriti	Rajasika Prakriti	Tamasika Prakriti
UG (Medical)	Very low (n=36)	30(83.4%)	5(13.8%)	1(2.8%)
Satvika=44	Low (n= 26)	11(42.3%)	10(38.5%)	5(19.2%)
Rajasika=21	Moderate (n=8)	3(37.5%)	5(62.5%)	0*(0.0%)
Tamasika= 15	High (n= 7)	0*(0.0%)	1(14.3%)	6(85.7%)
Total = 80	Severe (n=3)	0*(0.0%)	0*(0.0%)	3(100%)
	, , ,	$\chi 2 = 54.413$, p<0.0	01	
PG (Medical)	Very low (n= 57)	48(84.2%)	8(14%)	1(1.8%)
Satvika=66	Low (n= 33)	13(39.4%)	14(42.4%)	6(18.2%)
Rajasika= 35	Moderate (n= 18)	5(27.8%)	11(61.1%)	2(11.1%)
Tamasika= 24	High (n= 11)	0*(0%)	2(18.2%)	9(81.8%)
Total= 125	Severe (n= 6)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)	6(100%)
		χ2=90.946, p<0. 0	01	
UG (Social Science)	Very low (n=73)	27(37%)	46(63%)	0*(0%)
Satvika=48	Low (n=52)	13(25%)	4(7.7%)	35(67.3%)
Rajasika= 52	Moderate (n= 9)	7(77.8%)	1(11.1%)	1(11.1%)
Tamasika= 48	High (n=12)	1(8.3%)	1(8.3%)	10(83.4%)
Total= 148	Severe (n=2)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)	2(100%)
		$\chi 2= 98.624, p < 0.0$	01	
IIC (Science)	Very low (n=44)	9(20.5%)	35(79.5%)	0*(0%)
UG (Science) Satvika=22	Low (n= 30)	11(36.7%)	1(3.3%)	18(60%)
Rajasika= 37	Moderate (n= 4)	1(25%)	1(25%)	2 (50%)
Tamasika= 38	High (n= 17)	1(5.9%)	0*(0%)	16(94.1%)
Total= 97	Severe (n=2)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)	2(100%)
	, , ,	$\chi 2 = 77.659$, p<0	0.001	

In the UG-Medical, 30(83.4%) subjects of *Satvika Prakriti* felt very low level of stress, while *Tamasika Prakriti* subjects having high level of stress. Among PG-Medical females, 14 (42.4%) of the *Rajasika Prakriti* subjects were found with low level of stress and 9(81.8%) *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals felt high stress. Among UG-Social Science, *Tamasika Prakriti* females were having low level of stress. In UG-Science, 35(79.5%) *Rajasika Prakriti* females constitute very low level of stress followed by 16(94.1%) *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals with high level of stress. (Table No.6)

Table No. 7 Manas Prakriti and depression level as per Faculty

	Depression Level	Satvika Prakriti	Rajasika Prakriti	Tamasika Prakriti
UG (Medical) Satvika=44	Minimal (n= 46)	36(78.3%)	9(19.6%)	1(2.1%)
	Mild (n= 11)	4(36.4%)	7(63.6%)	0*(0%)
Rajasika=21	Moderate (n= 11)	3(27.3%)	5(45.5%)	3(27.2%)
Tamasika= 15 Total = 80	Severe (n= 12)	1(8.3%)	0*(0%)	11(91.7%)
	χ	2= 66.102, p<0.001	!	
PG (Medical)	Minimal (n= 69)	54 (78.3%)	14(20.3%)	1(1.4%)
Satvika=66	Mild (n= 25)	9 (36%)	14(56%)	2(8%)
Rajasika= 35	Moderate (n=18)	2(11.1%)	7(38.9%)	9(50%)
Tamasika= 24 Total= 125	Severe (n= 13)	1(7.7%)	0*(0%)	12(92.3%)
	χ	2= 91.648, p<0.001		
UG (Social Science)	Minimal (n= 48)	29(60.4%)	18(37.5%)	1(2.1%)
Satvika=48	Mild (n= 41)	11(26.8%)	30(73.2%)	0*(0%)
Rajasika= 52	Moderate (n= 8)	3(37.5%)	4(50%)	1(12.5%)
Tamasika= 48 Total= 148	Severe (n= 51)	5(9.8%)	0*(0%)	46(90.2%)
		$\chi 2 = 1.359$, p<0.001		
UG (Science)	Minimal (n= 34)	19 (55.9%)	15(44.1%)	0*(0%)
Satvika=22	Mild (n= 21)	2 (9.5%)	18(85.7%)	1(4.8%)
Rajasika= 37 Tamasika= 38	Moderate (n= 5)	0* (0%)	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Total= 97	Severe (n= 37)	1 (2.7%)	0* (0%)	36 (97.3%)
		$\chi 2 = 1.07$, $p < 0.001$,	, ,

In the UG- Medical, 36 (78.3%) of the *Satvika Prakriti* females felt minimal depression and 11(91.7%) of the *Tamasika Prakriti* subjects were having severe depression. Among PG-Medical, minimal depression was found in



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54(78.3%) Satvika Prakriti females and severe depression level was maximum in 12(92.3%) Tamasika Prakriti individuals. In UG-Social Science, mild depression was reported in 30(73.2%) Rajasika Prakriti subjects. In UG-Science, 36(97.3%) Tamasika Prakriti females felt severe depression.(Table No.7)

Table No.8 Manas Prakriti and anxiety level as per Faculty

	Anxiety Level	Satvika Prakriti	Rajasika Prakriti	Tamasika Prakriti
		(n=180)	(n=145)	(n=125)
UG (Medical)	Very low (n= 22)	21(95.5%)	0*(0%)	1(4.5%)
Satvika=44	Low (n= 7)	2(28.6%)	4(57.1%)	1(14.3%)
Rajasika=21	Normal (n= 17)	10(58.8%)	6(35.3%)	1(5.9%)
Tamasika= 15	High (n= 20)	7(35%)	7(35%)	6(30%)
Total = 80	Very high (n= 14)	4(28.6%)	4(28.6%)	6(42.9%)
		$\chi 2 = 29.807$, p<0.001		
PG (Medical)	Very low (n= 26)	26(100%)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)
Satvika=66	Low (n= 17)	11(64.8%)	3(17.6%)	3 (17.6%)
Rajasika= 35	Normal (n=26)	18(69.3%)	5(19.2%)	3(11.5%)
Tamasika= 24	High (n=30)	8(26.7%)	19(63.3%)	3(10%)
Total= 125	Very high (n= 26)	3(11.5%)	8(30.8%)	15(57.7%)
		$\chi 2 = 74.307, p < 0.001$		
UG (Social	Very low (n= 10)	10(100%)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)
Science)	Low (n= 4)	3 (75%)	0*(0%)	1(25%)
Satvika=48	Normal (n=22)	21(95.5%)	1(4.5%)	0*(0%)
Rajasika= 52	High (n= 27)	8(29.6%)	11(40.8%)	8(29.6%)
Tamasika= 48 Total= 148	Very high(n=85)	6(7.0%)	40(47.1%)	39(45.9%)
		χ2= 89.904, p<0.001		
UG (Science)	Very low (n= 5)	5 (100%)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)
Satvika=22	Low (n= 6)	5(83.3%)	0*(0%)	1(n=16.7%)
Rajasika= 37	Normal (n= 8)	8(100%)	0*(0%)	0*(0%)
Tamasika= 38	High (n= 21)	2(9.5%)	11(53.4%)	8(38.1%)
Total= 97	Very high (n= 57)	2(3.5%)	26(45.6%)	29(50.9%)
		$\chi 2 = 71.903, p < 0.001$		

Among UG-Medical, 6(42.8%) of *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals were having very high level of anxiety. In PG-Medical, 15(57.7%) subjects of *Tamasika Prakriti* constitute high level of anxiety. In UG-Social Science, 40(47.1%) *Rajasika Prakriti* and 39(45.9%) *Tamasika Prakriti* females were having high level of anxiety. In UG-Science, 29(50.9%) of the *Tamasika Prakriti* individuals were having high level of anxiety. (Table No.8).

Discussion

The present research work is an observational cross sectional survey study, aimed to explore the relationship between Manas Prakriti and certain psychological traits. Several studies had shown that females had higher incidence of stress, depression and anxiety.(28,29) In this study only female volunteers were selected because females are more prone to psychological illness, however less data and studies are found in females especially in India, even till date the psychological health of females is not taken into much consideration. In this study the collected data shows that the level of stress, depression and anxiety were found under severe category in some females. This was one time data collection so it may be temporary due to some circumstances but all the females who have severe level of stress, depression and anxiety were suggested to concern psychology department for counseling and further screening.

The findings showed that out of 180 Satvika Prakriti volunteers, 63.4% predominantly correspond to very low level of stress similarly 76.6% females having minimal level of depression and 34.4% females show very low level of anxiety. This seems to be justified because Satvika Prakriti individuals having the dominance of Satva Guna and having characteristics like Jitatmaanam(controlling over senses), Kaamkrodhalobha manmohairshyarahita (Devoid of attachment, anger, greed, conceit, confusion and envy), Gyansampanna(full of knowledge).(30) Out of total 145 females of the Rajasika Prakriti, 64.9% having very low stress level similarly 38.6% females having minimal depression and 47.6% felt mild depression but 33.2% female having high level of anxiety and 53.8% felt severe anxiety. It is empirically significant and found textually that Rajasika Prakriti individuals endorsed the attributes of being passionate, desirous, performed actions without doing analysis. Out of 125 Tamasika Prakriti females, 32.8% and 10.4% having, high and severe level of stress respectively similarly 84% females having severe level of depression and 71.2% females also show the severe level of anxiety. Tamasika Prakriti individuals were more prone to high and severe stress, depression and anxiety due to the dominance of Tama Guna and the traits like Vishaditwam(Unhappiness), Nastikya(atheim), Adharmasheela (Iniquitous).(31)

ISSN No: 0976-5921

In this study only *Ekala Prakriti* individuals were included and the significant (p<0.001) association



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between the *Manasika Prakriti* with stress, depression and anxiety was found. The *Tamasika Prakriti* were more prone to stress, depression and anxiety followed by *Rajasika* and *Satvika* females. A study conducted by Sharma R, 2018, considering both sex reported that *Rajas Pradhan Prakriti* individuals are more prone for stress.(32) A study by Das K, 2011, showed a different result that *Raja Tamasika Prakriti* subjects were having very severe depression. The difference in result may be due to *Ekala* and *Dwandaja Manas Prakriti* categorization and application of different assessment tool.(33)

The findings of the study show that association of the Manasika Prakriti with stress, depression and anxiety score at faculty level was found significant. Similar previous study reported that anxiety, depression and stressful life events among medical students were found to be significant.(34) The present study confirms the findings of earlier researchers, who have reported similar results.(35) In the UG-Social Science (63%) and Science faculty (79.3%), the females belonging to Rajasika Prakriti felt very low level of stress, however high level of stress was reported in 94.1% of Tamasika Prakriti females. Similar study has been reported that the students of Art Faculty were having higher stress. (36) A previous study reported that medical students were more prone to depression especially females.(37) The findings of the present study on depression level in different faculty female students are concurrent with the previous studies.(38, 39) Although in these studies subjects of both sex were included.

Conclusion

The study empirically validated the incidence of Satvika, Rajasika and Tamasika Prakriti females. This study shows significant relationship between the Manasika Prakriti and Psychological parameter i.e. stress, depression and anxiety as per faculty level in which Satvika Prakriti females were having very low level of stress, anxiety and depression while few Rajasika Prakriti females were having mild level of depression and severe level of anxiety. The Tamasika Prakriti females were having more chances of high and severe level of stress, depression and anxiety.

Source of funding- Nil.
Conflict of Interest- None declared.
Ethical Clearance- IMS, BHU (vide letter No. Dean/ 2019/EC/1306).

Acknowledgement- I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the participants of this study and the Department of Kriya Sharir, Psychology of BHU, Varanasi.

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