

## ABSTRACT

Depression, also known as Depressive Disorder, is a mental illness characterized by a pervasive and debilitating state of melancholy or despair, a lack of pleasure in formerly rewarding activities, and disruptions in a variety of other everyday functions. Currently, there is a prevailing tendency to primarily focus on the discussion of depression in relation to adolescents and older individuals. It is often believed that depression is not prevalent among children. Current study is focused at examining the levels of depression among students with relation to their different levels of educational stage in West Bengal. Also, to investigate the prevalence rate of depression among students in relation to their various demographic characteristics. A total number of 12 objectives and 12 hypotheses were framed in order to get appropriate answers of knowledge gap. A cross-sectional survey research design was implemented among 1941 students (both school education and higher education levels) with the help of simple random sampling technique. Data was collected from students of 16 different districts of West Bengal. Bilingual standardized version of Beck Depression Inventory was adopted to collect the relevant information on depression among students. Primarily raw data was tabulated in Excel worksheet and after assuring the data quality, the data was transferred into SPSS (V-20) for analysis purpose. Major findings yielded that higher education students found with high level of depression than school education students and the found difference was statistically significant. Among school students, the majority showed minimal level of depression and among higher education students majority appeared with mild level of depression. Furthermore, except mother's educational qualification and mother's occupational status, all the other independent factors showed significant relationship with depression.