



Research Paper

## A Study to Assess the Early Symptoms of Dissociative Amnesia among Old Age At Selected Community Area, Puducherry.

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### ABSTRACT:

*Introduction* Dissociative amnesia is a disorder characterized by the inability to recall important personal information, often caused by trauma or stress. The main symptom is memory loss inconsistent with normal forgetfulness, and it can be localized, selective, systematized, or continuous. *Objectives of the study:* The main objective of the study to assess the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age. *Methodology:* A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. A descriptive research design was adopted for the present study. By using convenient sampling technique, 30 old age people at selected community area. *Results:* The study revealed that majority 22 (73.3%) of had mild dissociative amnesia, 8 (26.7%) of them had moderate dissociative amnesia early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age. *Conclusion:* The study findings concluded that majority of old age had mild dissociative amnesia and there is no significance association between selected demographic variables with early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age.

**Keywords:** Dissociative amnesia, old age, early symptoms

### I. INTRODUCTION:

Dissociative amnesia is a disorder characterized by the inability to recall important personal information, often caused by trauma or stress. The main symptom is memory loss inconsistent with normal forgetfulness, and it can be localized, selective, systematized, or continuous. The main symptoms include forgetting identity and life history, and can cause significant distress or impair social or occupational functioning.

Dissociative fugue is an uncommon phenomenon that sometimes occurs in dissociative amnesia and is classified as a type of dissociative amnesia in the DSM-5-TR. It manifests as sudden, unexpected, purposeful travel away from home, often resulting in feelings of shame, discomfort, grief, and depression.

Diagnosis is clinical, based on the presence of criteria in the DSM-5-TR, such as patients cannot recall important personal information, cause significant distress, or impair social or occupational functioning. Treatment involves psychotherapy, supportive environment, and sometimes hypnosis or medication-induced semi hypnotic state. The accuracy of memories recovered with these strategies can only be determined by external corroboration, but filling in the gap as much as possible is often therapeutically useful in restoring continuity to the patient's identity and sense of self.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

Dissociative amnesia is a disorder that affects approximately 1.8% of people in the United States, with women being disproportionately affected. The lifetime prevalence of this disorder is estimated at 6-7% in Canadian and Turkish populations. A study by Tobeckwu A Clouden et al. (2020) found that dissociative amnesia associated with dissociative fugue is rare, as it can be comorbid with a psychotic disorder.

In India, Santosh K. Chaturvedi et al. (2018) examined patterns of dissociative disorders among subjects attending psychiatric services over a 10-year period. In Tamilnadu, Ashutosh Kumar et al. (2023) assessed the prevalence and level of caregiver burden in patients with dissociative disorder. The study found a positive correlation between dissociative symptoms and family leisure, interaction, physical health, and mental health, although there was no significant correlation between the severity of dissociation and financial burden and disruption in family activities.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

A study to assess the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age at selected community area, Puducherry.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To assess the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age
2. To associate the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age with their selected demographic variables.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

### **RESEARCH APPROACH:**

A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study.

### **RESEARCH DESIGN:**

A descriptive research design was adopted for the present study.

### **SETTING OF THE STUDY:**

The present study was conducted in in Kalitheerthalkuppam, Puducherry. Kalitheerthalkuppam is located 1.2 km away from SMVNC.

### **POPULATION:**

The study population comprised old age people at selected community area.

### **SAMPLE:**

The study samples comprised old age people who are in the age of above 50 – 75 years at selected community area, who meet the inclusion criteria

### **SAMPLE SIZE:**

The sample size consists of 30 old age people at selected community area.

### **SAMPLE TECHNIQUE:**

A convenient sampling technique was used for the present study.

### **SAMPLE SELECTION CRITERIA:**

#### **Inclusion criteria:**

- Old-age people who were in the selected community area.
- Old-age people who were in the age above 55 years.
- Old age people who were willing to participate in this study

#### **Exclusion criteria:**

- Old age people who were not present during the data collection.
- Old age people who were not willing to participate in this study.

## **MAJOR FINDING**

Regarding the age in years, the majority 16 (53.3%) were in the age group of 60-65 years, 6 (20%) were in the age group of 65-70 years and 8 (26.7%) were in the age group of 55-60 years. With regard to sex, 18 (60%) were male and 12 (40%) were female. In the aspect of education, majority 8(26.7%) were illiterate and 22(73.3%) were literate. With regards to marital status, 30 (100%) were married. In the aspect of religion majority, 22 (73.3%) were Hindu, 3 (10%) were Muslim and 5 (16.7%) were Christian. Regarding source income, the data shows that 12 (40%) were old age pensioner, 6 (20%) were pensioner and 2 (6.7%) were support from children. In the aspect of previous occupation majority, 20 (66.7%) were employed and 8 (26.7%) were self-employed. With regards to any symptoms of dissociative amnesia, majority, 30 (100%) had symptoms. Regarding previous knowledge, 10 (33.3%) had previous knowledge and 20 (66.7%) had no previous knowledge on dissociative amnesia.

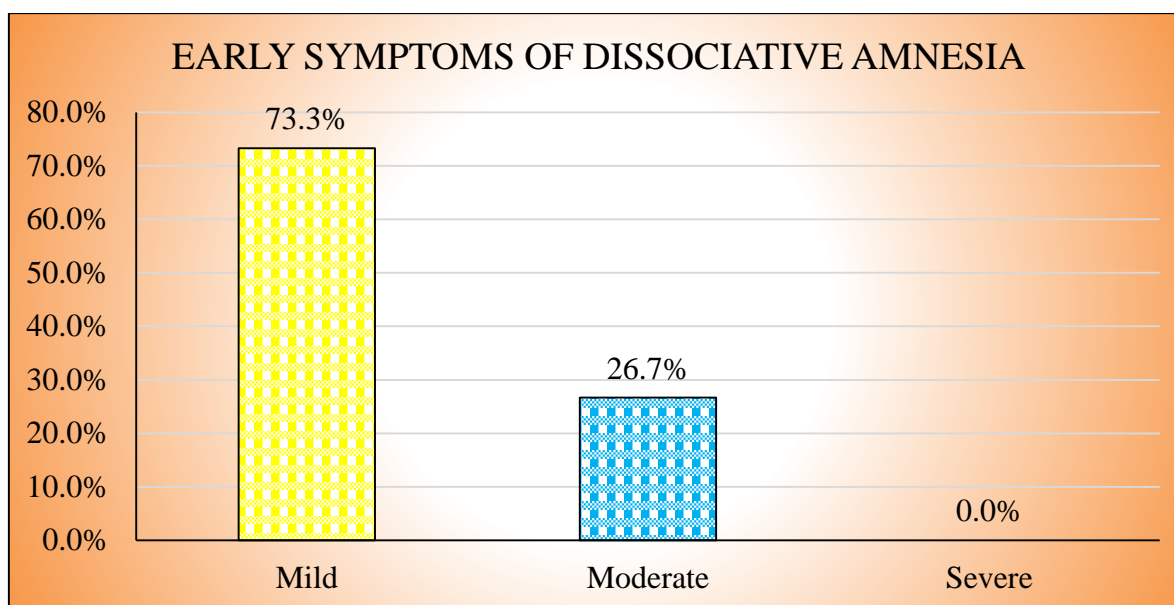
## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study revealed that majority 22 (73.3%) of had mild dissociative amnesia, 8 (26.7%) of them had moderate dissociative amnesia early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age. The study finding revealed that there is no significance association between early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age with selected demographic variables.

**Table 1: Frequency and percentage wise distribution of the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age.**

S.NO	EARLY SYMPTOMS OF DISSOCIATIVE AMNESIA	FREQUENCY (n)	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Mild	22	73.3%
2.	Moderate	8	26.7%
3.	Severe	0	0%

The above table reveals the frequency and percentage-wise distribution of early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age. The finding shows that, majority 22 (73.3%) of had mild dissociative amnesia, 8 (26.7%) of them had moderate dissociative amnesia early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age.



**Figure 1: Percentage wise distribution of the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age.**

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The present study assessed the early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age at selected community area, Puducherry. The study findings concluded that majority of old age had mild dissociative amnesia and there is no significance association between age, sex, marital status, source of income, religion, previous occupation, educational status, Any symptoms of dissociative amnesia, previous knowledge of dissociative amnesia and source of information with early symptoms of dissociative amnesia among old age.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Same study can be conducted with large samples.
- Same study can be conducted in hospital settings.

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