

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PARANORMAL BELIEFS AMONG URBAN AND RURAL YOUTH IN AURANGABAD BIHAR

¹ Punam Singh & ² Soni Kewalramani

¹ U.G Student, ² Assistant Professor

¹Amity Institute of Behavioral Science

¹ Amity University Lucknow Campus, Uttar Pradesh, India

Email: singhpunam1646@gmail.com & skewalramani@lko.amity

ABSTRACT- Our world is full of wonders there are many things that can't be explained on the basis of science such phenomena are known as paranormal beliefs and have existed since ancient times a number of examples can be seen in our ancient texts despite the development of scientific and modern technology these paranormal beliefs still exist the customary tradition of our country and rituals have an existence of paranormal power. This dissertation examines the nature label prevalence of Paranormal Beliefs among urban and rural youth.

The main objective of the study is to compare and examine the level of acceptance of perception of paranormal belief in paranormal phenomena such as existence of God, existence of negative energy, existence of super natural Power and believe in ghost between young people residing in urban and rural settings using a scientific qualitative research design.

Paranormal Beliefs depend on cultural settings and educational scenario, status, family structure, socio-cultural background, and availability of media. A comparative cross-sectional study design involving young adults from selected urban and rural geographical areas. Standard measure of evaluation administered through various dimensions of Paranormal Beliefs.

The study aims to highlight the ongoing interaction between traditional and modern society in shaping the perception of youth in Bihar as well their cognitive thinking level. The Paranormal Beliefs among youth is a product of anxiety, meaning making, and perceived control over unspecific situation and environment. The study will contribute to understand how cognitive and emotional factors shape the belief system in emerging Bihar. Young adults included urban or rural population have a belief on supernatural activity like astrology future prediction this study examine the Paranormal Beliefs measured by Tobacyk paranormal belief scale. A total 150 youth participated in this study. Data will be collected from a sample of youth aged 25 to 35 from both urban and rural areas.

Key words: Paranormal Belief, Young Adults.

INTRODUCTION –

Beliefs are one of the constituting factors of human cognition. Beliefs mold our behavior thought process and perception to see the world, steer our actions, affect our feelings, and give significance to our daily experiences. Beliefs are not just formless concepts, a framework that ensures how people think in reality. From the birth and initial stage of life, human beings internalize belief systems through environment and surroundings. As a result, belief systems differ as per societies, religion, and regions.

The paranormal belief is a term defining supernatural powers. It is a matter of interest in modern psychology to find out the cause and phenomena of such things which can't be defined by the normal science anomalous or Paranormal Beliefs is an extra sensory perception regarding astrology, ghost, witchcraft, black magic etc. The signs of paranormal beliefs have been reported in every culture. The experience of paranormal phenomenon also defined as an incident that transcend (beyond) the boundary of scientific belief. Several people are reporting paranormal events every year the researchers are trying to study these wondrous or anomalous experiences.

The term paranormal refers to haunting, psychokinesis, inner sight, power to read another mind. The paranormal belief is also based on the impact of socio economic, and emotional status. (Lindeman & Aarnio, 2007).

Paranormal Beliefs stand a special place in psychological context among various beliefs. Supernatural faith defines as the belief mechanisms related with events that are beyond the explanation as per scientific view. Witchcraft, astrology, spirits, Ghosts, fate, rei telepathy, psychic abilities, miracle, identity, and faith in other supernatural incidents refers as the key of Paranormal Beliefs (Irwin, 2009). Despite technological and other aspects of development Paranormal Beliefs exists since the development of human civilizations and it travels with the cultural and historical time period. The existence of such beliefs is integral part of the perception of human. Science and logic always try to find a exact cause of such incidents (Barrett, 2004). These tendencies may be developed from the ancestral times when human being learns to predict the presence of hunter or predator for their survival even if their foretelling was not always correct. (Foster & Kokko, 2009). It means the Paranormal Beliefs may have begun as the byproduct of that particular cognitive mechanisms that were beneficial in the development of human. The evolutionary psychologists suggests that certain cognitive mechanism or assumptions or cognitive biases that promote Paranormal Beliefs or super natural power, may have developed individual or collective survival in human societies since their existence on earth (Foster & Kokko, 2009). For instance, for natural calamities, people offered rituals in group to the unknown supreme power which was accepted as a cause of calamities. These group rituals and moral principles encouraged a social cohesion for a unseen power. Similarly, the belief of unseen power emotionally and morally aroused to unseen guarding to obey social norms. However such beliefs exist in past and accepted widely but today in advance technologically scientific age, it is a bit difficult and complex to understand and accept. As per Canman 2012, human understanding system works as a naturally fast as an automatic system and as a thoughtful enquiry system. The two system works in human, system one -automatic system is often related with out of the box thinking or natural thinking or less probing tendency supports the acceptance of the supernatural powers.

Irwin in 2009 accepted paranormal belief as a cognitive inclination which helps individual to control the uncertainty and emotional distress. As per this view paranormal faith can do a job to creating a illusion of control. A psychological job done by paranormal faith when people will face untoward situation, the faith of luck, fate, supernatural powers, astrology will keep optimistic and will alleviate the instability. In this way paranormal belief also provides a calm situation or hope to settle down every unexpected situation. It has not only shown the lack of education or ignorance but can also fulfill emotional tasks.

The role of locus of control in belief formation enquired by social psychologists. The person who perceives life outcomes as outcome of luck, fate, or supe natural forces are more likely to accept Paranormal Beliefs (Irwin, 2009).

Lindeman and Aarnio (2007) explains that Paranormal Beliefs have root from our society and it became strong through socialization process. The concept of supernatural and paranormal travelled with civilizations as in religious rituals, traditional practices, and folk narratives.

Due to diverse cultural traditional, regional differences India is a particularly rich context for enquiring Paranormal Beliefs. coexistence of ancient belief systems with rapid modernization adds an extra scope in Indian society for paranormal belief. Due to ancient culture existence of India, beliefs in reincarnation, karma, spirit, astrology, possession, black magic, and divine powers remain prevalent across various communities. Also, India is home expanding educational opportunities, technological innovation and to major scientific institutions. This coexistence creates a dynamic environment in which traditional supernatural beliefs and modern rationality interact rather than simply replace one another.

A good number of peoples showed one of the most significant socio-demographic changes influencing belief systems is urban. These areas have greater access to diverse occupational structures, formal education exposure to scientific knowledge, and increased media infiltration. critical thinking and analytical reasoning, factors may encourage rational thinking reducing reliance on paranormal explanations. Exposure of education and different social networks may also question on traditional belief systems by introducing optional viewpoints.

In rural areas close cohesion with tradition, closer community structures and limited access to education and scientific view. Social adherence in rural societies may encouraged shared belief systems through grouped rituals and oral traditions. limited access to scientific resources and healthcare may encourage the inclination towards Paranormal Beliefs. It also opens a space for bending on astrologers, traditional healers or spiritual

practices for unexpected problems or situations. The populations of rural societies are not ignorant, and urban populations are not always skeptical but their belief system is a result of complex interactions between cultural continuity, education, and socioeconomic status.

To enquire about Paranormal Beliefs, youth represent a particularly important demographic group. Emerging adulthood and Adolescence are developmental stages characterized by exploration of values, self-identity formation, and cognitive development. individuals transition from concrete operational thinking to more abstract reasoning during adolescence (Piaget, 1972). However, peer influence, emotional vulnerability, and exposure to social media may also encourages susceptibility to non-scientific belief systems. while retaining traditional cultural beliefs obtained from family and society, youth may simultaneously engage with modern scientific education.

A dual role played by media in the contemporary India. scientific awareness and promotion of rational inquiry is spreading by digital platforms. On the other hand, television shows, films, and social media content often encourages paranormal themes, potentially encouraging supernatural perceptions. Thus, the impact of modernization and urbanization on paranormal belief is not linear but multidimensional.

In nutshell, human cognition and social functioning have an integral part as beliefs system. while often beyond scientific explanation, Paranormal Beliefs, represent meaningful cognitive and emotional constructs shaped by cognitive biases evolutionary predispositions, cultural transmission, and socio-environmental background. The India, land of coexistence of tradition and modernity, enquiring about Paranormal Beliefs among youth provides a valuable insight into contemporary psychological processes. By studying urban and rural youth in Aurangabad, Bihar, the present study aims to find out how contextual variables such as education, community structure, urbanization, and locus of control influence the prevalence and nature of Paranormal Beliefs. This investigation will not only contribute in social psychology and cognitive and but also important for educational and mental health initiatives.

Problem Statement -

Are there measurable differences in Paranormal Beliefs label between urban and rural youth within the age group of 25 to 35 years of Aurangabad (Bihar).

Purpose of the Study -

The purpose of this study is to assess the level of Paranormal Beliefs among urban youth (25–35 years) in Bihar. The study aimed to investigate and compare the Paranormal Beliefs between urban youth and rural youth. The study aims to examine the influence of residence and another factor on Paranormal Beliefs.

Variables of the Study -

Independent Variable- Place of Residence (Urban and Rural).

Dependent Variable- Paranormal Beliefs (Beliefs related to supernatural phenomena).

Operational Definitions -

Beliefs in supernatural or unexplained phenomena such as ghosts, astrology, witchcraft, fate, and psychic abilities, measured using the Revised Paranormal Belief Scale (RPBS).

Urban Youth: - Individuals aged 25–35 years residing in urban areas of Bihar.

Literature Review -

We cannot explain everything in this world. Some incidents and events cannot be defined on the basis of logic. Such as things like Extrasensory Perception and Alien abductions that people believe in. These things can be categorized as Paranormal Beliefs. Those are hard to understand on the basis of science. before the emergence of science and its experimental branches, unusual events, human beings interpreted through sacred and mystical frameworks.

In the field of parapsychology, the phenomena like telepathy, which is the ability to read and understand others brain and behaviors, and perception is termed as paranormal. Additionally, it covers phenomena like ghosts, hauntings, and psychokinesis, which is the capacity to manipulate objects with one's thoughts.

It is a matter of inquiry of researchers to understand the nature of paranormal behavior and its impact. The matter or subjects beyond the sense of simple brain or human experience or can be defined as supernatural is also termed as paranormal. Vedic and post-Vedic period manifested reality as operating under divine consciousness, in the Indian subcontinent, Classical texts such as the Vedas and Upanishads proposed metaphysical explanations for life events. Simultaneously, village-level traditions evolved alongside philosophical systems. Anthropologist McKim Marriott later described this as the interaction between the “great tradition” (scriptural philosophy) and the “little tradition” (folk practices).

In earlier days people thought ghosts, sorcerers, demons, spirits, or mythical beings caused unexplained events. These explanations helped people make sense of things they did not understand but in course of time these paranormal behaviors started to study at scientific level.

Natural disasters, illness, fertility, death, and fortune were commonly attributed to unseen forces, In early civilizations across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. spirits, deities, ancestral beings, witchcraft, or cosmic energies, considered as Paranormal Beliefs.

In 1960 people started to believe Paranormal Beliefs. A resurgence of paranormal interest in the 1960s. According to sociologist Marcello Truzzi, parapsychology literature experienced massive commercial success. During this decade, ouija boards reportedly outsold popular board games, books on psychic phenomena sold in extraordinary numbers, UFO sightings gained public attention, countercultural movements embraced mysticism.

A study by Schmeidler in 1985 found that 51 percent of people in the United States said they had an experience with extrasensory perception, which is also define as Paranormal Beliefs.

The research done in 1990. The outcome showed that 49 percent of people believed have a opinion of Extrasensory Perception. 38 percent accepted the existence of ghosts and 33 Percent believed in aliens. A study also happened in 1997 showed 50 percent of people opined in existence of ghosts and one-third accepted, they had an experience with Extrasensory Perception.

Blackmore in 1997 researched and found out that 59 percent of the people accepted in the paranormal. This was found by. Recently a Gallup poll showed that people are believing more in ghosts' things like Extrasensory Perception and extraterrestrials. This is what Newport and Strausberg found out in 2001. Another study found that 49 percent of the people in the study believed that there is life in the universe and 33 percent believed that UFOs are real. This study was done by Biasco and Nunn in 2000.

In 2001 a Gallup poll was done in Newport and Strausbergs, found that many people believed in paranormal incidents. in 2000 a study was done by Biasco and Nunns. The study revealed that existence of life in the other planet of universe accepted by forty nine percent people. the existence of UFOs was accepted by thirty three percent of people. Patry and Pelletier researched, several people personally believed in UFOs. Men were more likely to believe in UFOs than women.24 Percent of people knew someone who had seen a UFO. Researchers have looked at how demographics affect what people believe about things. They found that men are more likely to believe in UFOs. Women are more likely to believe in ghosts and ESP.

The level of the knowledge of paranormal behaviour and acceptance of paranormal incidents also depends on the education level, age, and socioeconomic status. These factors also have impacts what people believe. The different age group and education level has different impact. The old age group people are usually more religious and They are more open to Paranormal Beliefs explanations. Some research says that the religion did not have impact about their acceptance of God, demons, and other planet world. what people believe about religion does not mean they accept things. Research also stated the behaviour and acceptance of paranormal, that people think their friends believe in such things more than they do. The level of perception of paranormal belief have also affected by media. Media and means of communication affect what people believe about things. TV shows, films, and documentaries related with Paranormal Beliefs, ghosts and psychic abilities, aliens, and other planet life can influence on people's perception regarding paranormal belief they have. The perception and acceptance

regarding these beliefs have a different base. Henri Broch, a French researcher, researched that education level impacts the Paranormal Beliefs of the people. In India the Paranormal Beliefs have had a base from ancient period. In India the sacrament of different religion and rituals have a root of paranormal behaviour like good or bad spirit, control of a mind, God and ghost, black magic etc. The happiness and relation of paranormal belief stated by researcher Zinta and Kaitaik in 2017. In this researcher the finding was associated with the existence of God and deities directly related with the emotional intelligence and mental peace of people. The study focused the paranormal and their traditional practice of worship of God and goddess. Bhardwaj reflected the importance of folk lores and traditional deities' impact on the perception of people regarding paranormal belief and happiness this research stated the importance of traditional practice and relation with the mental state and peace to live a happy and joyous life. Means of communication and other forms of media also have an impact on the paranormal belief. Abril in 1977, in his research stated that the forms of communication have also impact of paranormal belief, for this he gave a statement like someone with blatant vision praise someone without touching her or him, he or she becomes fall ill. It is a transmission of a negative energy without touching only with the help of words or gaze. In Hindu tradition the existence of God is directly linked with mental perception of happiness and bliss, it strongly based on the acceptance of the existence of care taker almighty god. The same was reflected in the study of the Pirta and Thakur in 2009. In their research the god assumed as a role of problem solver. The concept of influence the lie of a common people at every stage of life in village area the concept of protection with evil power, witchcraft, and black magic. In 2017 Negi and Zinta stated in his research finding that belief in existence of God at local level protects the individual or group of people or village by evil spirit and that is also related with the individual mental peace or bliss. Various research in India indicated that the people have a strong belief in a presence of God that can protect with evil spirit therefore it provides a strong base of the religious customary practice at a large scale. The Paranormal Beliefs have a strong impact on the socio emotional stage of the mind and the way to get rid of paranormal negative powers is directly associated with bhajan kirtan and other religious practices (Alam and Rabia 2005). In India the believe system specially with the luck, opportunities etc. are also associated with the living organism like people have a perception that if a black cat enters in house, it is a good sign of luck but if black cat crosses the path, it a negative sign (Zinta & Charanjeet K). In 2006 research of Joshi reflected the perception of people regarding life's events like accident, death, sickness, etc. have an impact of witches and physical and mental illness, severe pains and other body related problems are caused by witches. In India the ancient text has also broaden a concept of God and good spirits and the supreme self and can be realize her\his power through auspicious way i.e. meditation and purity of karma. The realization of God or vicinity with God can overcome the evil spirit witches and other negative energy. The Paranormal Beliefs travelled with tradition, epics, and folklore also. In his work Abhijeet sarkar accepted folklore as a medium of spread the paranormal belief among regional level.

The research done by previous researchers suggests that the higher education levels are generally related with lower endorsement of Paranormal Beliefs, although this relationship is not absolute (Lindeman & Aarnio, 2007). Scientific literacy and Critical thinking skills may minimize the susceptibility to cognitive biases. However, emotional factors such as stress, uncertainty, anxiety, can increase the inclination on supernatural interpretations, regardless of educational level (Irwin, 2009). Thus, the interaction between emotional vulnerability, education, cultural tradition and must be considered.

Research Question -

Is there a significant difference in paranormal beliefs between urban and rural youth in Bihar?

Research gap -

In India a lot of study has been done in paranormal belief related with religion, personality, and other context but probably not in a specific state like Bihar. There is a noticeable lack of region-specific investigations that explore how Paranormal beliefs vary within particular district.

The present study is to seek the perception of people of the Aurangabad (Bihar) a culturally and socio economically developed. This district has ancient root from Rigveda and considered as a part of Keekat Pradesh culturally diverse and enriched with various tradition and custom. The region of Aurangabad is historically significant, characterized by a blend of customs, cultural practice and socio-economic development. This

combination makes it an important yet underexplored context for understanding how paranormal beliefs is shaped and maintained.

The research is based on samples, which includes the respondents of urban and rural areas of Aurangabad (Bihar) with an aim to enquire and to address the gap of region-specific investigations by investigating paranormal beliefs among urban and rural youth in Aurangabad (Bihar). By focusing on a specific geographical area and incorporating a comparative approach, the study seeks to provide a more regional and culturally grounded understanding of the acceptance and prevalence of paranormal beliefs.

Methodology-

Objective –

The present study aims to -

1. To assess the level of Paranormal Beliefs among urban youth (25–35 years) in Bihar.
2. To assess the level of Paranormal Beliefs among rural youth (25–35 years) in Bihar.
3. To compare Paranormal Beliefs between urban youth and rural youth.
4. To examine the influence of residence on Paranormal Beliefs.

Hypothesis –

H1: There is a significant difference in Paranormal Beliefs between urban youth and rural youth in Bihar.

Variables –

Independent Variable - Place of Residence (Urban and Rural).

Dependent Variable - Paranormal Beliefs (Beliefs related to supernatural phenomena).

Research Design -

The study uses a comparative research design with a cross-sectional approach. This method helps to examine and compare paranormal beliefs between urban and rural youth at one specific point in time, providing a clear understanding of differences between the two groups without following them over a longer period.

Sample and sampling technique –

The sample will be collected from selected rural and urban regions of Aurangabad Bihar. A total of 75 samples will be taken from both urban and rural regions.

Sampling technique –

The study used a combination of purposive and random sampling to include participants from both urban and rural areas while keeping the research manageable and practical.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria -

Inclusion Criteria -

1. Age between 25 years and 35 years old
2. Resident of Aurangabad Bihar
3. Willingness to participate

Exclusion Criteria -

1. Below 25 years age and not more than 35 years old
2. Having any psychological disorder and disease
3. Unwilling participants

Tools Used -

Revised Paranormal Belief Scale (RPBS) developed by Jerome J. Tobacyk, the RPBS consists of 26 items measuring multiple dimensions of paranormal belief. Responses are rated on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The scale has high reliability and validity and has been extensively used.

Format: -

Likert-type scale (agreement-based responses)

Items are simple, culturally relevant, and easily understood by Indian respondents.

Justification for Use: -

The RPBS is particularly suitable for this study as it captures beliefs related to the supernatural, aligning with the study's objectives. Its inclusion ensures both cultural sensitivity and academic rigor.

Reliability -

Previous Indian studies and university dissertations have reported satisfactory reliability and content validity for the SBS, making it suitable for academic research.

Cultural Relevance: -

Items are simple, culturally appropriate, and easily understood by Indian respondents.

Procedure -

1. The following process will be done in this study –
2. Participants were screened according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
3. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, with assurance of confidentiality and anonymity.
4. The RPBS was administered individually, either in printed form or via online platforms.
5. Responses were collected systematically for subsequent statistical analysis.

Statistical Analysis -

The collected data will be analyzed by statistical method as per the requirement to find out research conclusion. The following steps can be used -

1. Mean and Standard Deviation
2. Test of Normality
3. Independent Samples t-test or
4. Mann–Whitney U test (as per data distribution)

RESULT ANALYSIS -

The response of urban and rural citizens of Aurangabad Bihar. To measure or to find out the level of paranormal belief, 75 urban and 75 rural participants were investigated with the help of RPBS tool. The response of 150 people systematically analyzed by statistical method.

In this chapter the data analysis is done to test the - Hypothesis 1 -There is significant difference in paranormal belief between urban and rural youth of Aurangabad Bihar.

Response description (sample) -

The study includes 75 random rural people response and 75 random urban people response.

Urban Youth = 75

Rural Youth = 75

The age group is limited as per the requirement i.e. 25 years to 35.

The RPBS (Revised Paranormal Belief Scale) is used to measure the response of paranormal belief of randomly selected youth of Aurangabad Bihar.

The RPBS includes 26 questions based on 7-point Likert scale, every question has given a numerical value shown in table below to complete the result -

table - 4. A

Response No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Verbal response	Strongly Disagree (पूर्णतः असहमत)	Disagree (असहमत)	Slightly Disagree (थोड़ा असहमत)	Neutral (न तो सहमत, न असहमत)	Slightly Agree (थोड़ा सहमत)	Agree (सहमत)	Strongly Agree (पूर्णतः सहमत)
Numerical value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The minimum possible score for 26 questions of RPBS will be (if a response for all question, strongly disagree =1 marks) 26

The maximum possible score for 26 questions of RPBS will be (if a response for all question, strongly agree =7 marks 26*7) 182

Measurement of RPBS (Revised Paranormal Belief Scale) (Random Sampling) -

table 4. B

Response	Score
Minimum	26
Maximum	182

table 4.1 (Normality Test – Shapiro-Wilk)

Group	Number of respondents	W value	p- value	Normality	Remark
Rural	75	0.919	<0.001	Non normal	Unequal score
Urban	75	0.901	<0.001	Non normal	Repeated pattern

Both urban and rural data's $p < 0.05$,

Interpretation –

Since the p-value is less than 0.05 for both groups, the data are not normally distributed. This means non-parametric tests are appropriate for analyzing the differences between them. When the response data do not

follow a normal distribution and showed the unequal distribution then it is necessary to implement Mann-Whitney U Test to compare the two different independent groups.

Mann-Whitney U Test –

Group	Sample size	Mean rank	Conclusion
Rural	75	87.09	Higher
Urban	75	63.91	Lower

The test analysed the entire ranking of respondent of urban and rural youth of Aurangabad Bihar.

table - 4.2

Group	Sample size	Mean rank	Conclusion
Rural	75	87.09	Higher
Urban	75	63.91	Lower

Result: - $U = 4031.500, p < 0.001$. This indicates a statistically significant difference, with rural youth exhibiting higher paranormal beliefs compared to urban youth.

Interpretation -

A Mann–Whitney U test showing a difference in paranormal belief scores between urban and rural youth ($U = 4031.500, p < .001$). the rural youth respondents mean rank is 87.09. The urban respondents mean rank is 63.91.

The final outcome is, rural youth showing higher paranormal belief than urban.

To verify this data, Welch’s t-test is done

Welch’s t-test –

To further validate the difference, a Welch’s t-test was performed: -

table 4.3

Test	T -value	p- value
Welch’s Test	5.131	0.000

$t = 5.131$

$p = 0.000 (p < 0.001)$

Interpretation –

The t-value of 5.131 with a p-value less than 0.001 shows a significant difference in paranormal beliefs between urban and rural youth, confirming that Hypothesis 1 is correct and the two groups clearly differ in their beliefs.

Findings -

In this study, rural youth were found to have stronger paranormal beliefs compared to urban youth. The analysis using both non-parametric and parametric tests confirmed that this difference is statistically significant.

DISCUSSION –

The present study focuses on examining the level of Paranormal Beliefs among rural and urban youth in Aurangabad (Bihar) using Revised Paranormal Belief Scale (RPBS) developed by Jerome J. Tobacyk. The objective of the research was to inquire the label of urban and rural youth of Aurangabad for Paranormal Beliefs.

Interpretation -

The discussion and interpretation of the research findings are presented in this chapter. It is developed on the basis of the statistical results obtained. The significance and meaning of those findings are analyzed in a clear and systematic manner in this chapter. It also discusses the major outcomes of the study and examines their theoretical and practical implications. The chapter also provides insights into how these results contribute to the existing body of knowledge. On the basis of this chapter Finally, suggestions for future research are offered to guide further studies and encourage deeper exploration of the topic.

Discussion of Findings -

The main aim of this study was to examine and compare the level of paranormal beliefs among young people from urban and rural areas of Aurangabad. A total of 150 participants took part in the research, with an equal number of 75 individuals from each group. Information was collected in a structured way using the Revised Paranormal Belief Scale, which includes 26 questions rated on a 7-point Likert scale. This scale helped in understanding how strongly participants agreed or disagreed with different paranormal ideas. The collected responses were carefully analyzed to identify patterns and differences between the two groups. This process made it easier to understand how beliefs vary depending on whether individuals come from urban or rural settings. Overall, the findings provided meaningful insights into how background and environment can influence a person's belief in paranormal phenomena.

Data Distribution and Normality -

According to the results presented in the Shapiro–Wilk test (table 4.1) indicated that the data for both groups, urban and rural, did not follow a normal distribution, as the significance level was found to be less than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). This suggests that the participants' responses were not evenly distributed and showed considerable variability and inconsistency. Due to the violation of the assumption of normality, it was not appropriate to apply parametric tests. Therefore, the use of non-parametric statistical methods was considered more suitable for analyzing the data and obtaining reliable results.

Comparison between Urban and Rural Youth -

Since the data did not follow a normal distribution, The Mann–Whitney U test was applied to compare the two independent groups, as the data did not meet the assumptions required for parametric testing. The results (Table 4.2) showed that the urban youth (63.91) had a lower mean rank compared to rural youth (87.09). This clearly suggests that the level of paranormal belief is greater among rural participants than urban.

Furthermore, the difference between the two groups was found to be statistically significant ($U = 4031.500$, $p < 0.001$). it shows the real difference in beliefs level between the groups. This finding suggests that one possible explanation that the social environment and lifestyle play an important role in shaping individuals' belief systems, particularly in relation to paranormal phenomena. The social surroundings daily life experiences, traditions influence what people believe and how they think. Rural environments may encourage stronger traditional or cultural beliefs, which can increase acceptance of paranormal ideas.

Interpretation of Welch's t-test -

To further check the results, Welch's t-test was conducted. The analysis (Table 4.3) produced a value of $t = 5.131$ with a significance level of $p < 0.001$. This result clearly indicates a meaningful difference between the two groups. The findings obtained from the previous test, indicating a clear difference between the two groups. The low p-value shows that the variation reflects a real difference in attitude of people rather than random variation. The statistical outcome suggests that the observed variation in paranormal belief between urban and rural youth is not due to chance. Instead, it reflects a genuine and meaningful difference, thereby strengthening the reliability and validity of the study's overall findings.

Explanation of Results -

The finding of this research based on their response shows that there is a significant difference in paranormal belief of urban and rural youth. The study indicates that rural youth show relatively high score in the comparison urban youth. The findings of this study can be better understood by considering several social, psychological and cultural factors. Education and awareness play a key role. The difference in education level access of media is one of the possible explanations for this finding. The rural youth may depend on traditional knowledge system and cultural practices which includes astrology faith on stars, motion of planet, movement of sun and existence of nature. The influence of tradition and culture is the another aspect of perception about paranormal belief. The rural areas have a acceptance of traditional rituals, value and customs which is following by generations. These cultural practices are integral part of a life, encourages people to accept the paranormal phenomena like as omens, black magic, and existence of spirits. In urban surrounding people having a diverse background and effected by modernization which may shift their perception regarding paranormal belief through scientific and rational perspective.

In rural areas the close relation and strong family bond provide a healthy family and social environment, which lead rural young people to follow the beliefs of paranormal things and practices of elders without a question. In the comparison of rural youth, urban youth critically evaluate such belief on the basis of their rationality. Excess of education and exposure of scientific knowledge also play a big role in the perception of Paranormal Beliefs. Rural youth rely on traditional cultural practices, knowledge system and values, where beliefs in fate astrology supernatural are more commonly accepted. In comparison of rural urban youth have an exposure to a scientific knowledge, higher education and technology which may encourage rational thinking and minimize the acceptance of traditional faith and beliefs and paranormal explanation.

The findings of this study are also important to indicates that urban youth did not express the complete absence of Paranormal Beliefs. Sub-urban youth also express a moderate level of beliefs. It indicates that paranormal belief can coexist with scientific exposure with modern education.

The present study also suggest that the nature of human beliefs system is more complex where traditional beliefs and scientific or rational thinking may exist together. Paranormal Beliefs also provide an explanation of uncertain things, reducing anxiety, increasing calmness, affirmation of handling situation as a psychological function. This study suggest that cultural, educational background and social surrounding play a major riple in influencing the Paranormal Beliefs among youth. The study also suggest that there is a need to evaluate or to understand beliefs system within their cultural context in addition to rational perspective.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION –

The mental structure of a human has various component belief are one of them. In modern psychology beliefs is a central phenomenon to understand the mental structure. It a key factor of behaviour and sense of identity. The term beliefs has a wide range from normal, general or traditional beliefs to Paranormal Beliefs. The term Paranormal Beliefs means a variety of a such perception which may not be accepted as it is on scientific parameter. The study of Paranormal Beliefs has been questioned since its existence. The researchers try to understand the unbelievable incident but the people believe in them even an educated community have also a acceptance on such perception like as witchcraft, ghost, fate, and astrology. The researcher tries to understand the level of beliefs and evidence that can be clearly categorize accepters and non-accepters. This study was

done, to measure how these paranormal beliefs vary among youth, leading to the finding of a significant difference between rural and urban groups.

This study shows that there is a clear and significant difference in paranormal beliefs between rural and urban youth in Aurangabad. The results indicate that rural youth tend to have higher levels of belief in paranormal phenomena, while urban youth have lower levels. Several factors may explain this difference. Rural areas are more influenced by traditional beliefs, folklore, and community practices, which can strengthen paranormal beliefs. In contrast, urban youth are more exposed to education, scientific thinking, and access to information through technology, which encourages rational thinking and reduces superstitious beliefs. Social and cultural environments also play an important role, as collective beliefs are stronger in rural communities. Overall, these findings support the study's hypothesis that urban and rural youth differ significantly in their paranormal beliefs. This study highlights how education, culture, and social factors shape young people's attitudes toward the paranormal.

The findings of this study have implications for psychology, education and social awareness. Promoting critical reasoning and scientific thinking can help people to evaluate beliefs more effectively.

Limitations and future suggestions -

This study has some limitations that should be considered. The study was limited to a specific geographical region and sample size. It was conducted on a limited number of participants, so the results cannot be applied to all youth in Aurangabad, Bihar. The respondents were selected from specific urban and rural areas, which means their beliefs may not represent those of young people from other regions. Additionally, some participants might have answered the questions based on what they thought was socially acceptable rather than their true beliefs. Finally, differences in how participants understood or interpreted the questions could have influenced their responses. Despite these limitations, the study provides useful insights into the differences in paranormal beliefs between rural and urban youth.

Future research can include larger and more diverse samples and additional variables. Overall, the study demonstrates the influence of residence on paranormal beliefs and provides a foundation for further research and interventions in the field of social psychology.

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