

BEC中级阅读：亚洲女性自杀率高 PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

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导读：通常，男人比女人的自杀率高得多。但是在亚洲的发展中国家，年轻女性的自杀率远高于男子。她们容易自杀的原因可能是缺少教育、包办婚姻、失恋等。另一方面，这些亚洲女性的自杀方式和西方女性有很大不同，她们更倾向于使用上吊、农药、自焚等“有效”途径。

April 01, 2004 Although suicide rates around the world are about three times higher for men than women, evidence is mounting that in developing countries in Asia, suicide is far more common among young women than men. In a study this week in The Lancet medical journal(《柳叶刀》医学杂志), researchers give the first picture of suicide among young people in India. In a region near Vellore in southern India, more than twice as many young women aged 10 to 19 committed suicide as men in the same age group. The study found the average suicide rate for women in that age group was 148 per 100,000, compared with 58 suicides per 100,000 men. Globally, the suicide rate for men is about 24 per 100,000, and about 6.8 per 100,000 for women. The study looked at a community of 108,000 people in Vellore in southern India over a period of 10 years, from 1992-2001. During that time, there were 122 suicides among the communitys roughly 20,000 10- to 19-year-olds. Forty of the suicides were committed by men and 82 by women. Experts say the latest study was based on too few suicides to be certain the observed rates are valid, but added that the research

shows suicide is vastly underreported (v. 少报, 低估) in the developing world. "Almost everything we know about suicide comes from Western countries, particularly Europe. So far, we had not looked into other cultures," said Dr. Jose Bertolote, who heads the mental and brain disorders division at the World Health Organization and was not involved with the study. "The more we look into those cultures we see that the difference between men and women is not as big as it happens to be in Europe, so there is a major cultural element here," he said. The first evidence that suicide rates are higher among young women than among men in Asia emerged two years ago from a study conducted in rural China. Researchers there found rates of 30.4 suicides per 100,000 women compared with 23.8 suicides per 100,000 men. The latest study, led by researchers at the Christian Medical College in Vellore is the second one to show a different gender pattern in Asian suicides. "There is a very major trend here," Bertolote said. One of the major differences between suicide in the West and in developing countries is the method. It is known from studies in the West that more women than men attempt suicide, but fewer succeed. Usually, women in Western countries attempt suicide by slashing their wrists or swallowing pills, both methods that are treatable. In rural India, the methods are hanging, poisoning with lethal insecticides that are banned in many other parts of the world and setting oneself on fire. All three are difficult to survive. Some of the pesticides, widely kept in rural homes, kill within three hours. For women trying to kill themselves in the countryside, where there is no transportation and sometimes no

roads, it is often too late by the time they reach a hospital. There are a few theories why young Asian women are committing suicide at such a high rate. "It could be because of lack of education, conflicts surrounding the issue of arranged marriages(包办婚姻), love failures, dowries and things like that," said Dr. Lakshmi Vijayakumar, who runs the Sneha Suicide Prevention Center in Chennai, in the Madras region of India. Overall in India, male suicides start to outnumber the women as they get older, said Vijayakumar, who was not involved with the latest study. Once the women have children, they become emotionally and psychologically stronger and the suicide rate goes down, she said. 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com