

Effects of Some Selected Factors on Blood Glucose Level of the Diabetic Patients: Evidence from Rajshahi City of Bangladesh

B. Noor¹, J. A. M. S. Rahman, and K. Hossain

Department of Population Science and Human Resource Development, University of Rajshahi,
Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh

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Abstract

This study presumes the existence of causal framework interlinking different predictor variables with the response variables. That is why it determines the risk and concerned factors, which affect blood sugar level of the diabetic patients either directly or indirectly or through making implied effect by the optional factors. Data have been collected from two diabetic diagnostic centers in Rajshahi City. The result implies that blood glucose level of both tablet and insulin users have positive and significant relation to systolic pressure, diastolic pressure and calorie intake. For both tablet and insulin users, body mass index (BMI) affects blood sugar most prominently through walking distance covered by the patients. The index, for instance, is found to be 69.74% and 58.82% for the tablet and insulin users, respectively. Thus controlling BMI through taking regulatory calorie intake, controlling blood pressure (both systolic and diastolic pressure) a patient could find himself or herself in the safe zone.

Keywords: Diabetic mellitus; Type-I and Type-II diabetic; Blood glucose level; Systolic pressure; Diastolic pressure.

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1. Introduction

Glucose is a main source of energy for the cells that make up our muscles and other tissues. Blood sugar tests measure how well our body processes sugar (glucose). A normal fasting blood sugar result is lower than 100 milligrams of glucose per deciliter of blood (mg/dL) [1]. Hyperglycemia, or high blood glucose levels, is the hallmark of diabetic and it is linked to the development of long-term diabetic complications. Healthy people without diabetic typically have blood glucose levels of 65-110 mg/dl and 120-140 mg/dl one to two hours after eating [2, 3]. Although infectious diseases still constitute the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in developing countries, WHO predicts that non-communicable

¹Corresponding author: bnoor_ru08@yahoo.com

diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases will become the world's main disablers and killers within the next quarter-century [4].

Type-I diabetes is an autoimmune disease. An autoimmune disease results when the body's system for fighting infection (the immune system) turns against a part of the body. In diabetes, the immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. The pancreas then produces little or no insulin. A person who has type-I diabetes must take insulin daily to live [5]. In type-II diabetic, the pancreas is usually producing enough insulin, but for unknown reasons the body cannot use the insulin effectively, a condition called insulin resistance. After several years, insulin production decreases. The result is the same as for type-I diabetes - glucose builds up in the blood and the body cannot make efficient use of its main source of fuel. The symptoms of type-II diabetes develop gradually [5]. The most common form of diabetic is type-II diabetic and this type of diabetic is most often associated with older age, obesity, physical inactivity, and ethnicities [6]. Investigating the prevalence of type-II Diabetic Mellitus (DM), impaired glucose tolerance and the factors affecting blood sugar level, it has been found that the sex, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceredemia and hypertension as independent factors for the abnormalities in glucose tolerance; whereas, BMI and per day insulin and tablet intake affect blood sugar level for the both sexes and for both tablet or insulin users [7]. It has also been revealed that aging, overweight and a sedentary lifestyle are the important determinants in the prevalence of the diabetic during this transition period in Vietnam [8]. For non-insulin-dependent diabetic mellitus (NIDDM), impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and hyper tension in rural community of Bangladesh, increased age has been considered as an important risk factor for all disorder related to diabetic whereas BMI associated risk have been significant with NIDDM and hypertension [9,10].

The main aim of this paper is to investigate the direct, indirect and joint contributions of the selected factors influencing blood sugar level of the diabetic patients of Rajshahi district in Bangladesh using path analysis.

2. Data Source

Out of 84 diagnostic and pathologies [11], there are only two well recognized diabetic diagnostic centers named "Rajshahi Diabetic Association and Diagnostic Center" at Laxmipur and "Diabetic Welfare Center, Talaimary, Rajshahi" in Rajshahi city. Theses two diabetic centers have been considered as our study areas. There were 5345 registered diabetic patients at both the diabetic diagnostic centers; out of them 3772 registered patients were in Rajshahi Diabetic Association and Diagnostic Center and 1573 in Diabetic Welfare Center. We serially numbered all those registered diabetic patients from the two centers' respective registered book and thereafter we selected 1069 diabetic patients through the process of linear systematic sampling procedure using the formula $N=nk$, where $N=5348$, $n=1069$ and $k=5$ [12]. Among 1069 patients there were 504 males and 565 females of whom 454 were tablet users and 615 insulin users.

3. Analytical Methodology

The techniques employed in this study to examine the effects of various direct, indirect and concerned factors on blood sugar level of the patients who were taking tablet or insulin to control their blood sugar level using multivariate analysis named path analysis. X_i (for tablet users) or Y_i (for insulin users) be the i th variable ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 11$) and the dependent variable (X_{11} or Y_{11}) is blood sugar level of the diabetic patients. The following Table 1 represents the variables and their measurement used in the path analysis.

Table 1. Variables and their measurement used in the path analysis.

Variables	Measurement
X_1 or Y_1 = Total Number of Children	Total number of children of the diabetic patients.
X_2 or Y_2 = Duration of Suffering	Suffering period of the diabetic patients (in year).
X_3 or Y_3 = Systolic Pressure	The blood pressure at the time of inhalation of oxygen by the lung.
X_4 or Y_4 = Duration of Education	Duration of education in schooling year.
X_5 or Y_5 = Diastolic Pressure	The blood pressure at the time of exhalation of oxygen to the blood vessels by the lung.
X_6 or Y_6 = Age	The age of the diabetic patients.
X_7 or Y_7 = Calorie Intake	Calorie intake by the diabetic patients
X_8 or Y_8 = BMI	Body Mass Index (in kg/cm ²).
X_9 or Y_9 = Walking distance (Km/Min.)	Daily walking distance covered by the patients (in km/min).
X_{10} or Y_{10} = Tablet or Insulin Intake.	Daily tablet or insulin intake by the patients (in mg and cc).
X_{11} = Blood Sugar Level	Blood sugar level measured after two hours of breakfast (ABF) of the patients (in mg/dl).

According to the causal ordering of variables, the selected set of variables may be divided into three groups that are given in Table 2:

Table 2. Category of the different variables.

Exogenous Variable	$\{X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 \text{ and } X_5\}$ or $\{Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4 \text{ and } Y_5\}$
Endogenous Variable	$\{X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9 \text{ and } X_{10}\}$ or $\{Y_6, Y_7, Y_8, Y_9 \text{ and } Y_{10}\}$
Dependent Variable	$\{X_{11}\}$ or $\{Y_{11}\}$

Note: X_i for tablet users and Y_i for insulin users.

In this study one of the main tasks in path diagram (Figs. 1 and 2) represent the hypothetical causal model relationship between blood sugar level and some of its determinants of the tablet and insulin user diabetic patients.

This model is recursive path model in which each variable assumed to be dependent upon all prior causal variables [13]. The system of equation for model can be written as:

$$X_6 = p_{61}X_1 + p_{62}X_2 + p_{63}X_3 + p_{64}X_4 + p_{65}X_5 + e_{6x}$$

or

$$Y_6 = q_{61}Y_1 + q_{62}Y_2 + q_{63}Y_3 + q_{64}Y_4 + q_{65}Y_5 + e_{6y}$$

$$X_7 = p_{71}X_1 + p_{72}X_2 + p_{73}X_3 + p_{74}X_4 + p_{75}X_5 + p_{76}X_6 + e_{7x}$$

or

$$Y_7 = q_{71}Y_1 + q_{72}Y_2 + q_{73}Y_3 + q_{74}Y_4 + q_{75}Y_5 + q_{76}Y_6 + e_{7y}$$

$$X_8 = p_{81}X_1 + p_{82}X_2 + p_{83}X_3 + p_{84}X_4 + p_{85}X_5 + p_{86}X_6 + p_{87}X_7 + e_{8x}$$

From Tables 3 and 4, it is evident that systolic pressure (X_3 or Y_3), diastolic pressure (X_5 or Y_5), calorie intake (X_7 or Y_7), have significant positive relationships with blood sugar level (X_{11} or Y_{11}). We also observe that the positive significant relationships have total number of children (X_1 or Y_1) with duration of suffering from diabetic (X_2 or Y_2), age (X_6 or Y_6); duration of suffering (X_2 or Y_2) with age (X_6 or Y_6); systolic pressure (X_3 or Y_3) with

Table 4. Zero order correlation coefficients among the selected variables for the diabetic patients taking insulin.

	Y_1	Y_2	Y_3	Y_4	Y_5	Y_6	Y_7	Y_8	Y_9	Y_{10}	Y_{11}
Y_1	1	0.082**	0.028	-0.314**	0.023	0.502**	0.070*	-0.022	-0.012	0.022	0.033
Y_2		1	0.034	0.024	0.056	0.187**	.059	0.027	-.044	0.008	0.038
Y_3			1	-0.015	0.154**	-0.037	0.036	0.021	-0.050	0.054	0.219**
Y_4				1	0.002	-0.072*	0.012	0.047	0.076*	-0.014	-0.001
Y_5					1	0.013	0.019	0.024	-0.020	0.059	0.303**
Y_6						1	0.033	-0.025	-0.056	0.022	0.005
Y_7							1	0.108**	-0.019	0.030	0.093**
Y_8								1	-0.027	0.033	0.19
Y_9									1	-0.086**	-0.041
Y_{10}										1	0.219**
Y_{11}											1

*** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed); **Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

diastolic pressure (X_5 or Y_5); duration of education (X_4 or Y_4) with walking distance (X_9 or Y_9) and calorie intake (X_7 or Y_7). The results indicate that blood sugar level (X_{11} or Y_{11}) is highly influenced by age (X_6 or Y_6), systolic pressure (X_3 or Y_3), diastolic pressure (X_5 or Y_5) and calorie intake (X_7 or Y_7), which in turn influence BMI (X_8 or Y_8), and it was found that diabetic is associated with age, BMI, blood pressure, triglyceride, HDL, education level, exercise, and a family history of diabetic [14]. But the variables, total number of children (X_1 or Y_1) with duration of education (X_4 or Y_4) and duration of education (X_4 or Y_4) with age (X_6 or Y_6) have significant negative relationships exist between them.

We have tried to obtain the direct, indirect and implied effects and various path coefficients of each of the explanatory variables from path analysis. In case of insulin users diabetic patients, out of 36, 15 hypothesized paths are statistically significant, again, out of 5, 3 endogenous variables named calorie intake (Y_7), walking distance (Y_9) and per day insulin intake (Y_{10}) have significant direct effect on blood sugar level (X_{11}) (Fig. 2). This result is supported by other workers as they found that calorie intake, walking distance and per day insulin intake as significant risk factors of diabetic [15]. In case tablet users' diabetic patients, out of 36, 14 hypothesized paths are statistically significant. Whereas, out of 5, 4 endogenous variables as age (X_6), calorie intake (X_7), BMI (X_8) and walking distance (X_9) have significant direct effect on blood sugar level (X_{11}) (Fig. 1). From Fig. 1, it shows that the indirect significant effects on blood sugar level (X_{11}) are total number of children (X_1) through calorie intake (X_7); duration of suffering from diabetic (X_2) through age (X_6) as well as calorie intake (X_7); systolic pressure (X_3) through age (X_6); duration of education (X_4) through age (X_6), BMI (X_8) as well as walking distance (X_9). From Fig. 2, the indirect significant effects on blood sugar level (Y_{11}) are total number of children (Y_1) through age (Y_6), calorie intake (Y_7) and BMI (Y_8); exogenous variable duration of suffering from diabetic (Y_2) through age (Y_6) and calories intake (Y_7); systolic pressure (Y_3) through age (Y_6); duration of education (Y_4) through age (Y_6), BMI (Y_8) and walking habit (Y_9); and diastolic pressure (Y_5) through insulin intake (Y_{10}).

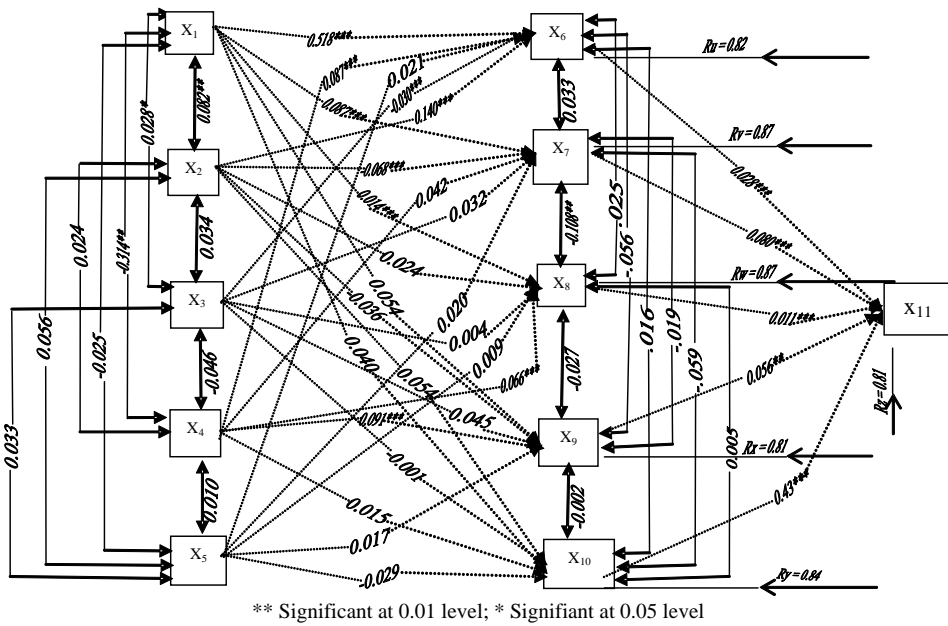


Fig. 1. Path diagram for the selected factors affecting blood sugar level through endogenous variables (For tablet users).

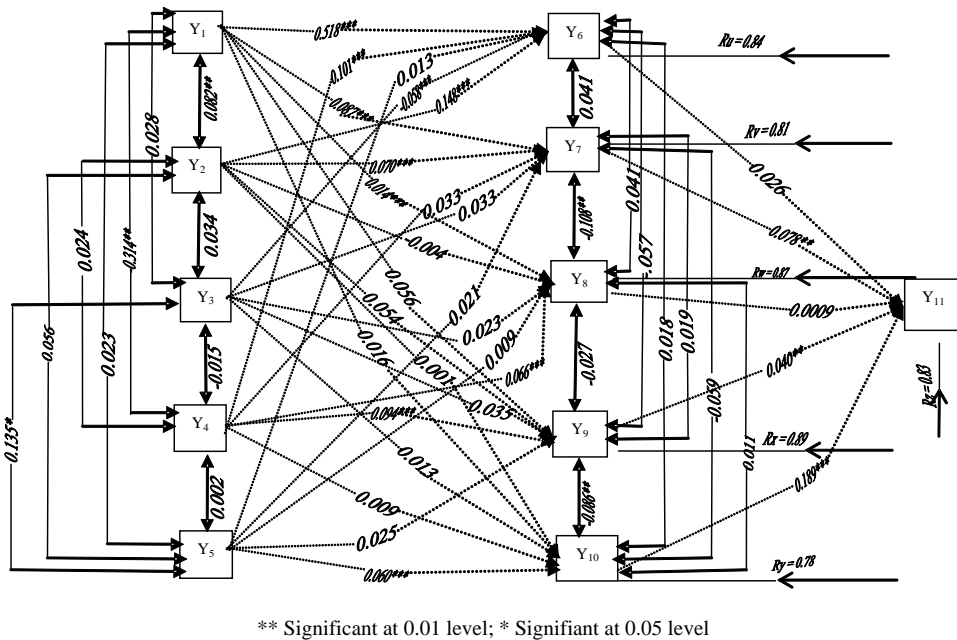


Fig. 2. Path diagram for the selected factors affecting the blood sugar level through endogenous variables (For insuli users).

We observe that in case of tablet users, total effect of the total number of children (X_1) on blood sugar level (X_{11}) is 0.667 (Table 5) in the same direction of which about 68.24% are transmitted through age (X_6) in same direction and about 6.06% are transmitted through its implied effect in opposite direction then about 11.46%, 1.84%, 7.11% and 5.27% in same direction acts through calorie intake (X_7), BMI (X_8), walking habit of the patients (X_9) and tablet intake (X_{10}) respectively (Table 6). Total effect of duration of suffering from diabetic (X_2) on blood sugar level (X_{11}) is 0.128 in the same direction (Table 5) of which about 41.66%, 7.14% and 5.27% are transmitted through age of respondents (X_6), BMI of the respondents (X_8), and per day tablet intake (X_{10}) in the same direction and about 4.16% is transmitted through it's implied effect in the same direction (Table 6).

Then, 20.23% and 16.07% are transmitted in opposite direction through calorie intake (X_7), and tablet intake (X_{10}) respectively (Table 6). Total effect of systolic pressure (X_3) on blood sugar level (X_{11}) is 0.278 (Table 5) in the same direction of which about 3.35% is transmitted through tablet intake (X_{10}) in opposite direction and about 59.39% is transmitted through it's implied effect in same direction then 10.06%, 10.73%, 1.34% and 15.10% are transmitted in same direction through age (X_6), calorie intake (X_7), BMI (X_8), walking habit (X_9), respectively (Table 6). Total effect of educational qualification of the respondents (X_4) on blood sugar level is 0.278 (Table 5) in the same direction and of which 29.79%, 14.38%, 17.12%, 31.36% and 5.13% have been transmitted through age of the respondents (X_6), calorie intake (X_7), BMI (X_8), walking habit (X_9) and through tablet intake (X_{10}) respectively in the same direction and only 2.39% has been transmitted through its implied effect in opposite direction (Table 6).

Table 5. Results for the selected factors of blood sugar level through endogenous variables (For tablet users).

Dependent variable	Exo. variable	Total association	Non-casual effect	Total effect	X_6	X_7	X_8	X_9	X_{10}	Other variables (implied effect)	Direct effect
X_{11}	X_1	0.033	0.634	0.667	0.518	0.087	0.014	0.054	0.040	-0.046	
	X_2	0.008	0.12	0.128	0.140	-0.068	0.024	-0.036	0.054	0.014	
	X_3	0.219**	0.059	0.278	0.030	0.032	0.004	0.045	-0.010	0.177	
	X_4	-0.001	0.279	0.278	0.087	0.042	0.050	0.091	0.015	-0.007	
	X_5	0.303**	0.019	0.322	0.021	0.020	0.020	0.017	-0.029	0.273	
	X_6	0.005	-0.002	-0.007		0.006	-0.020	-0.069	-0.012		0.028
	X_7	0.093**	0.047	0.14			0.108	0.009	-0.057		0.080
	X_8	0.019	-0.004	-0.021				-0.030	-0.002		0.011
	X_9	-0.041	0.103	0.062					0.006		0.056
	X_{10}	0.061	-0.018	0.043							0.043

Note: Non-casual effect = Total effect – Total association and Exo. = Exogenous

** Significant at 0.01 level; * Significant at 0.05 level

Table 6. Percentage of the total absolute effect on the blood sugar level through endogenous variables (For tablet users).

Dependent variable	Exogenous variable	Percentage of indirect effect through					Other variables (implied effect)	Direct effect
		X_6	X_7	X_8	X_9	X_{10}		
X_{11}	X_1	68.24	11.46	1.84	7.11	5.27	6.06	
	X_2	41.66	20.23	7.14	10.71	16.07	4.16	
	X_3	10.06	10.73	1.34	15.10	3.35	59.39	
	X_4	29.79	14.38	17.12	31.16	5.13	2.39	
	X_5	5.52	5.26	5.26	4.47	7.63	71.87	
	X_6		4.44	14.81	51.11	8.88		20.74
	X_7			42.51	3.54	22.44		31.49
	X_8				69.76	4.65		25.58
	X_9					9.67		90.32
	X_{10}							100

The exogenous variable diastolic pressure (X_5) have the total effect 0.322 (Table 5) on blood glucose level (X_{11}) in the same direction of which only 5.52%, 5.26%, 5.26% and 4.47% are transmitted through age of the respondents, (X_6), calorie intake (X_7), BMI (X_8) and walking habit (X_9) in the same direction and a large percentage of 71.63% is transmitted through its implied effect in the same direction respectively, then 7.64% is transmitted through per day insulin intake (X_{10}) by the patients in the opposite direction. (Table 6).

Among the patients who are used to and are prescribed to take insulin for controlling their blood sugar level, it is observed from Table 7 that total effect of total number of children (Y_1) on blood glucose level (Y_{11}) is 0.739 (Table 7) in same direction of which 70.09%, 9.65%, 9.13%, 7.20%, 1.93%, have been transmitted in same direction through age of the respondents (Y_6), calorie intake (Y_7), BMI of the respondents (Y_8), walking habit of the respondents (Y_9) and amount of per day insulin intake (Y_{10}) in the same direction respectively. A few percent (3.6%) has been transmitted through its implied effects in the same direction (Table 8). The total effect of duration of suffering from diabetic (Y_2) to blood sugar level (Y_{11}) is 0.078 (Table 7) in the same direction while, of 0.078, 48.95%, 8.39% and only 0.69% have been transmitted in same direction through age of the respondents (Y_6), BMI of the respondents (Y_8) and walking distance (Y_9) respectively, and 5.59% has been transmitted through its implied effect in the same direction, and 23.77% and 12.58% have been transmitted in opposite direction through calorie intake (Y_7), per day insulin intake (Y_{10}) respectively (Table 8).

The total effect of the systolic pressure (Y_3) on the blood glucose level is 0.328 (Table 7) in same direction. Of the total effect of 0.328, 9.14%, 9.75%, 1.21%, 13.71% and 15.24% are transmitted in the opposite direction through age (Y_6), calorie intake (Y_7), BMI (Y_8), walking distance (Y_9) and insulin intake (Y_{10}) respectively in the same direction, and 50.91% is transmitted through its implied effect towards same direction (Table 8).

Table 7. Results for the selected factors of blood sugar level through endogenous variables (For insulin users).

Dependent variable	Exo. variable	Total association	Non-casual effect	Total effect	Y_6	Y_7	Y_8	Y_9	Y_{10}	Other variables (implied effect)	Direct effect
Y_{11}	Y_1	0.033	0.706	0.739	0.518	0.087	0.014	0.054	0.016	0.050	
	Y_2	0.038	0.04	0.078	0.140	-0.068	0.024	-0.036	0.002	0.016	
	Y_3	0.219**	0.109	0.328	0.030	0.032	0.004	0.045	0.050	0.167	
	Y_4	-0.001	0.296	0.286	0.087	0.042	0.050	0.091	0.023	-0.007	
	Y_5	0.333**	0.092	0.395	0.021	0.020	0.020	0.017	0.052	0.265	
	Y_6	0.005	-0.052	-0.057		0.006	-0.029	-0.069	0.009		0.026
	Y_7	0.093**	0.129	0.222			0.108	0.009	0.027		0.078
	Y_{80}	0.19	0.181	-0.009				-0.030	0.012		0.009
	Y_9	-0.041	0.036	-0.005					-0.090		0.040
	Y_{10}	0.219**	-0.003	0.189							0.189

Note: Non-casual effect = Total effect – Total association and Exo. = Exogenous;
 ** Significant at 0.01 level; * Significant at 0.05 level.

Table 8. Percentage of the total absolute effect on the blood sugar level through endogenous variables for insulin users (For insulin users).

Dependent variable	Exogenous variable	Percentage of indirect effect through					Other variables (implied effect)	Direct effect
		Y_6	Y_7	Y_8	Y_9	Y_{10}		
Y_{11}	Y_1	70.09	9.65	9.13	7.20	1.93	3.60	
	Y_2	48.95	23.77	8.39	12.58	0.69	5.59	
	Y_3	9.14	9.75	1.21	13.71	15.24	50.91	
	Y_4	29.00	14.00	16.66	30.33	7.66	2.33	
	Y_5	5.31	5.06	5.06	4.30	13.16	67.08	
	Y_6		4.31	20.86	49.64	6.47		18.70
	Y_7			48.64	4.05	12.16		35.13
	Y_8				58.82	23.52		17.64
	Y_9					69.23		30.76
	Y_{10}							100

The total effect of educational qualification (Y_4) on blood sugar level (Y_{11}) is 0.286 (Table 7) of which 29%, 14%, 16.66%, 30.33% and 7.66% have been transmitted in same direction through age of the respondents (Y_6), calorie intake, BMI of the respondents (Y_8), walking distance (Y_9) and per day insulin intake (Y_{10}) respectively, only 2.33% is transmitted through its implied effect in the opposite direction (Table 8). The total effect of diastolic pressure (Y_5) on blood sugar level (Y_{11}) is 0.395 (Table 7) of which only 5.31%, 5.06%, 4.30% and 13.16% have been transmitted through age of the respondents (Y_6), calorie intake (Y_7), BMI of the respondents (Y_8) and daily insulin intake (Y_{10}) in same direction and at the same time 67.08% has been transmitted through its implied effect towards the same direction (Table 8).

4. Conclusion

From this study, it has been revealed that for the tablet users, systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, calorie intake and body mass index have direct positive and significant effect on blood glucose level. For the insulin users, systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, calorie intake and per day insulin intake have direct positive significant effect on blood sugar level. For both insulin and tablet users, systolic and diastolic pressures have a higher indirect effect on blood sugar level through their respective implied effect in the same direction. The finding shows that both systolic and diastolic blood pressure have a great hold on the diabetic patients' blood sugar level. Walking habit has a good contribution in the case of controlling blood glucose level for both types of the patient but for the tablet users this contribution is more effective in controlling the blood glucose level. Therefore, walking habit should be a noteworthy regulatory work for the diabetic patients. We may conclude that with the habit of taking more accurate and regulatory calorie intake, having the habit of walking and controlling blood pressure, in a word through giving up sedentary life style and maintaining a disciplined and regulatory life, a diabetic patient could maintain a safe and normal life.

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