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The Relation Between Spiritual Intelligence and Religion Orientation in Students

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ABSTRACT

The present research aims at defining the relationship between religious orientation and spiritual intelligence of students. So, 115 female students of Mashhad Azad University were selected by the sample formula and spiritual intelligence and religious orientation questionnaire. In order to analyze the data, descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation coefficient and one-way ANOVA were used. The results showed that there is a positive and significant correlation between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation ($p=0.05$). In addition, there was no significant difference between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation of the students based on age group ($p > 0/05$). So, based on the importance of religious orientation in all dimension of human life and the effect that spiritual intelligence has on it, it is necessary to empower and enhance these two constructs in academic contexts.

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INTRODUCTION

Generally, the personal understanding of people about religion is related to a higher order entity. A collection of beliefs, actions and special customs are followed in life which are called religious orientation. Religious orientation can be nearly same as being devoted which appears at the behavioral surface and shows the personal tendency toward a religious understanding (Islam). But what is the meaning of religion and being religious? In order to obtain a common definition of religion, this word is defined based on the present time researchers' views. According to Ayatollah Javadi Amoli defined religion as a collection of beliefs and rules for controlling the people and human society in order to train them through the mind given to them.

William James defined religion as the emotions and events which happen to an individual in loneliness and apart from any dependence; so that the person understands that there is a relationship between him and God. Various studies are done and approved the effect of religious orientation of psychological constructs. Bozorgi studied the relationship between religious orientation and mental health and the results indicated that as the religious orientation is more outward, the depression is reduced and mental health is improved. Ward studied the relationship between being religious and religious confrontation with stress and psychological health and concluded that outer religious orientation is significantly related to depression and industrial anxiety. In addition, Messi studied the relationship between religious orientation, happiness and mental health and concluded that religious orientation has a negative relationship with depression.

So, according to what has been mentioned above, having religious orientation in life is significantly important and affects all dimensions of human life. One of the factors which can be effective in religious orientation is the spiritual intellect which can facilitate the consciousness and feeling attachment with a higher order power. The issue clarifies the response to the questions such as "who am I?", "why I'm not here?" and "what is important?" so that an individual can discover hidden sources of love and enjoyment in the stressful life of today. Needing spiritual help is natural for human being and the statements of holy Quran indicate the unity seeking nature of human being. In fact, spirituality is one dimension of humanity which includes awareness and self-consciousness and it is obvious that human need cannot be answered by materials and facilities. In other words, spirituality is an inseparable dimension of human being which colors his life and gives it meaning. Some of the psychologists define spirituality as continuance attempt for responding the life (Samadi, 2007).

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Spirituality in Islam means understanding the relationship with a higher order unity which controls the life on the land and it is increasing every day and makes a special individual which is acceptable naturally and glorifies by remembering God.

What is needed today is spirituality. This gap in the west world is felt more. They are drowning in materialism and the modern generations feel the spirituality and are looking for the lost one. Since spirituality is an important part of human life, it can have important effect in their orientation about religious issues. So, the present era sees the needs of human being for religion. Then all human beings are looking for a lost one but if this need is not provided then the unnatural needs and spiritualities emerge. So, understanding and studying the constructs such as spiritual intelligence with religious orientation which need abilities for effective reactions is necessary. Nobel states that spiritual intelligence reflects the mental performance of human being since it is used to think about the facts of life to find the possible relationship between the events. In addition, it can be said that spiritual intelligence is the ability to understand the religious issues and it can be helpful regarding the issue. What is caused to provide definitions for spirituality are the observations and findings showing the fact that applying special patterns of thoughts and excitement in life can increase compatibility and mental health of human being. So, due to the importance of religious orientation in all dimensions of human life and the effect of spirituality and its constructs on spiritual intellect, the present research aims at studying the relationship between spiritual intellect and religious orientation of students.

Research Method:

The present research is correlational. Population of the study include all female students of Azad University Mashhad Branch in 2013-2014. 132 of the students are selected applying sample volume.

Research Instrument:

Two questionnaires are used in order to collect the data/ a) religious orientation questionnaire by Allport Russ which includes 20 questions based on 4 point Likert scale and modified by Janbozorgi. The reliability coefficient by Cronbach alpha was 0.73 for Janozori and 0.82 in the present study. B) Spiritual intelligence questionnaire: includes 42 questions with 4 subscales (belief, ability to solve the problems, good behaviors and love and self-awareness) in 5 point Likert scale. In order to determine the validity, factor analysis and varimax rotation were used and reliability was calculated by Cronbach alpha which was 0.85. the reliability calculated in the present study was 0.81.

Findings:

Table 1 shows the participants distribution based on age group. 25.8 of the participants are 19-20, 19.2 of them are 22-24, 31.7 of them are 25-27 and 23.3 of them are over 28 years old and highest ratio is related to those 25-27 and the lowest one is related to 22-24 years old.

Table 1: Distribution based on age.

Age group	frequency	percent
19-21	30	8.25
22-24	22	2.19
25-27	36	7.31
Over 28	27	3.23
Total	115	100

Table 2 shows the amount of spiritual intelligence based on three lower, average and higher classes. According to the table 77.5 of the students had average spiritual intelligence and 22.5 percent of them had high spiritual intelligence and the highest ratio was related to average group.

Table 2: Distribution based on high, average and low classification.

class	frequency	percent
low	0	0
average	90	77.5
high	25	22.5

Table 3 shows the religious orientation of the students and 0.80 percent of the students have low religious orientation and 2.89 of them have average level of religious orientation and 10 percent have high religious orientation. And the highest level was related to average religious orientation.

Table 3: Distribution of religious orientation based on high, average and lower classification.

class	frequency	percent
low	1	0.8
average	104	89.2
high	10	10

According to table 4 the highest average score (47.53) is related to the item of ability to interact with problems and lowest point (28.25) is related to good behavior. The average score for the entire test was 12.148.

Table 4: Calculating descriptive statistics related to spiritual intelligence components.

Variance	Standard Error	Standard Deviation	Mean	component
1/32	12/5	53/0	67/38	belief
13/47	13/6	65/0	47/53	Ability to face problems
12/20	23/4	40/0	28/25	Good behavior
16/12	12/3	32/0	30/31	Self-awareness and love
49/322	23/17	87/1	12/148	Total

Table 5:

Variance	Standard Error	Standard Deviation	Mean	component
50/22	14/4	49/0	08/41	External religious orientation
89/25	19/5	39/0	05/31	Internal religious orientation
21/69	39/8	79/0	13/72	Total

The average score for the religious orientation is 13.72 based on the following table which indicates the fact that students have a good command of religious orientation. The external religious orientation has the average of 41.8 and internal one is 31.5 (table 5).

As it is seen in table 6, the correlation between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation is 0.29 which is meaningful at the level of 0.5.

Table 6: Pearson Correlation Coefficient test for spiritual intelligence and religious orientation.

Pearson Correlation Coefficient	ratio	sig
	0.29	0.50

Based on the results of table 7 there is no significant difference between spiritual intelligence among female students.

Table 7: One way ANOVA for evaluating spiritual intelligence based on age group.

index	Sum Sq.	Df	Mean Sq	F	sig
Between groups	751/232	2	24/43	19/0	78/0
Inside groups	32/39152	113	60/321		
total	13/39456	115	---		

Based on the results of table 8, there is no significant difference between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation of female students.

Table 8: One-way ANOVA for evaluating the religious orientation based on age group.

index	Sum Sq.	df	Mean Sq	F	sig
Between groups	19/1	2	37/0	16/01	48/0
Inside groups	45/9	113	12/0		
total	30/10	115	---		

As it is seen in table 9, the significance level is 0.28 which is less than 0.05 and so it is found that there is a significance difference between the students of first and last year in terms of spiritual intelligence and last year students have higher intelligence.

Table 9: Independent t-test for evaluating the spiritual intelligence based on academic year.

Variable		mean	Standard deviation	T	df	sig
Academic year	1st	54.148	344.16	1.079	102.819	0.028
	last	92.144	724.19			

As it is seen in table 10, the significance level is 0.706 which is more than 0.05 and so it is found that there is no significance difference between the students of first and last year in terms of religious orientation.

Table 10: Independent t-test for evaluating religious orientation based on academic year.

Variable		mean	Standard deviation	T	df	sig
Academic year	1st	40.71	7.69	0.225	104.118	0.706
	last	75.71	9.09			

Conclusion:

Due to the importance of religious orientation in all dimensions of human life and the effect of spirituality and spiritual intelligence on it, the present study aimed at studying the relationship between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation of the students.

Results of the study indicated the relationship between religious orientation and spiritual intelligence of the students. It should be said that since religious view is one of the components of spiritual intelligence, so, it seems that there relationship between religious orientation and spiritual intelligence is reasonable and in terms of definition for religious view which created harmony between the moral values and human behavior and nature with God and based on the definitions of spiritual intelligence and its components including the chances of behavioral condition such as compatibility, forgiveness and religious beliefs, so it can be concluded that people with higher religious orientation have higher spiritual intelligence. In other words, as human being is scientifically richer and has stronger religious orientation, he is spiritual more intelligent and can use his capacities for better life. Finally based on the mentioned points and another study in this filed by Chabokinejad and others there relationship between spiritual intelligence and religious view is accepted.

The other findings indicated no difference between spiritual intelligence and religious orientation of the female students based on age group. This is while it is expected that by increasing the age, spiritual intelligence and religious orientation is improved because of academic effects. That is spiritual intelligence and religious orientation becomes stronger and internalized. So, since human being understand life by their religious ideas and find a framework for giving meaning to their life, the university should be a place for growth and development of religious orientation and spiritual intelligence for the students. Human being use their religious and spiritual capacities for finding solutions. So, spiritual intelligence integrated the spirituality with world realities and make a the basic belief of the person for interaction in real life.

The present research has some limitations same as other researches in the field of human science. The present study was done on female students of Quchan Branch of Azad University and so the results are limited to this population and generalizing them is difficult. Furthermore, since the religious orientation and spiritual intelligence are affected by the social and cultural level of the participants, so it is better to duplicate the research among the students of state universities.

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