

Effect of Religion upon Spiritual-Intelligence of Adolescents.

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ABSTRACT

The present study has tried to explore effect of religion upon Spiritual-Intelligence (SI) among Adolescents. For this data was collected on 100 Adolescents : 50 Hind and 50 Muslims equally divided into two groups on the basis of their gender(M=25 & F=25 in each category. Spiritual-Intelligence is a higher dimension of intelligence that activates the qualities and capabilities of the authentic self in the form of wisdom,compassion,joy etc. The Quota sampling procedure was used for sampling. Female and Male adolescents from both the religion were taken for the study. The design which is used to conceptualize the study and analyze the study is 2x2 factorial design. Zohar and Marshall's SI Scale (1999) was utilized to measure the SI of the respondents.The findings of the present study have revealed significant differences in relation to religion on two dimensions of SI ie;Spiritual-Actualization and On Total SI. The results have suggested Hindus were found to report more Spiritual actualization and total SI as compared to muslim respondents. Boys were found to report more spiritual intelligence as compared to girls. These results support the hypotheses of the present study.

Key-Words: Religion, Spiritual-Intelligence and Adolescents.

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual- Intelligence is a higher dimensionof intelligence that activates the qualities and capabilities of the authentic self in the form of wisdom, compassion, integrity, joy, love, creativity and peace. SI refers to the skills, abilities and behaviours required to understand one's inner self including thoughts, beliefs, values, actions to maintain a sense of belonging with others, to express dependence on supreme power through meditation, to live with a mind of enquiry and a quest for meaning in life and to act in love and compassion (Madhumathi & Suparna,2017). SI is to realize who you are and to live life in that awareness. It is the expression of spiritual qualities a person's thoughts, attitude and behaviours. It is the main factor that helps individuals face life difficulties and feel happy to overcome obstacles

and direct them to form a bridge towards life happiness and therefore, increase the level of life satisfaction. High SI indicates that life quality is also high. According to Elyasi, et al, (2012), Spiritual intelligence can represent all those things that we believe and the beliefs and norms, beliefs and values of the activities that we show. SI is the human capacity to ask question about the ultimate meaning of life and the integrated relationships between us and the world in which we live. (Gupta, 2019).

Since SI reflects a person's beliefs, values and norms so it would be interesting to explore the effect of religion upon SI. Religion is defined as a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe, specially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs. (Dictionary, 2018). So the present study has selected respondents from two groups i.e. Hindu and Muslim communities because adolescents belonging to these two communities have entirely different norms and values and different patterns of socialization as well. Socialization is the process which makes an individual what he/she is at present. This socialization is affected by our religious beliefs and values because atheist parents would not inculcate religiosity among their children while theist parents would make their children God fearing and religious. In the same way every religion has its own ideologies and principles. These principles and ideologies affect the basic personality structure of the people. So members of both the community would carry different levels of spiritual intelligence because they share different family environment.

While all periods of life cycle are important, some are rather more important because of their immediate effects on attitudes and behaviours, whereas others are significant because of their long term effects. Adolescence is one of the periods, when both the immediate and long term effects are important. Also, adolescence is important for both the physical and psychological development for both the genders. So, the present study has tried to explore the effect of religion on SI of adolescents as the adolescent period is a very crucial period in the life cycle of the individuals. Adolescence is also known as the age of storms both emotional and physical. Since

adolescence is the age of transition ie a person is confused about his role, duties and responsibilities, so it would be very interesting to study the effect of their religion on their SI.

RESEARCH- METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.To study Spiritual- Intelligence of the adolescents across religion.
2. To identify gender differences in SI of the adolescents.
3. To identify significant differences in SI across Religion and Gender.

HYPOTHESES:

1. There would be significant differences on SI among adolescents across Religion on all the dimensions of SI.
2. There would be significant gender differences on SI among the adolescents.
3. There would be significant differences on SI across religion and gender.

SAMPLE:

The sample of the present study consists of 100 Adolescents : 50 Hindu and 50 Muslims equally divided into two groups on the basis of their gender (M=25 & F=25) in each category. The Mean age of the respondents was 19.6 years for boys and 16.2 for the girls. The present study has utilized Quota Sampling procedure in the selection of the respondents.

DESIGN

The design which is used to conceptualize the study and analyze the data is 2x2 factorial design with the two classificatory variables being Religion (Hindu and Muslim) and gender (boys and girls).

TOOLS USED:

Spiritual-Intelligence Scale: Zohar and Marshall's SI Scale (1999) was utilized for measuring Si of the adolescents. The scale has 6 dimensions namely: The inner self, The inter self, Biostoria, Life perspective, Spiritual-actualization and Value-Orientation. The scale comprised of 78 items maximum score being 390 and minimum being 78.

Theoretical- Framework

Variables of the study contains dependent and independent variables The independent variables are Religion and gender of the respondents and dependent variable being Spiritual-Intelligence.

Procedure

The sample was selected using Quota sampling procedure. Respondents (Hindu and Muslims) were subclassified into two categories ie. Boys and girls. All the respondents were contacted personally. Respondents of the same SES were taken for the study.

Statistical-Analysis

The data were analyzed using Mean,SD and ANOVA.

Table-1: Mean & SD of Adolescent Boys and Girls on different dimensions of SI across their Religion (Hindu-Muslim)

SI	Hindus		Muslims		Total	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
1.The Inners Self						
Males	30.76	4.13	32.88	3.62	31.82	3.87
Females	33.85	3.47	31.08	4.95	32.46	4.21
Total	32.01	3.79	31.98	4.28		
2.The Inter Self						
Males	62.04	4.31	64.88	5.90	63.46	5.11
Females	64.82	6.10	62.58	5.55	64.70	5.83
Total	64.43	5.21	63.73	5.73		
3.Biostoria						

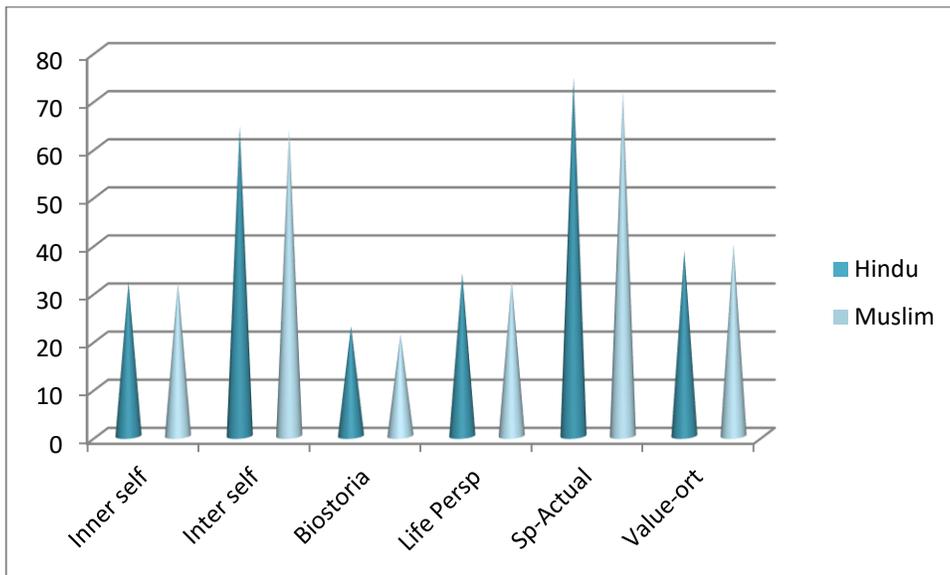
Males	25.44	2.57	21.52	2.48	23.48	2.53
Females	20.10	2.16	20.84	3.31	20.47	2.73
Total	22.77	2.36	21.18	2.89		
4.LifePerspective						
Males	31.45	3.18	33.88	4.47	33.17	3.83
Females	35.16	5.89	31.04	5.33	33.10	5.61
Total	33.81	4.54	32.46	4.90		
5.Spiritual- Actualization						
Males	76.96	8.44	73.18	8.59	75.05	8.52
Females	72.02	9.49	70.23	7.38	71.23	8.44
Total	74.58	8.96	71.71	7.98		
6.Value- Orientation						
Males	37.06	3.05	41.43	3.04	39.25	3.05
Females	40.01	4.09	38.40	5.35	39.21	4.72
Total	38.54	3.57	39.92	4.19		
7.Total SI						
Males	247.67	20.06	259.08	24.01	253.36	22.04
Females	262.08	24.28	245.14	22.09	253.61	23.18
Total	254.88	22.17	252.11	23.05		

Table-2 Summary ANOVAs on all dimensions of SI

SI(Dimensions)	Religion	Gender	R*G
1.The Inner Self	2.54	2.13	.62
2.The Inter Self	2.22	.55	.45
3.Biostoria	.80	1.34	.89
4.Life Perspective	1.55	.89	1.01
5.Spiritual Actualization	19.05**	18.12**	3.95
6.Value Orientation	.56	.28	3.00
7. Total SI	20.12**	9.38**	3.25

**=Significant at 0.01 level

Figure1: Mean of Adolescent Boys and Girls on different dimensions of SI across their Religion (Hindu-Muslim)



Result and Discussion

As it is clear from the observation of Table-2 that few dimensions of SI were found to be significant. The detailed description of them is given as under:

SI across Religion among adolescents

As it is clear from the inspection of Table-2 that one dimension of SI ie Spiritual-Actualization and total SI was found to be significant. As it is clear from the inspection of Table-1 that Siritual Actualization was found more among Hindu adolescents as compared to Muslim adolescents. These results have partially supported the first hypothesis of the study stating that there would be significant differences on SI among adolescents across Religion on all the dimensions of SI.

SI expands a person's capacity to understand others at the deepest level. Spiritual understanding allows you to discern both the true cause of behaviour without judgement, and serve the true needs of others until they themselves have to meet their own needs. In the present study Hindu respondents were found to report more Spiritual actualization (Table-1, Graph-1). Today religion and spirituality are recognized as distinct concept which can be clearly distinguished yet they overlap with one another on specific aspect of search for the higher transcendent reality which often takes shape of scared in religious discourse (Miller & Thoresen,2002). The results have also suggested that total SI was also reported more among Hindu adolescents as compared to Muslims. Adolescence is a period in which the foundation for future education, major life-roles, relationships and working towards long term productive goals are established. Similarly adolescence is the important period for the development of preventive intervention which are designed to lead to the development of more serious psychopathology in adulthood. There is also conolidation of psychopathology in adolesce which is often carried over into the adulthood(Hosseini et al).The adolescents of Hindu families were found to better able to understand their inner self including thoughts, beliefs,values, actions, to maintain a sense of belonging with others. They also reported to live with a mind of enquiry for the surroundings and act in love and compassion (Madhumita & Suparna,2017). Hindu religion allows freedom of conscience. A Hindu can become an atheist, or change belief when he/she wants(Julius,2010) but an islamic scholar may call for punishment for leaving Islam (Quran,2016).

Gender Differences in SI

As it is clear from the inspection of Table-2 that only gender difference was found to be significant only on one dimension of SI. As it is clear from the Table-1 and Graph-1 that male adolescents were found to report more Spiritual actualization as compared to females. No other dimensions of SI were found to be significant (Table-2). These results partially support the second hypothesis stating that There would be significant gender differences on SI among the adolescents.

The result of the present study stand in contrast with the findings of Pant et al (2019) who studied SI of college students and reported no gender differences in SI of boys and girls. While the findings of Nazam (2014), has supported the findings of the present study who reported significant gender differences in SI among adolescents. As we all know that adolescence is a period of high risk, anyway some people are likely to be at greater risk than the others. Since SI enables a person to develop an inner knowing, connecting with the universal mind for deep intuition, enables to become one with nature and to be in harmony with the life processes (Sisk, 2002) so male adolescents as loaded with the greater expectations and responsibilities than girls might have concentrated on their inner self for their mental health resulting in better SI than girls. Today adolescents are getting very much affected and exposed to the changing society due to which they are facing much more greater levels of stress. SI has a significant role in the quality of life. SI enables and help a person to solve problem and attain goals (Hema & Advani, 2015). So boys who in our male dominating society are more likely to have more stress than females hence might have developed SI more than girls.

SI across Religion and Gender among adolescents

As it is clear from the inspection of Table-2 that no dimension of SI was found to be significant across religion and gender. In other words no interaction effect was found to be significant for SI. These results reject the third hypothesis of the present study stating that there would be significant differences on SI across religion and gender.

Conclusion

SI is the mental capacity of an individual that makes an individual more aware of himself in totality while religion is the personal thought and belief of the individual. So the present study has tried to explore how an individual's personal thoughts tend him/her to develop better self awareness among adolescents. The result of the present study might be fruitful for the counsellor and socialists to help them in developing and enalcatating those beliefs and value system in the personality of the individual that might help them to get better self-awareness about themselves. As it is clear from the findings of the presnt study that boys were found to report more Spiritual actualization than girls and Hindus reported better SI than Muslims. These findings may help and find out where the changes should be made in the socialization practices of the adolescents.

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