

Inter-Relationship among Religiosity, Cultural Determination and Subjective Well Being: A Study of Gujjar Adolescents of Jammu District

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Abstract: *The present study was undertaken to study the level of Subjective well being, Cultural determination and religiosity among the Gujjar adolescents and the interrelationship among cultural determination, religiosity and subjective well being among the sample adolescents of Jammu district. The sample comprised of 600 Gujjar adolescents (i.e. 300boys and 300 girls) of Jammu district. Multistage sampling technique was used for the selection of the sample. The tools used for the present study was Subjective Well Being Inventory (SWBI), Religiosity and Cultural Determination Scale. Results indicated that sample adolescents had scored higher on level of religiosity, subjective well being and cultural determination. Correlation analysis among Religiosity, Cultural determination and Subjective well being unfolded a positive and significant correlation. With regard to gender, Subjective well being and Cultural Determination were significantly correlated whereas subjective well being is significantly correlated with religiosity among boys. For the younger adolescents, there was also a significant correlation between Subjective well being and religiosity. Positive and significant correlation was also seen between Subjective well being and Cultural determination for younger and older adolescents. It was concluded that religious and culturally determined adolescents in the present study reported higher Subjective well being.*

Keywords: Subjective well being, Religiosity, Cultural Determination and Gujjar adolescent

1. Introduction

Adolescence is an important time to investigate the relation among religiosity, culture and Subjective well being for several key reasons. First, cognitive advancement allow adolescents to engage in abstract thinking about religion and culture, facilitating greater understanding of religious and cultural concepts. Second, youth frequently, endorse religious beliefs and engage in religious activities, suggesting that religion is an essential part of making adolescents' lives. Finally, peer relationships become increasingly essential in adolescence (Geckova, Pudelsky and Tuinstra, 2000). Religious institutions may facilitate the development of which is associated with lower rates of negative affect (Koenig, McCullough and Larson, 2001) by bringing together youth who hold same values and beliefs. Teens who frequently attend religious services may have more opportunities to develop a supportive social network than occasional attenders, thereby buffering against depression and increase the level of SWB.

2. Research Methodology

The sample for the present study comprised of 600 Gujjar adolescents (300 boys and 300 girls) in the age group of 12-18 years. A representative sample of Gujjar adolescents were selected from Gujjar dominated areas of Jammu district. Multi-stage sampling technique was used for the selection of sample group. A list of block of Jammu district was collected from the Jammu Municipal Corporation and six blocks of Jammu District were selected on the basis of Gujjar concentration as Gujjar tribe is not found in every part of Jammu district. A sample of 100 Gujjar adolescents (50 boys

and 50 girls) were selected purposively from each block, thus making a total of 600 adolescents. The tools used for the data collection were Subjective Well Being Inventory devised by D.H.Sell in 1992, Religiosity scale developed by Dr. L.I Bhushan in 1990 and Cultural Determination scale formulated by Dr. N.S Chauhan in 1985. The tools were verbally administered because most of the Gujjar adolescent boys were not able to read and write. The data was systematically coded and tabulated. A statistical technique like correlation was used to derive the results.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1: Level of Cultural Determination

| Level | N(600) | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Rebellion | 1 | 0.16 |
| Undecided | 0 | 0 |
| Confirmity | 599 | 99.83 |

Table 1 show that 99.83% of gujjar adolescents were found to be confirmed towards their culture.

Fig 1 depicts that majority of Gujjar adolescents (43.4%) had higher scores on religiosity scale i.e. falling above 154 followed by adolescents scoring average on level of religiosity whereas 27.3% of the adolescents were found to obtain low scores in the said scale. It was observed that Gujjars are very deep rooted to their religion which preserve their distinct racial traits and ethnic behaviour.

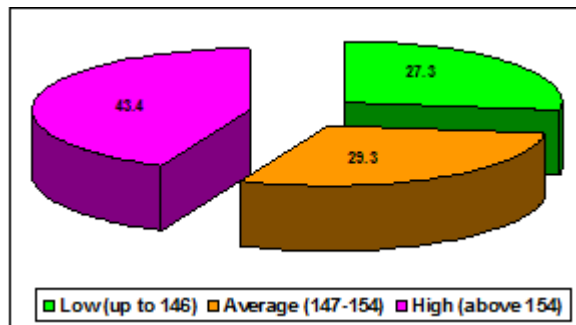


Figure 1: Level of Religiosity

Data in Fig 2 pertaining to overall analysis of subjective well being inventory reveals that 87% of the respondents had high scores i.e. falling between the range (80-120), 7% average scores i.e. falling between the range (60-80) and 6% had lowest scores on Subjective Well being inventory. The higher scores indicate that adolescents of Gujar community were enjoying higher level of Subjective Well being.

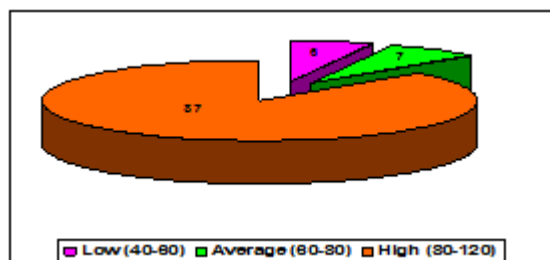


Figure 2: Level of Subjective well being

Table 2: Inter-correlation among Religiosity, Cultural Determination and Subjective Well Being

| Indicator | Religiosity | Cultural Determination | Subjective well being |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Religiosity | - | | |
| Cultural Determination | 0.013 | - | |
| Subjective well being | .084* | 0.176** | - |

*indicating significant at 0.05, **indicating significant at 0.01

Table 2 reveals overall correlation analysis among religiosity, cultural determination and subjective well being. Positive and significant relationship was found between subjective well being and Religiosity. Myers (2000) reported that those who are most involved with their religion are almost twice as likely to report being very happy than those with least involvement. Abdel- Khalek (2009) concluded that the persons with high scores on religiosity saw themselves as being happier, satisfied with their life, enjoying good physical and mental health and less depressed. Grossi et al (2011) suggested that culture has a relevant role as determinant of individual psychological well being. Subjective well being and cultural determination are also significantly correlated. A positive significant correlation indicates that higher the subjective well being, higher is religiosity. Cultural determination also increases as the subjective well being increases.

Table 3: Inter-correlation among Cultural Determination, Religiosity and Subjective Well being of the adolescents in context of gender

| Indicators | Religiosity | | Cultural Determination | | Subjective well being | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Religiosity | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cultural determination | 0.16* | -0.05 | - | - | - | - |
| Subjective well being | -0.00 | 0.09 | 0.22* | 0.16* | - | - |

*indicating significant at 0.05

Correlation analysis among boys in table 3 reveals positive and significant relationship between religiosity and cultural determination. Also, significant relationship was found between Subjective well being and Cultural determination among both boys and girls. Consistent results are also revealed by Samifar and Shakerinejad (2014) which showed significant difference between cultural attitudes and social attitude of boys and girls. Increasing happiness, social and cultural attitudes also increased and by increasing the religious attitudes of students, the happiness also will increase. This indicates that higher the Cultural determination, higher the level of religiosity among boys. Results further indicate that with the increase of Subjective well being, Cultural determination among boys and girls also increases.

Table 4: Inter-correlation among Cultural Determination, Religiosity and Subjective well being of the adolescents in context of age

| Indicators | Religiosity | | Cultural Determination | | Subjective well being | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| | Young | Old | Young | Old | Young | Old |
| Religiosity | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cultural determination | 0.03 | -0.03 | - | - | - | - |
| Subjective well being | 0.18* | -0.08 | 0.17* | 0.17* | - | - |

*indicating significant at 0.05

Table 4 depicts correlation on Religiosity, Cultural Determination and Subjective well being scores with regard to age. Younger adolescents showed positive and significant relationship between Subjective well being and Religiosity. Table further shows that significant positive relationship between Subjective well being and Cultural determination among older as well as younger adolescents. This means that Subjective well being of younger adolescent's increases as religiosity increases. Results further highlight that Subjective well being increases with the increase in Cultural determination with regard to age.

3.1 Conclusion

To sum up, it can be concluded from the findings of the present study that most of the respondents had higher scores on level of religiosity, cultural determination and subjective well being. Results revealed that Gujar adolescent, who were found to be religious and determined towards their culture enjoying higher level of subjective well being.

Therefore, it can be said that culture and religiosity play a vital role in the subjective well being of the adolescents.

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