

## RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AMONG STUDENTS OF CLASS IX

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper explores religious beliefs and their influence on adolescent development. The main focus of this paper is adolescent values and beliefs that are influenced by the respective religious features of the groups embedded in the wider cultural context. This study was carried out on 150 adolescents from Ludhiana District. The samples were randomly assigned to the study. The questionnaire prepared by the investigator was used for data collection. Data were analyzed by percentage analysis. Adolescents have not given concrete opinions about their representation in religious institutions. Many adolescents have been visiting their current place of worship for less than one year. They are not aware about the distance between their residence and place of worship. Therefore, it is recommended to consider and assess students' religious beliefs at the time of basic learning patterns at home and school. In addition, this specific training should be offered to students in order to help them learn or modify special religious practices to increase their academic achievements.*

**Keywords:** Religious belief, Students, Class IX

Religious belief is distinct from religious practice or religious behaviors with some believers' not practicing religion and some practitioners not believing religion. Religious belief is the belief in the reality of the mythological, supernatural, or spiritual aspects of a religion. Religious beliefs, being derived from ideas that are exclusive to religion, often relate to the existence, characteristics and worship of a deity or deities, divine intervention in the universe and human life, or the deontological explanations for the values and practices centered on the teachings of a spiritual leader or group. In contrast to other belief systems, religious beliefs are usually codified.

Every human civilization that we know about has had religious beliefs of some sort. Most of this evidence comes in the form of burial inscriptions or other artifacts found by archaeologists. Religious beliefs serve a social function in human groups, providing a shared identity of where people came from and where they are likely going after death.

So we can conclude that religious beliefs

literature shown by Ferris (2002); Eggebeen and Dew (2005); Drenten and Mcmanus (2015) ; Huuskes, Heaven, and Ciarrochi, Parker and Caltabiano (2016) ; Jack, Friedman, Boyatzis, and Taylor (2016) ) indicated that belief in God was related to distinct profiles of psychological adjustment. Further te findings by Sun, Deng and Wenhug (2018) ; Misha(2012); Kuriakose and Shaji (2019); Hardy, Nelson and Moore (2019); Emmanuel and Rajan (2013); Thomas (2016) challenge the theoretical view that religious and spiritual beliefs are linked to the perception of agency.

### Objectives of the problem

To analyze the opinion about religious beliefs of students of Class IX of schools of Ludhiana District

- with respect to gender
- with respect to Locale

### Design of The Study

- The present study was a descriptive survey

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which was conducted on male and female students of secondary schools of urban and rural areas of Ludhiana district.

### Sampling of The Study

The random sampling technique was employed in the present study due to heterogeneous characteristics of the population according to the purpose of study. The criteria of multistage randomization in a sample are met when every individual in the population has the same chance of being chosen for the sample and when selection of our individual or thing has no influence on the choice of another. For the present study 150 students of secondary schools studying in 9th class of Ludhiana district were selected. The sample included male and female students of schools in urban and rural areas of Ludhiana District.

### Research Tools used for Data Collection

In order to collect data, self-prepared questionnaires were used to assess religious beliefs by the investigator.

### Results and Conclusions

#### Percentage analysis of Item 1 to 5 of adolescents of schools of Ludhiana district (Total, Male, Female, Urban and Rural)

1. Which religion do you belong to or identify yourself most close to?
  - a) Asian Folk Religion
  - b) Hindu
  - c) Jewish
  - d) Muslim
  - e) Christian (catholic protestant or any other Christian denominations)
  - f) other, I am not religious(please specify)

Question 1 results shows that out of the total sample (150) taken, 54 respondents (36%) identified themselves with Asian folk religion. This included that 30 male (43.47%) and 24 female respondents (29.62%). 20 respondents (26.66%) are from schools of rural areas and 34 respondents (45.33%) are from schools of urban areas. 22 respondents (14.66%) which include 5 males (27.24%), 17 females (20.98%), 3(4%) from schools' rural areas and 19

(25.33%) from schools of urban areas identify themselves with Hindu religion.

However, no response has identified himself/herself as Jewish. 2 respondents (1.33%) i.e. 1 male and 1 female both from schools in urban areas identify themselves Muslim religion. There is just 1 female respondent (0.66%) from schools of urban areas who has identified himself Christian. 33 male respondents (47.82%) and 38 female respondents (46.91%) i.e. 71 in total, 52 from rural schools, 19 from urban schools have identified themselves with other religions and that too with Sikhism. From the above data investigator concludes that the majority of the adolescents have identified themselves as Sikhs because the religion mainly practiced in Punjab is Sikhism. Very few adolescents belong to Asian folk religion and none are associated with Jewish.

2. Are you a representative of your religious institution? (Tick all that apply)
  - a) Yes, I am a part of team leaders
  - b) I serve on the council or am a trustee
  - c) I preach but don't have leadership responsibilities
  - d) No, I am not a recognized leader
  - e) N/A

Question 2 results indicate that 13 respondents (8.6%) out of 150 are part of team leaders of religious institution. 12 adolescents (8%) of them are preachers but do not have leadership qualities. 59 respondents (39.33%) do not identify themselves as leaders. 66 respondents(44%) have no opinion about representation in religious institutions. No respondent is a trustee or council member. Out of 13 adolescents, 8 males, 5 females 10 from rural school and 3 from urban school are part of team leaders of religious institution. 12 females from schools of rural area are preachers with no leadership quality. 23 males, 36 females, 28 adolescents from rural schools, 31 adolescents from urban schools are representations of religious institutions but not recognized leaders. Majority i.e. 38 males, 28 females, 25 adolescents from rural schools and 41 respondents from urban schools have not given concrete opinions about representation in religious institutions.

On the basis of the above data, investigators found that adolescents have no concrete opinion about representation in religious institutions because they do not have adequate knowledge about religious institutions. Some adolescents are team leaders of religious institutions that is mainly due to parental influence and family beliefs toward religion.

3. How long has it been since you have been visiting your current place of worship?

- a. 1 year or less
- b. 2-4 years
- c. 5-9 years
- d. 10-19 years
- e. 20 more years

Question 3 results shows that Out of 150 respondents 134 respondents (89.33%) which comprise of 62 males (89.85%), 72 females (88.88%), 65 (86.66%) from schools of rural areas and 69 (92%) respondent that are from urban areas have been visiting their current place of worship since less than one year. 5.33% of total respondents i.e. 8 have been visiting their place of worship from 2-4 years. Results show that female respondents 5 from rural schools have been maximum visitors in this category.

However, only 4 respondents each have been visiting their place of worship in the category of 5-9 and 10-19 years. It is only 1 female respondent from urban area who has been visiting the place of worship for maximum years.

Majority of adolescents are regular visitors to their religious place of worship because they have faith in God and find themselves secure in the presence of God which they get by visiting their place of worship. India is a secular country where very few people are atheists.

4. How far is your current place of worship from your home?

- a) 1-5 minutes
- b) 6-15 minutes
- c) 16-30 minutes
- d) 31 – 45 minutes
- e) Over 45 minutes
- f) Don't know

Question 4 results indicate that 78 adolescents

(52%) i.e. 37 males (53.62%) and 41 females (50.61%), 47 from rural schools and 31 from urban schools stay at a distance of 1-5 minutes from their place of worship. The place of worship of 29 adolescents (19.33%) is at a distance of 6-15 minutes, 11 (7.33%) from 16-30 minutes, 14 (9.33) from 31-45 minutes and 15 (10%) from a distance more than 45 minutes from their residence.

There are 3 adolescents who are probably not aware of the distance between their place of worship and their residence. It has been observed that female respondents are more aware of the distance between their residence and place of worship which shows that they must be regular visitors. It may be concluded that most adolescents are aware about the distance of place of worship from his/her residence because most adolescents are regular visitors of their religious place.

5. In the last year, how much money have you contributed to your place of worship? (in Rupees)

- a) None
- b) 1-99
- c) 100-499
- d) 500-999
- e) 1000-2999
- f) 3000-4999
- g) 5000 or more

Question 5 results show that 71 adolescent's respondents (47.33%) i.e. 38 males and 33 females, 34 from rural areas and 37 from urban areas contributed 100-499 rupees to their place of worship in the last year. 39 adolescents (26%) contributed 500-999 rupees to their place of worship, this includes 21 males and 18 females, 14 from rural areas and 25 from urban areas. There are few adolescents who do not contribute at all or contribute highly i.e. between 3000 or more. Thus, it may be concluded that on an average the adolescents contribute less than five hundred rupees to their place of worship as they have nominal pocket money and hence can afford little contribution towards their place of worship. Some adolescents contribute more than five hundred rupees to their place of worship mainly due to family position and altruistic behaviour.

## Results and Conclusions

On the basis of statistical analysis of data the following conclusions were drawn.

- No respondent has identified himself/herself with Jewish. Majority of adolescents have identified themselves with other religions because they belong to Sikh religion.
- Many adolescents have no opinion about their representation in religious institutions. Majority of the adolescents from rural schools as well as urban schools have not given concrete opinions about their representation in religious institutions.
- Only very few adolescents have been visitors to their place of worship in the category of 5-9 and 10-19 years. There is only one female respondent from the urban area who has been visiting the place of worship for maximum years. Many adolescents have been visiting their current place of worship for less than one year.
- Female adolescents are more aware of the distance between their residence and place of worship which shows that they must be regular visitors. There are many adolescents who stay at a distance of 1-5 minutes from their place of worship.
- Adolescents with respect to locale and gender contribute 100-499 rupees to their place of worship and very few adolescents have not been contributing at all.

## Educational Implications

This study may be helpful for students to know their resilience and religious belief. There is a very clear implication that can be drawn from the current study about religious belief and resilience that individuals need to promote the use of religious beliefs by those individuals whose religious backgrounds and practices are consistent with them. Religious beliefs can be beneficial and valuable for the mental and physical health of people. Intrinsic religion plays a role as a key factor for resilience therefore it helps the students as well as teachers in dealing with the education system.

## Conclusion

Religious beliefs are the part of cultural aspects that support individuals to emphasize on ethical standards. There are a number of religions across the world and each religion practices differently like sacraments, lessons, sacrifices, centenaries, music, supplications, meditations, etc. Some religions focus more on conviction whereas the others focus more on living. As we know India is known for its religious practices but now in fashionable India these religious structures are lethargically disappearing out. Especially in the case of adolescents, they do not give supplementary importance to religious practices also. Usually, people from the isolated areas or hilly areas will be very religious compared to the people of the metropolitan setting. The affiliation of the children with the religion is just moderate and fewer. Very few actually have a thirst towards their religion. It is clearly seen that age, income of the family, level of education, As religion places an energetic part in lives of individuals by shaping their moral life, the parents should hearten the children to devote more time with the God and make sure they don't fall again by leading an unfruitful life.

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