

# RELIGION ORIENTATION OF MUSLIM SHIITE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES' STUDENTS IN IRAN

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Religiosity is the effective factor in the interpretation and response to our live events. Many studies have been carried on this topic and have different results on university students. Few knowledge is known the religiosity orientation of Muslim Shiite students, thus, this study was examined on undergraduate Muslim medical students to assess their religious orientation during 2013 in Iran.

**Method:** This cross-sectional study was carried on 320 randomly selected Muslim Shiite undergraduate medical students of Guilan University of Medical Sciences in north of Iran during 2013. Religiosity was assessed through a modified validated questionnaire of Alport Religious Orientation Scale. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistical methods and so Chi-square. P-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

**Results:** Of a total 320 undergraduate medical students, 229 (71.6%) were female, and 91 (28.4%) were male with mean age  $20.93 \pm 1.48$  years. Our samples were studied nursing, obstetrics, anesthetics, health, laboratory, radiology and operation room in bachelor degree courses. 30 (9.38%) were married, 109 (34.2%) were living in dormitories. The average score of our sample was  $16.33 \pm 1.8$ . The intrinsic religion average was  $26.36 \pm 3.4$  whereas, the extrinsic religion average was  $33.41 \pm 4.15$  respectfully. A significant negative association was detected between intrinsic religion average and their academic term, however, with the increasing academic term, intrinsic religious orientation is reduced. There was no association between demographic characteristics such as age, gender, marital status, and academic mean score with religiosity.

**Conclusion:** In overall, religion orientation was good, but the extrinsic religion average was more than intrinsic one and so increasing the number of academic terms result in a decreasing the intrinsic religion score. This is an unexpected finding and can be interpreted, our students in their last study years are more concerned with finding a job so that more consider the extrinsic religious orders.

**Keywords:** religion orientation, undergraduate students, Iran