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COMPARATIVE STUDY ON MORAL VALUES AND LOCUS OF CONTROL BETWEEN ATHEISTS AND THEISTS

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ABSTRACT

The degree to which individuals feel they have control over the events and circumstances that impact their lives is known as their locus of control, a psychological concept. Guidelines that help a person distinguish between good and wrong are known as moral values. The study aims to compare the relationship between Locus of Control and Moral Identity among Atheists and Theists, determining the influence of religious belief on these factors. Atheism believes in the absence of deities, using scientific data and logical justifications to explain human life. Theism is the belief in a superior reality, often called God in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Understanding religious beliefs can help us understand human nature and religion's impact on values and behaviors. A sample of 211 individuals was included, including male and female participants from various geographical areas. The study used socio-demographic data collection tools, such as the Moral Identity Questionnaire and Rotter's Locus of Control Scale, and collected data for statistical analysis. The study maintains confidentiality and uses T-tests to examine significant relationships and gender differences. The research found that no significant difference exists between theists and atheists on their locus of control and moral values, and higher morality levels lower an individual's locus of control.

KEYWORDS: *Locus of control, Atheism, Theism, Moral values, Religio*

INTRODUCTION

Human behaviour is fundamentally shaped by moral principles, which influence how we view and engage with the world. Moral principles are crucial in research because they help ensure that investigations are carried out ethically and responsibly. The degree to which having moral qualities is a social identity relevant to one's self-concept is what moral identity means. It refers to the degree to which people identify as moral beings and are inspired to behave in accordance with their moral ideas and ideals. Every person experiences both positive and negative effects during their existence. While they appreciate their success in life and work to increase the likelihood of positive outcomes, they also work to reduce the possibility of negative consequences. Locus of control describes a person's perspective on their level of control throughout their lives. The Locus of control is fundamentally a view of how much control individuals have over their lives and the results of their activities. People with an internal Locus of control typically believe they are in charge of their own life. In contrast, those who have an external Locus of control typically think other forces or uncontrollable situations govern how their activities turn out. The concept of Locus of control is essential to understand in practically every area of psychology. This is mostly because it may be used in various daily situations. Baron d'Holbach stated in 1772 that "all children are born atheists; they have no idea of God," and George H. Smith noted in a similar vein: "The individual who is not acquainted with theism is an atheist because he does not believe in a god." A lack of belief in the existence of deities is referred to as atheism in its broadest sense. It is a philosophical and theological position that rejects the notion that there are any deities. Atheists use scientific data and logical justifications to explain the nature of the cosmos and human life. Theism is the belief that there is one superior or ultimate reality, which one may also refer to personally, upon which all restricted or finite things are dependent in some manner. There are many different theistic beliefs, ranging from believing in just one God to believing in many gods or goddesses. Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and many other theistic religions are among these. Theists may regularly worship, pray, and admire sacred writings like the Bible or the Quran.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the influence of religious belief on Locus of control and Moral identity.
- To understand the relationship between locus of control and moral identity among theists and atheists.
- To find gender differences in locus of control and moral identity among atheists and theists.

METHODOLOGY

The population sample for this study was decided using the convenience sampling method, and primary data for the research was collected using Rotter's Locus of control scale and the Moral Identity Questionnaire by Black and Reynolds. Moral Identity Questionnaire is a Likert scale with five points, From 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The moral self and moral integrity

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are measured using two separate subscales of the MIQ. The current study's population is Atheists and Theists of all genders in urban, Suburban, and rural areas. The total sample of 211 individuals consisted of diverse demographic areas and age categories. The individuals who consider themselves agnostic are not included in this study. T-test, SPSS 2.0, and Pearson's correlation are used to analyze the relationship between variables and gender differences in the research.

RESULTS

- There is no significant difference in Locus of control and Moral values between Males and Female. This shows that gender does not play a crucial role in influencing an individual's locus of control and moral values.
- There is no significant difference in Locus of control and Moral values between Atheists and Theists. This denotes that an individual's religious belief does not impact their locus of control and moral values.
- The higher the level of Morality, the lower the level of locus of control of an individual. We can understand that those who have strong moral standards may feel less in control of their life events, possibly attributes outcomes of their life to external factors.

SUGGESTIONS

- The study can be conducted using qualitative methods to gain an understanding of this topic.
- Further research is advised to require larger and more diverse cross-cultural samples.
- Gaining a better understanding of the influence of Religious stand in the Locus of control and Morality could also aid in more successfully targeting future intervention methods for Atheists and Theists.

CONCLUSIONS

We could see an interplay between locus of control, moral values, gender, and religious beliefs in this study. This study highlights the diverse aspects of human psychology by demonstrating the lack of significant differences in these factors across belief systems. The relationship between morality and locus of control indicates a valuable perspective for research and future applications in counseling and psychology. The study emphasizes how complex human psychology is and the need for a diverse approach to understanding the aspects that influence morality and locus of control.

FIGURES AND TABLES

Table 1 shows the relationship between gender and variables

Variables	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Levene's test for equality of variances	
					F	Sig.
Morality	Male	127	73.74	11.522	.015	.904
	Female	82	71.56	11.589		
Locus of Control	Male	127	10.06	3.034	.537	.464
	Female	82	10.96	2.861		

Table 2 shows the relationship between religious stand and variables

Variables	Religious Stand	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Levene's test for equality of variances	
					F	Sig
Morality	Atheism	109	77.27	10.223	2.935	.088
	Theism	100	68.11	11.093		
Locus of Control	Atheism	109	9.50	2.990	1.955	.164
	Theism	100	11.41	2.675		

Table 3 shows the Mean and Standard deviation of the variables.

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Morality	72.89	11.569	209
Locus of Control	10.42	2.993	209

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Table 4 shows the correlation between the variables, Morality and Locus of control

Variables		Morality	Locus of Control
Morality	Pearson Correlation	1	-.300**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	209	209
Locus of Control	Pearson Correlation	-.300**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	209	209

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