Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

Ajaz Ahmad

ABSTRACT:

This study was conducted to discover the relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among medical and unani students. The target population consisted of students from faculty of medicine of JNMC (Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh, UP) and faculty of unani of AKTC (Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh, UP). The sample comprised of 100 participants (50 female and 50 male) whose age range was from 24 to 27 years. Out of 100 participants, 50 students were from MBBS course and the remaining 50 students were from BUMS course. The participants were selected by simple random sampling method. Data were obtained through Spiritual Personality Inventory (SPI) developed by Husain, Luqman and Jahan (2012) and Emotional Empathy Scale (EES) developed by Mehrabian and Epstein (1972). The data were analyzed by means of Pearson Product-Moment Correlation. SPSS 16.0 version was used to analyze the data. The obtained results indicated that in the MBBS male and female students, and BUMS male students only, spiritual personality is related to emotional empathy. The findings suggested that students of helping profession with spiritual personality express more empathic attitude toward others which is essential for speedy recovery of the patients.

Keywords: Spiritual Personality, Emotional Empathy.

Practitioners of the allopathic medicine and unani medicine may seem to be very incompatible and in some ways even antagonistic to each other. However, the practitioners of either system understand that a healthy balance between body and mind leads to total health. Both allopathic and unani medicine practitioners understand the need for total health. This has the ultimate aim and goal of producing a state of physical and mental health thus ultimately leading to the optimum well-being of the individual.

Actually, emotional empathy is very crucial for understanding the needs of those who seek healthcare services. This has the ultimate aim of providing better healthcare services. The researcher thus attempted to explore whether empathic qualities are found more among spiritual people or not. Therefore, exploring the relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among the trainees of the two healthcare professions (MBBS and BUMS) was of significant importance.

1M.Phil. – Clinical Psychology trainee, Amity Institute of Behavioural & Allied Sciences, Amity University, Rajasthan

© 2015 I A Ahmad; licensee IJIP. This is an Open Access Research distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any Medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
Statement of the Problem:

From the literature, it seems that there is no evidence to support the argument that spiritual personality and emotional empathy are critical importance to health caregivers. There is no clear understanding on how these factors purported to be associated with the development of personality of health caregivers. The present investigator believes that there is an important relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy, any research trying to determine this relationship among prospective health caregivers has not been made.

It is important for the medical colleges and Unani colleges to know which aspect plays important role in having big impact in developing the personality of health caregivers. The notion that noble attitude toward others and moral rectitude factors of spiritual personality and emotional empathy are important for the realization of professional goals particularly in the colleges of medical profession has remained untapped by researchers. Consequently, empirical research evidence is still needed to support the proposed link between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among prospective health caregivers.

Personality: Meaning and Definitions:

The word “Personality” has been derived from the Latin word “Persona”, which referred to the mask that Greek actors wore while acting. This, however, is not the meaning taken in the modern word “personality”. Personality is not a fixed state but a dynamic totality which is continuously changing due to interaction with the environment. It is known by the conduct, behaviour, activities, movements and everything else concerning the individual. It is the way of responding to the environment, the way in which an individual adjusts with the external environment (Sharma, 2006).

“Personality is the superstructure of the relatively consistent and enduring innate-learned, apparent-hidden characteristics of an individual like physical appearance, attitudes and behaviour that combine together and influence one’s ways of interaction with the environment” (Ahmad, 2014).

According to Allport, personality is “a dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment” (Allport, 1937).

Spirituality: Meaning and Definitions:

What is most obvious in the meaning of “spirituality” is that it comes from its root word, which is “spirit”. The suffix “uality” qualifies the use of “spirit” in this instance (“Basic Meaning of Spirituality”, 2010). Spiritual practices, including meditation, prayer and contemplation are intended to develop an individual's inner life. Spiritual experience includes that of connectedness with a larger reality, yielding a more comprehensive self; with other individuals or the human
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

community; with nature or the cosmos; or with the divine realm. Spirituality is often experienced as a source of inspiration or orientation in life. It can encompass belief in immaterial realities or experiences of the immanent or transcendent nature of the world (Montenegro, 2012).

The true meaning of spirituality is that it is way of life that gives proper value to the spiritual dimension of our existence and creation. This means that we acknowledge the primacy of the spirituality in our life, its essentiality, and its finality, and act accordingly.

- **Primacy of Spirituality:**

  We acknowledge the primacy of the spiritual in our life. This means that we are certain that we came from a spiritual source, one that is not perceivable by our senses. This spiritual source has real connection with us even now and is really in charge of our life. We cannot get out of this connection with our spiritual source. If we are believers in God, we call this God. If we are atheists but live a life of spirituality, we may call this source Ultimate Energy.

- **Essentiality of Spirituality:**

  Secondly, we acknowledge the essentiality of the spiritual in our life. This means that what is most important in our life is not material things or money, fame or position of authority, but the possession of spiritual qualities which make us more human. For us to be human is to be spiritual. Spirituality is an essential component of our humanity. Without spirituality we are no longer human beings. It is that essential.

- **Finality of Spirituality:**

  Thirdly, we acknowledge the finality of the spiritual. Our goal in life is a spiritual goal, not the accumulation of riches or material rewards such as lands and buildings. The goal of our life is union with the Ultimate Spirit. In this our real and genuine happiness consists.

**Who is a Spiritual Person?**

“A spiritual person is like a mariner in the storm, he slackens sail, waits, hopes, and the storms do not prevent him from loving seas. He who loves God shall get the essence of spiritual quality; only who desires spiritual life with his full faith, wisdom and whole heart shall find it. If a person is truly spiritual, he would believe the unity in diversity and the oneness of all life on earth” (Husain, Luqman, & Jahan, 2012).

**Spirituality as a Personality Trait:**

As a personality trait, spirituality encompasses values like altruism, unity, charity, inner peace, generosity, and purpose in life. Such people score high on psychological tests of spirituality.
For a man with spiritual personality, the responses to life are, in their quality, established and well-organized; one can count in him. He has positive emotions, desires, and ideas. He is a whole person with a unifying pattern of thought and feeling that gives coherence to everything that he does. His “well-integrated” life does not mean a placid life, with all conflicts resolved. Many great souls have been inwardly tortured. In all strong characters, when one listens behind scenes, one hears echoes of strife and contentions. Nevertheless, far from being at loose ends within themselves, such persons have organized their lives around some supreme values and achieved a powerful concentration of purpose and drive.

A spiritual personality refers to the totality of certain spiritual characteristics of a person. Characteristics of spiritual personality include: inner peace, purpose in life, sense of oneness, righteousness, patience, etc.

**Noble Attitude toward Others (NATO):**

“The essential characteristic of a spiritual person is noble attitude toward others. A spiritual person is one whose behaviour is governed by the divine attributes such as kindness…… and who lives for the sake of others” (Husain, Luqman & Jahan, 2012).

**Moral Rectitude (MR):**

The core characteristics of a spiritual person whose behaviour is governed by moral rectitude are self-controlled, steadfast, firm and patient, pure and clean, satisfied etc. (Husain, Luqman & Jahan, 2012).

**Empathy: Meaning and Definitions:**

The English word “Empathy” is derived from the Ancient Greek word μπάθεια (empatheia), meaning "physical affection", “passion, and partiality" which comes from ἐν (en), "in, at" and πάθος (pathos), "passion" or "suffering". The term was adapted by Hermann Lotze and Robert Vischer to create the German word “Einfühlung” ( meaning "feeling into"), which was translated by Edward B. Titchener into the English term “Empathy”. (“Empathy”, 2012).

According to Berger (1987), empathy is "the capacity to know emotionally what another is experiencing from within the frame of reference of that other person, the capacity to sample the feelings of another or to put one's self in another's shoes."

According to Stein (1989) “Empathy is the experience of foreign consciousness in general.”

Decety (2004) opines that “A sense of similarity in feelings experienced by the self and the other, without confusion between the two individuals.”
Emotional Empathy:

"Emotional Empathy" is defined as one's vicarious experience of another's emotional experiences -- feeling what the other person feels. In the context of personality measurement, it describes individual differences in the tendency to have emotional empathy with others. Some individuals tend to be generally more empathic in their dealings with others; they typically experience more of the feelings others feel, whereas others tend to be generally less empathic (Definition of Emotional Empathy, 2012).

MBBS:

The term “MBBS” stands for Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

BUMS:

The term “BUMS” stands for Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The detailed literature review indicated that emotional empathy is linked to various variables which include both personal characteristics and personality variables. The investigator, however, didn't come across a single study where the relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among health care-givers was examined. Hence, the present study was conducted to explore the relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among MBBS and BUMS students. The key literature references are given as under:

Key Literature References:

- Barett-Lennard, 1981
- Barnett et al., 1987
- Campbell et al. 1971
- Duan & Hill, 1996
- Eisenberg, & Miller, 1987a; 1987b
- Gladstein, 1977
- Greenson, 1960
- Hoffman, 1987
- Hogan, 1969
- Holm, 1996
- Ickes, 1993, 1997
- Kerem et al., 2001
- Kohut, 1980
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Rationale of the Study:

Practitioners of the allopathic medicine and unani medicine understand that a healthy balance between body and mind leads to the total health of an individual. Emotional empathy is very crucial for understanding the needs of those who seek healthcare services. This has the ultimate aim and goal of providing better healthcare services. Empathy is considered as one of the most important spiritual virtues. Therefore, exploring the relationship between spirituality and empathy is of significant importance.

Research Objectives:

1. To find out the relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and the factors of spiritual personality: Noble Attitude toward Others (NATO) and Moral Rectitude (MR), with Emotional Empathy (EE) among male MBBS students.
2. To find out the relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among male BUMS students.
3. To find out the relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among female MBBS students.
4. To find out the relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among female BUMS students.

Hypotheses:

HO1: There is no significant relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and the factors of spiritual personality: Noble Attitude toward Others (NATO) and Moral Rectitude (MR), with Emotional Empathy (EE) among male MBBS students.
HO2: There is no significant relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among male BUMS students.
HO3: There is no significant relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among female MBBS students.
HO4: There is no significant relationship between Spiritual Personality (SP) and its factors: NATO and MR, with Emotional Empathy (EE) among female BUMS students.

Conceptual Framework:

The following figure representing the conceptual framework provides insight that the factors of spiritual personality are helpful in developing emotional empathy in male and female students of two different streams.
Research Design:

The present study is of correlation in nature. Correlational studies aim to examine the relationship between two or more variables, to see whether they co-vary, correlate, or are associated with each other. In such studies, researcher measures a number of variables for each participant, with the aim of studying the associations among these variables.

Population and Participants:

The target population consisted of students from faculty of medicine of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC) and faculty of unani of Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College (AKTC), both affiliated to Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh, UP. The sample comprised of 100 participants (50 female and 50 male) whose age range was from 24 to 27 years. Out of 100 participants, 50 students were from MBBS course and the remaining 50 students were from BUMS course. The participants were selected by simple random sampling method.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

Inclusion Criteria:

a) MBBS and BUMS trainees of Aligarh Muslim University
b) Both Male and Female trainees
c) Those within the age-range of 24 to 27 years

Exclusion Criteria:

a) Newly joined trainees at AMU
b) Healthcare trainees other than MBBS and BUMS
c) MBBS and BUMS trainees living outside Aligarh
d) MBBS and BUMS trainees outside the age-range of 24-27 years
RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

1. Spiritual Personality Inventory (SPI):

The SPI was developed by Husain, Luqman and Jahan in 2012. The SPI consisted of 32 statements that inquire about the thoughts and feelings of individuals pertaining to their spiritual aspect of life. This inventory is comprised of two sub-scales:

- **Noble Attitude toward Others (NATO):** It encompasses 18 statements.
- **Moral Rectitude (MR):** It encompasses 14 statements.

**Reliability:**

The reliability of a personality test is usually determined by internal consistency methods. Since SPI is a homogenous test, one would expect a high correlation to emerge with split-half and Cronbach’s coefficient alpha methods of reliability.

The split-half correlation of 0.82 was found for the whole sample. The Cronbach’s coefficient alpha for the whole sample was found to be 0.86. The Cronbach’s alpha for the two factors, namely, noble attitude toward others and moral rectitude were found to be 0.84 and 0.74 respectively.

**Validity:**

Content validity refers to whether a test is measuring the domain that it is supposed to be measuring. In gathering items for the SPI, the authors collected a wide range of characteristics that seemed relevant to having a spiritual personality. Unreliable items and ambiguous items were discarded, but the final scale includes items about noble attitude toward others and about moral rectitude.

2. Emotional Empathy Scale (EES):

This scale was developed by Mehrabian and Epstein (1972). This scale consists of 33 statements that inquire about the thoughts and feelings of individuals in a variety of situations each of which assesses a specific aspect of empathy. Scores for each item can range from 1 to 9, with a higher score indicating a greater level of empathy. The subject has to choose the appropriate response to each statement.

**Validity:**

To support the validity of their test, Mehrabian and Epstein conducted two studies that are consistent with some of the state prison inmates.
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

First, they found that college students who scored high on their emotional empathy test were less willing than low scorers to "punish" fellow students for incorrect answers by administering electric shocks.

In the second experiment, high scorers were more willing than low-scoring students to help a fellow student who was having trouble with a course. Clearly, emotional empathy serves to inhibit aggression and promote helping others.

**Procedure of Data Collection:**

The following figure illustrates the procedure of data collection in this study.

![Diagram of selected colleges and students](attachment:diagram.png)

**Data Analysis:**

The data were analyzed by means of Pearson Product Moment Correlation. SPSS 16.0 version was used to analyze the data. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to examine the relationship between two personality variables among male and female MBBS and BUMS students. The t-test was used for testing the significance of correlation. Z test was used for testing the significance of difference between male and female MBBS and BUMS students in correlation coefficients.
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Correlation Analysis:

**Table No. 1**: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients: Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy, and factors of Spiritual Personality (NATO & MR) and Emotional Empathy among Male and Female, MBBS and BUMS students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MBBS (r)</td>
<td>BUMS (r)</td>
<td>MBBS (r)</td>
<td>BUMS (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP/EE</td>
<td>0.73*</td>
<td>0.82*</td>
<td>0.82*</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATO/EE</td>
<td>0.48**</td>
<td>0.68*</td>
<td>0.78*</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR/EE</td>
<td>0.75*</td>
<td>0.70*</td>
<td>0.81*</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .01, **p < .05

**t Test:**

**Table No. 2**: t values showing significance of correlation between Male and Female MBBS and Male and Female BUMS students in the relationship scores of Spiritual Personality with Emotional Empathy, and factors of Spiritual Personality (NATO and MR) with Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MBBS</td>
<td>BUMS</td>
<td>MBBS</td>
<td>BUMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP/EE</td>
<td>5.12*</td>
<td>6.70*</td>
<td>6.70*</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATO/EE</td>
<td>2.63**</td>
<td>4.45*</td>
<td>5.74*</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR/EE</td>
<td>5.26*</td>
<td>4.69*</td>
<td>6.22*</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p < .01, **p < .05
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

$z$ Test:

**Table No. 3:** Showing difference between Male and Female MBBS students in the relationship scores of Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>$\sigma$ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>.73</td>
<td>.93</td>
<td>0.3014</td>
<td>1.24*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>.82</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $> .05$

**Table No. 4:** Showing difference between Male and Female MBBS students in the relationship scores of Noble Attitude toward Others and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>$\sigma$ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>.48</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.3014</td>
<td>1.69*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $> .05$

**Table No. 5:** Showing the difference between Male and Female MBBS students in the relationship scores of Moral Rectitude and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>$\sigma$ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.3014</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female MBBS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.812</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$>.05$
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

Table No. 6: Showing difference between Male and Female BUMS students in relationship scores of Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>σ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>.3014</td>
<td>3.50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*< 0.01

Table No. 7: Showing difference between Male and Female BUMS students in relationship scores of Noble Attitude toward Others and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>σ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.3014</td>
<td>1.91*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*< 0.05

Table No. 8: Showing difference between Male and Female BUMS students in relationship scores of Moral Rectitude and Emotional Empathy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Fz</th>
<th>σ DZ</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.3014</td>
<td>2.78*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female BUMS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*< 0.01

As can be seen from the Table No. 1 shown above, significant positive correlation coefficients were found between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among male (r=0.73, p<.01) and female (r=0.828, p<.01) MBBS students, and male BUMS students (r=0.82, p<.01).
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

Noble Attitude toward Others factor of spiritual personality scores was found to be positively correlated with emotional empathy among male \((r=0.489, p <.05)\) and female \((r=0.78, p<.01)\) MBBS students, and male BUMS students \((r=0.68, p<.01)\). Significant positive relationships were found between moral rectitude factor of spiritual personality and emotional empathy among male \((r=0.752, p<.01)\) female \((r=0.81, p<.01)\) MBBS students, and male BUMS students \((r=.70, p<.01)\).

The calculated \(t\) values are greater than the table \(t\) values at .05 and .01 level of significance (cf. Table No. 2). Thus null hypotheses are rejected and it is inferred that spiritual personality and its factors, and emotional empathy are significantly positively correlated among MBBS male and female, and BUMS male students.

As can be seen from Table No. 3, 4, and 5, significant difference were not found between male and female MBBS students in the relationship scores of spiritual personality with emotional empathy \((Z=1.241, p>.05)\) and relationship scores of Noble Attitude toward Others with emotional empathy \((Z=1.692, p>.05)\), and relationship scores of moral rectitude with emotional empathy \((Z=0.53, p>.05)\). These findings imply that the null hypotheses are accepted.

As can be seen from Table No. 6 and 8, significant differences were found between male and female BUMS students in the relationship scores of Spiritual Personality with Emotional Empathy \((Z=3.50, p < 0.01)\); and Moral Rectitude with Emotional Empathy \((Z=2.78, p<0.01)\). These findings indicate that the null hypotheses are accepted. As can be seen from the Table No. 7, significant difference was not found between male and female BUMS students in the relationship scores of Noble Attitude toward Others with emotional empathy \((Z=1.91, p > 0.05)\).

In the MBBS male and female students, and BUMS male students, spiritual personality is related to emotional empathy. These findings suggest that students of helping profession with spiritual personality express more empathic attitude toward others. For many students, the empathic attitude is the consequence of spiritual qualities and role demand feelings of obligations, and the educational process that maximises the role of doctors and Hakeem as caregivers. Of course, the generalisations emanating from the present research may not be directly applicable to all health caregivers because it was conducted on the students of MBBS and BUMS only.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

Conclusion:

On the basis of the finally obtained results after the rigorous analysis of the thoroughly gathered data, it can be genuinely concluded that there exists a significant and beneficial relationship between spiritual personality and emotional empathy among medical (MBBS) and unani (BUMS) students.
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

Implications:

1. Research in the area of spiritual psychology is not only rewarding for its immediate theoretical interest or practical implications for the prospective health caregivers but also for its bearing upon the study of the students of other helping professions like dentists, surgeons, nurses, etc.
2. Emotional empathy attunes us to another person’s inner emotional world, an advantage for a wide range of health-care professions i.e., doctors, nurses, clinical psychologists, etc. Therefore, to develop empathy among health-care givers, spiritual practices like meditation, contemplation and prayer should be encouraged in the professional trainings.

LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Limitations:

1. This study has limitation with respect to the generality of the findings. Since the study involved a particular group of people (i.e., MBBS and BUMS students of medicine of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and students of unani of Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College from a specific geographical area i.e., Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, UP). Thus, it may be simply uncertain whether the findings may be generalized to the other healthcare professionals of the society.
2. In this research, self-reporting questionnaires were administered. Therefore, the possibility of false reporting cannot be ruled out.
3. Another limitation of this study is that the research sample that was taken into consideration in this study comprised of only 100 participants. In India, with a population of around 1.25 billion, the research findings obtained on a sample of only 100 participants cannot be said to provide sufficient information about the variables in question.

Further Research Suggestions:

1. The present research is carried out on a small sample of MBBS and BUMS students, it can be conducted further on the larger sample of both the groups of students.
2. Spiritual personality is an important area in which more research is called for. The relationship between spiritual personality and altruism and spiritual personality and values are complex and hence calls for original research in health caregivers.
3. Research on the sample of health caregivers e.g., physicians, dentists, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, etc. is of high importance because if researchers gather sufficient evidence, they can prepare intervention and support service to manage caregivers’ stress.
4. The psychological or other reasons for the lack of correlation between spiritual qualities and emotional empathy among female BUMS students can be investigated in further studies.
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

APPENDIX - 1

Spiritual Personality Inventory (SPI)

Circle the number that best describes the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

1 = Strongly Disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neutral
4 = Agree
5 = Strongly Agree

*Note: Attempt all the statements.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I do not fail in my promise.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I am trustworthy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I do deeds of righteousness.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I deal justly with others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I am faithful to others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I am generous.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I possess wisdom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I am God fearing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. I am firm and patient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I am humble.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I am grateful to others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I am full of kindness.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I am forbearing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I am sincere.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I recognize all good things.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I am to a path that is straight.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. I am truthful.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I possess good etiquettes and manners.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. I can create my own surroundings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. I have spiritual powers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. I am satisfied.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. I am having self-respect.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. I am compassionate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. I am having sense of sacredness.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. I strive to excel in steadfastness.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. I have mercy on others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

29. I am not for myself, but also for others. 1 2 3 4 5
30. I can stay calm in the face of adversity. 1 2 3 4 5
31. I am enjoining what is right. 1 2 3 4 5
32. I forgive people. 1 2 3 4 5

Name: ........................................ Gender: .........................................................
Age: .......................................................... Education: ............................................

APPENDIX - 2

Emotional Empathy Scale (EES)

Using the scale below, indicate the degree to which you agree with each statement.

9 = Very strong agreement
8 = Strong agreement
7 = Moderate agreement
6 = Slight agreement
5 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Slight disagreement.
3 = Moderate disagreement
2 = Strong disagreement
1 = Very strong disagreement

Note: Attempt all the statements

1. It makes me sad to see a lonely stranger in a group. ____
2. People make too much of the feelings and sensitivity of animals. ____
3. I often find public displays of affection annoying. ____
4. I am annoyed by unhappy people who are just sorry for themselves. ____
5. I become nervous if others around me seem to be nervous. ____
6. I find it silly for people to cry out of happiness. ____
7. I tend to get emotionally involved with a friend's problems. ____
8. Sometimes the words of a love song can move me deeply. ____
9. I tend to lose control when I am bringing bad news to people. ____
10. The people around me have a great influence on my moods. ____
11. Most foreigners I have met seemed cool and unemotional. ____
12. I would rather be a social worker than work in a job training center. ____
13. I don't get upset just because a friend is acting upset. ____
14. I like to watch people open presents. ____
15. Lonely people are probably unfriendly. ____
16. Seeing people cry upsets me. ____
17. Some songs make me happy. ____
18. I really get involved with the feelings of the characters in a novel. ____
Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students

19. I get very angry when I see someone being ill-treated. _____
20. I am able to remain calm even though those around me worry. _____
21. When a friend starts to talk about his problems, I try to steer the conversation to something else. _____
22. Another's laughter is not catching for me. _____
23. Sometimes at the movies I am amused by the amount of crying and sniffling around me. _____
24. I am able to make decisions without being influenced by people's feelings. _____
25. I cannot continue to feel okay if people around me are depressed. _____
26. It is hard for me to see how some things upset people so much. _____
27. I am very upset when I see an animal in pain. _____
28. Becoming involved in books or movies is a little silly. _____
29. It upsets me to see helpless old people. _____
30. I become more irritated than sympathetic when I see someone's tears. _____
31. I become very involved when I watch a movie. _____
32. I often find that I can remain cool in spite of the excitement around me. _____
33. Little children sometimes cry for no apparent reason. _____

Name: ...........................................................   Gender: .....................................................
Age: ..............................................................   Education: .............................................

REFERENCES

Exploring the Relationship between Spiritual Personality and Emotional Empathy among Medical and Unani Students