International Academic Institute for Science and Technology

International Academic Journal of Humanities Vol. 4, No. 2, 2017, pp. 95-100.
ISSN 2454-2245

International Academic Journal of Humanities

www.iaiest.com

Investigating the role of environmental factors and family in using emerging communication factors and religious beliefs

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Abstract

This study titled "investigating the role of environmental factors and family in using emerging communication factors and religious beliefs", is trying to provide preventive strategies related to the emerging communication factors with the purpose of determining the factors affecting the religious beliefs of students. The research's design is descriptive type which has been done by the survey method with a practical aim. Two researcher-made questionnaires which are based on the theoretical and experimental frameworks of the research have been used to measuring the variables. The statistical population in this study is all students from the villages of East Bandar Abbas that totally, all these students are 341 number of boy and girl students according to the idea of statistics department of Hormozgan Province Education in 2015. The questionnaire's alpha of the dependent variable (students' religious beliefs) and general questionnaire's alpha were obtained as 73% and 78%, respectively; and the results showed that the environmental factors variable and the family role variable could affect the students' religious beliefs variable with the beta of 0.143% and 0.39%, respectively.

Keywords: religious beliefs, environmental factors, family, emerging communication factors

Introduction:

Cyberspace is a new generation of social relationship space and could be a part of people's life well, despite, it doesn't have much lifetime. Many people in different ages and from different social groups come together in cyberspace and by this way, they are communicating together from very far distances in the real world. Nowadays, the methods of communication with others have been increased over Internet. Today, Iranian families are confronting with satellite channels, cyberspace, modern media, and etc. in their cultural basket and each one is targeting a part of the process of influencing the family. Some

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satellite channels are focused on the issue of family, specialized; and the common message of the programs of these channels are "promoting chaotic and unrestrained families against the family's structure, normalization of spouses' cheating, normalization of sexual intercourse of girls and boys before marriage, promoting cohabitation culture instead of marriage, and normalization of abortion for the girls". By the coming of the age of new communication technologies and their general expansion which brought new concepts such as virtual reality and cyberspace, excessive changes occurred in human life and confronted us with a new world; the world that we think, write, read, and communicate differently in it, and generally, the world that we live differently in it. Entering this new society affects all aspects of human life, such as the transition from agricultural society to industrial society, and has created deep changes in the social structure and the relationships between people; so that, it make the political, social, economic, and culture areas faced to a multitude of opportunities and essential challenges. In recent years, "virtual social networks" have been developed with unsurpassed speed. Virtual bases such as MySpace, Facebook, Five hi, Friendster, YouTube, Flickr, Orkut, and Twitter are the most famous networks which provides a charming atmosphere for network communication in cyberspace among Internet users and most of the younger generation, and have grown rapidly in short time; for example, according to the declaration of Wikipedia, Facebook had more than 800 million active users until September 2011. One of the most important dimensions of human life that will have negative influences by this phenomenon is the identity dimension. Identity is one of the most important issues of communities. There is no doubt that we can say that identity is one of the human's mental needs and a prerequisite for any collective life. Perhaps, can say that the religious identity is one of the most important elements causing homogeneity and social cohesion in the communities' level which has a very important role in creating and shaping the collective identity during a process by creating a sense of belonging to religion among the people of the society, and in other words, it performs the similarity and distinction operations; For example, Islam and Shi'ism simultaneously, is creating religious similarities among students while separate them from other religions (Shekar Beygi, 2012).

Being more complex of social relationships and massive increment of the means of communication such as Internet, causes to exiting the family relationships from the simple phase of face to face or on the phone and indirectly, change its shape in the form of more complex relationships; and since that the persons can't recognize each other's identity property in this kind of relationship, this issue is the field for Internet crimes and abuses (Broomand Bastani, 2004).

The thing that can harm the society is the tendency of society's people to each one of these injuries; and students because of their psychological characteristics are one of the most affected groups of society, because according to the existed statistics, about 20% of the country's population consists of students (public relations of the Ministry of Education, 2010).

So, the extent and the reasons of tendency to these injuries should be identified before performing an action to prevent from their tendency in the injuries' trap, so that the authorities of the educational system and police force will be able to provide preventive actions and solutions in order to prevent from involvement of students in these injuries.

Background of the research

EbrahimPoor Komle and Khazayi (2012) did a study with the title "emerging injuries, virtual social network lurking Iranian families"; this study was intended to introduce the flaws and threats on Internet and the virtual social networks and provide strategies to cope and reduce these injuries. The results showed that some proposals have been presented in order to meet the families with the threats of

cyberspace and the proper use of cyberspace in addition to highlighting the importance of the nature of family and threaten it by social networks.

Navabakhsh et al (2009) did a study with the title "investigating the amount of religiosity in students of Azad University of Garmsar". They investigated the religious commitment in the students of Azad University of Garmsar which they used experimental theories of religion of the theorists as well as the theories of Daniel Bates, Peter Berger, Oda, Marx, and Weber. The results of this study showed there is a significant relationship between the amount of religiosity of students with students' gender, socio-economic base of students, the amount of religiosity of students' parents, and the amount of value of rites in university.

Ghasemi et al (2012) did a study with the title "the interaction in cyberspace of online social networks and its impact on religious identity of youth; a case study on Facebook and young people in Isfahan". The research results indicate that there is an inverse significant relation between the duration of membership, usage amount and the level of participation and users' activity in using Facebook; and there is a positive significant relation between actualizing the content of Facebook and religious identity of users; it means that how much the duration of membership, usage amount and the level of participation and users' activity increase, the religious prominence is reduced among them. Also, the findings indicate that young people use Facebook according to their religious needs and in the same way, using Facebook affects their religious style and increases different various religious reading in them.

Memariani and HasanZadeh (2012) did a study with the title "the effect of Internet and satellite on religious and national identity of high school students". Due to the severe development of the media and Internet and access to the informational society, the globalization process of people's identity and personality is affected from these resources. This article studies the effect of Internet and satellite on religious and national identity of high school students according to their role-playing in the country's future. The used theory was the symbolic interaction and the effect of informational society on the identity which is tried to measuring the religious and national identity of 350 numbers of girl and boy students of high school grade in two regions of Tehran by using the survey method and stratified random sampling and using the questionnaire technique; the results are as follows: the religious identity of girls is stronger than boys; there was no significant difference in the national identity between the boys and the girls. The students who were using Internet and computers in the positive direction (research and study) had more strong religious and national identity and mutuality, the persons who were using the cyberspace for a long time and with other purposes had low religious and national identity. The girls were influenced by the media more than the boys.

The hypothesis of the research

• It seems that the environmental factors and the family have a significant role in the application of emerging communication factors and religious beliefs.

Research methodology

Since this study's aim is the role of environmental factors, gender, and family in the application of emerging communication factors and religious beliefs, it is survey in terms of the practical purpose and collecting data; so the research method in this thesis is a survey. The used instrument is taking notes from available resources and the questionnaire which is one of the common research tools and a proper way to collect the research data. The population in this study is all students of the villages of East Bandar Abbas. All these students are 341 number of boy and girl students according to the idea of statistics department

of Hormozgan Province Education in 2015. The stability studies the capability of reproducibility of the research instruments. This issue has been studied by using Cronbach's alpha in this research. The reliability of the scale is more as much as Cronbach's alpha coefficient is close to each other. The questionnaire's alpha of the dependent variable (students' religious beliefs) and general questionnaire's alpha were obtained as 73% and 78%, respectively. After the data collection step, all data transmitted to the computer, then, SPSS computer software version 22 were used to processing and statistical analysis of data.

Research findings
Descriptive statistics

The subject of descriptive statistics is data set-up and classification, graphical display, and etc. which show the characteristics of each member of the discussed society. In descriptive statistics, the information obtained from a group describes the same group and the obtained information cannot be generalized to similar categories.

Table 1: Frequency distribution according to the gender variable

Gender variable	Frequency	Percent
Boy	176	51.6
Girl	165	48.4
Total	341	100

As can see in the table of the frequency distribution of the gender variable, 51.6% of respondents are girls and 48.4% of respondents are boys. The majority of the respondents are girls.

Table 2: Frequency distribution according to the age variable

Age variable	Frequency	Percent
Less than 10 years	79	23.2
Between 11 and 13 years	160	46.9
Between 14 and 17 years	102	29.9
Total	341	100

As can see in the table of the frequency distribution of the age variable, 23.2% of respondents aged less than 10 years and 46.9 percent of respondents aged between 11 and 13 years and 29.9 percent of respondents aged between 14 and 17 years old. The majority of the respondents are aged between 11 and 13 years old.

Table 3: Frequency distribution according to the grade variable

Education grade	Frequency	Percent
School	120	35.2
High school	221	64.8
Total	341	100

As can see in the table of the frequency distribution of the grade variable, 35.2 percent of respondents are from school and 64.8 percent of respondents are from high school. The majority of the respondents are studying in high school.

Table 4: the correlation coefficient test between environmental factors and the religious beliefs of students

Variable	Pearson correlation	Correlation statistics
Environmental factors	Correlation coefficient	0.122^{*}
	Significance level	0.025
	Number	341

As can see in the table of Pearson correlation coefficient (table 4), there is a significant relation between environmental factors and the religious beliefs of students with taking into account the correlation coefficient of 0.122^{*}. So, the above hypothesis is confirmed at the level of 95%.

Table 5: the correlation coefficient test between the family role and the religious beliefs of students

Variable	Pearson correlation	Correlation statistics
The role of family	Correlation coefficient	0.272^{**}
	Significance level	0.000
	Number	341

As can see in the table of Pearson correlation coefficient (table 5), there is a significant relation between the family role and the religious beliefs of students with taking into account the correlation coefficient of 0.272^{**}. So, the above hypothesis is confirmed at the level of 99%.

Conclusions and suggestions

According to that the religious values are the most comprehensive values, and the highest unity of human-self is founded in religious ethics, the lack of such a pure and unifying principle leads individuals to a variety of degradation of the character and this degradation is revealed in the time of encounter with the world of infinite variety and also, in the inner motion of human's psyche and mind.

According to what was said, the following recommendations and proposals are available in order to deal with the effect of emerging communication factors on the religious beliefs of students. According to the results of the study, the presented proposals are:

Practical proposals about preventing and coping with the impact of emerging communication factors on students' religious beliefs:

1. Considering a course during high school education to acquaint the children and teenagers with the types of crime and the ways to protect themselves.
2. Teaching the parents (about emerging communication factors) in schools through parent-teacher associations.
3. Constant police surveillance on internet service provider centers.
4. Holding special camps to remedy Internet addicts by using special facilities, counseling sessions, treatment workshops, and harsh training similar to military camps as a part of school plans.
5. Using alarm devices can be useful to show the duration of the connection and install a copy of the above-mentioned guidelines in the children's room to make them be loyal to it.
6. It is better to consider a reward for reducing his internet connection or punish him if he violated. If your children's computer is in their room or a separated place, move it to a place like the kitchen, dining room or any place in the house that can see the computer easily, it is helpful, and it is useful to make a list of alternative activities.

7. Social interaction is an important part of a healthy life. Now that the students spend a lot of their time away from home, it is better that the social interaction be done through meetings, gatherings, religious ceremonies, and participate in celebration, ceremonies, occasions, rites, and etc., so, they don't seek refuge in Internet which is a virtual world and don't seek social interaction there.

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