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## Developing a Religiosity Scale for Iranian College Student

Mohammad Khodayarifard <sup>a\*</sup>, Bagher Ghobari –Bonab <sup>a</sup>, Mohsen Shokoohi –Yekta <sup>a</sup>,  
Ali Naghi Faghihi <sup>b</sup>, Ahmad Beh-Pajooch <sup>a</sup>, Gholam-Ali Afrooz <sup>a</sup>,  
Yasamin Abedini <sup>c</sup>, Mohsen Paknejad <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

<sup>b</sup>University of Qom, Iran

<sup>c</sup>University of Esfahan, Tehran, Iran

### Abstract

The present study was designed to develop a religiosity scale to be used with university students. 2182 university students studying at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels were selected through stratified random sampling from among all the university students in Tehran. The scale was developed in four stages (three initial stages and one final stage). The results verified the criterion validity, differential validity and construct validity of the scale. The reliability was examined with the use of retest technique and internal consistency. Religiosity was found to be a complex construct with various dimensions of cognition, emotion, and behaviour. It encompasses attributes such as relation with God, with others, with one's self and with the universe.

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### 1. Introduction

In today's world, scientific researches into religion which use reliable methods constitute one of the most favorite research areas in academic spheres. Religion encompasses a potpourri of complex set of behaviors, attitudes and beliefs with its particular psychological sedimentations and implications for emotions (Argyle & Hallahmi, 1975; Bergine, 1983).

The complicated, mysterious and profound facet of religious experience makes its assessment a difficult and a big challenge. Methodology plays a significant role in research, particularly religious research, i.e. adoption of a proper, logical and scientific methodology leads to reliable data and findings and eliminates methodological errors. Thus, in religious researches, methodological considerations, such as theoretical frameworks, role of

\* Corresponding author: Mohammad Khodayari Fardd. Tel.: +98-21-88275696  
E-mail address: [Khodayar@ut.ac.ir](mailto:Khodayar@ut.ac.ir)

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