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Preparation of religiosity scale and measuring levels of religiosity among Iranian from throughout of Iran

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Abstract

Introduction Due to methodological and psychometric problems in formulating existing religiosity instruments, lack of provincial, regional, and national norms for employing in Iran, and also lack of standardized method in administrating and scoring related scales, present study was carried out.

Purpose The purpose of this study was to develop a standardized scale for measuring religiosity for Iranians, who live in Iran as a religious society. For doing so, the structure and the content of the scale were drawn from Quran and Hadith and accordingly a theoretical model was defined for measuring religiosity in Iran. The theoretical model included multi-components. Based on the model pool of components and items were developed.

Research design Research design of the present was descriptive one (non-experimental), developing a measurement type, conducted in two stages as follows: preparation religiosity scale, and measuring religiosity among Iranians throughout Iran. In terms of the method for collecting data, the research designs of the stages were descriptive-methodological, and descriptive-survey respectively.

Polulation Statistical population of the present study included members of the Muslim families, with age range 19-60 years old from thirty capital city of provinces in Iran. The participants had to at least graduate from secondary schools and tended to complete the questionnaire.

The sample The total size of the sample included 20000 participants. In the first stage, preparation one, in terms of religious sectarians (Shia and Sunni), geographical variation (northern, southern, western, and eastern areas of Iran), economical status (the poor-the rich), and language, 4430 participants were selected randomly through stratified sampling method. The second stage included 15386 participants, from throughout Iran, which were selected randomly through the same method used at the first stage.

Measurement The questionnaire used was included 154 items, 93 itmes was drawn from the Khodyari's Religiosity Questionnaires, from A and B (1385/2006), and the rest were developed.

In preparation stage, the items were split into two sections, namely part one and part two. Then each of them was administrated on 4403 participants from twelve provinces. Factor analysis revealed eight factors. In the second stage, the two parts, namely one and two, were combined. This made up a questionnaire including 117 items. This questionnaire was administrated on 100 participants. The final administration was conducted on 15386 participants from twelve provinces.

Findings The findings indicated that the scale had proper psychometric features including construct validity, concurrent criterion validity, and also reliability by employing test-retest method. Measuring religiosity among participants showed that the level of religiosity was high among the participants. In regard to religiosity components, religious beliefs and obligation to the religious duties components showed the highest and lowest scores respectively. With regards to demographical characteristics, it was it was revealed