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## ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING OF MUSLIM AND HINDU STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR RELIGIOUS DOGMATISM

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### ABSTRACT

*'Religious Dogmatism Scale' developed by Prasad and Rai (2002) and 'Family Planning Attitude Inventory' developed by Paliwal (1979) were administered in a randomly drawn sample of 100 Muslim and 100 Hindu students undergoing study in Degree Colleges of Gopalganj district of Bihar. In the Muslim sample there were 70 male students and 30 female students. In the Hindu sample there were 60 male students and 40 female students. The objective of the study was to see the effects of community, sex and religious dogmatism on attitude towards family planning. The age range of students was from 17 to 23 years. The analysis of results revealed that Muslim students are significantly higher on religious dogmatism and lower on attitude towards family planning than the Hindu students. Muslim male students are significantly higher on religious dogmatism and lower on attitude towards family planning than their female counterparts. Hindu male students are significantly lower on religious dogmatism and higher on attitude towards family planning than their female counterparts. Religious dogmatism lowers attitude towards family planning.*



**KEYWORDS :** *Religious Dogmatism Scale, religious dogmatism.*

### INTRODUCTION

Religion according to Galloway (1956) refers to faith in a power beyond man whereby one seeks to satisfy emotional needs and gains stability of life. Religion also denotes systems of faith that are based on the belief in the existence of a particular God or Gods. As such, the Hindu, the Islam, the Christian, the Buddha, the Jain etc. represent specific religions. Dogmatism denotes a set of behaviours and activities in which one is certain that his beliefs are right and that others should accept them without paying attention to evidence. In this sense, religious dogmatism means holding of a set of his own religious beliefs and attitudes and behaving accordingly, and being certain that the beliefs, attitudes and activities related to his religious groups or organizations are right and other should accept them without question. This system of beliefs and attitudes are embedded with rigidity and conservative outlook.

Rigid and conservative beliefs related to any religion **do not** comply with the modern global economy which is being taxed by fast growing world population. The population of India is growing rapidly. While it was 36.11crore in 1951, it has become ground 130 crore in 2020. The world population has crossed the mark of 6 arab. India is second after China which has population over 1.30 arab. India constitutes 16.75 of the world population. This records a growth rate of 21.34% over the past decade. Due to lower death rate and higher birth rate the world as a whole is facing the problem of population explosion. It is estimated that the world population will cross the mark of 8 arab by 2020 and 9 arab by 2050. It has been also estimated that India will top in the list of populated countries of the world by 2050.

Although different studies related to attitude towards family planning have been carried out in the past years (Ahmad, 2008; Bhatia, 1970, Hall, 1970) but very few studies have been done on religious dogmatism (Rai and Mishra, 2006). The main objective of the investigation is to study the effect of religious dogmatism on attitude towards family planning. In addition to this, the study aims at investigating the relation of community belongingness and sex to religious dogmatism and attitude towards family planning. In the light of above objectives of the investigation the following hypotheses have been formulated :-

1. There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on religious dogmatism.
2. There will significant difference between male and female groups on religious dogmatism.
3. There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu groups on attitude towards family planning.
4. There will be significant difference between male and female groups on attitude towards family planning.
5. There will be significant impact of religious dogmatism on attitude towards family planning.

## METHOD

**Sample :** The sample consists of 200 students – 100 Muslim and 100 Hindu students of constituent colleges of Gopalganj district of Bihar. Out of 100 Muslim students there were 70 male students and 30 female students, and out of 100 Hindu students there were 60 male students and 40 female students. The age range of students was from 17 to 23 years.

**Test Used :** ‘Religious Dogmatism Scale’ developed by Prasad and Rai (2002) has been used to measure religious dogmatism of students. The scale consists of 30 items. Higher score on the scale denotes higher religious dogmatism whereas lower score on the scale denotes lower religious dogmatism. Family Planning Attitude Inventory developed by Paliwal (1979) has been used to measure attitude of subjects towards family planning. The inventory consists of 25 items. Higher score denotes higher or favourable attitude towards family planning whereas lower score denotes lower or unfavourable attitude towards family planning.

**The data** obtained has been put to statistical analysis. Means, S.Ds and ‘t’ ratios have been computed to test the significance of difference between mean scores of different groups. High and low religious dogmatism subgroups were delineated on the basis of median point of combined scores of Muslim and Hindu students on Religious Dogmatism Scale.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Analysis of data related to religious dogmatism denotes that community belongingness casts its significant impact on religious dogmatism. The mean scores of the Muslim group on religious dogmatism is 104.26 while that of the Hindu group is 85.73 (Table-1). The obtained ‘t’ ratio to test the significance of difference between these two means is 6.168 which is much higher than the required value for significance at .01 level. It appears that the waves of modernization have not succeeded in bringing about significant changes in Muslim on the front of religious fundamentalism. Indian Muslims do not appear to be an exception to the Muslims of the world who are higher on their religious beliefs. Our finding supports the statements of Shah, A.B. (1981) that Islam in India, as in the rest of the world, is still in the state in which Hinduism found itself in the days of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Recent incidences of involvement of Muslim students in different insurgencies in the world also prove this phenomenon.

**TABLE – 1**  
**Showing Means, S.Ds and 't' ratios of religious dogmatism scores**

Criterion Groups	Means	S.Ds	N	df	't' ratio	Level of Significance
Muslim	104.26	20.285	100	198	6.168	.01
Hindu	85.73	22.162	100			
Muslim Male	107.37	20.824	70	98	2.418	.05
Muslim Female	97.00	19.132	30			
Hindu Male	81.12	21.336	60	98	2.593	.05
Hindu Female	92.645	<b>22.064</b>	<b>40</b>			

**TABLE – 2**  
**Showing Means, S.Ds and 't' ratios of AFP Scores**

Criterion Groups	Means	S.Ds	N	df	't' ratio	Level of Significance
Muslim	75.25	18.64	100	198	4.053	.01
Hindu	85.36	16.58	100			
Muslim Male	71.94	17.61	70	98	2.984	.01
Muslim Female	82.94	16.58	30			
Hindu Male	88.29	15.82	60	98	2.276	.05
Hindu Female	80.97	15.71	40			
HRD Muslim	66.72	17.34	68	98	7.321	.01
LRD Muslim	93.38	16.82	32			
HRD Hindu	80.34	16.55	32	98	2.092	.05
LRD Hindu	87.71	15.96	68			

Muslim community belongingness has been found impairing attitude towards family planning (Table-2). **Higher score** denotes higher attitude towards family planning (AFP). The Hindu group has obtained significantly higher score than the Muslim group. The obtained 't' ratio is highly significant. Higher level of religious dogmatism and lower level of modernization might have resulted in lower attitude of the Muslim group towards family planning. Our findings support the findings of Singh, B.K. (1971) who reported that the Hindu teachers hold more favourable attitude towards family planning than Muslim students. Our findings support the findings of Ahmad (2008) also.

Sex has been found to have differential effect on religious dogmatism and attitude towards family planning. While male students displayed significantly higher religious dogmatism in Muslim sample than their female counterparts, male students in the Hindu sample displayed lower religious dogmatism than their female counterparts. On attitude towards family planning Muslim male students displayed significantly lower AFP than their female counterparts and the Hindu male students displayed significantly higher AFP than their female counterparts. It appears that higher religious dogmatism of Muslim males and Hindu females resulted in their lower AFP and lower religious dogmatism of Muslim females and Hindu males has resulted in their higher AFP. Our results support the findings of Hall (1970) and Bhargava and Singh (1977) and others.

Religious dogmatism significantly lowers the attitude towards family planning. Students higher on religious dogmatism have been found significantly lower on attitude towards family planning whereas students lower on religious dogmatism have been found significantly higher on AFP in both the Muslim and the Hindu groups. It appears that religious dogmatism is a significant factor in adoption of family planning devices. It also appears that persons with higher religious value believe that family planning is against religion. The study led to the following conclusions :-

1. The Muslim students are significantly higher than the Hindu students on religious dogmatism.
2. The Muslim male students are significantly lower than Hindu male students on attitude towards family planning.
3. The Muslim male students are significantly higher on religious dogmatism and lower on attitude towards family planning than their female counterparts.
4. The Hindu male students are significantly lower on religious dogmatism and higher on attitude towards family planning than their female counterparts.
5. Religious dogmatism lowers attitude towards family planning.

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