Relationship between Religious Orientation and Death Anxiety: Mediation Role of Afterlife Belief and Ego Integrity among Pakistani Older Adults.

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed at assessing the mediational role of afterlife belief and ego integrity in relationship between religious orientation and death anxiety among Pakistani older adults. Data were collected from 515 older adults, recruited from different urban and rural areas of Punjab (Pakistan). Men (n=304) and women (n=211), were given representation in the purposive sample. The age range of the participants was 60 to 93 (M=65.3, SD=6.17) furthermore on the basis of age sample was classified into two groups young old (n=397) and old old (n=118). Urdu translated Revised Religious Orientation Scale (Rasheed & Obaid, 2012), Afterlife Belief Scale for Muslims (Ghayas, Batool, 2016), Ego Integrity Scale (Ryff & Heincke, 1983), and Arabic Scale of Death Anxiety (Abdel-Khaled, 2004) were used to measure religious orientation, afterlife belief, ego integrity and death anxiety respectively. Initially Confirmatory Factor Analysis applied on all the measures revealed good fit to the data and then other rigorous statistical analyses were carried out. Linear regression analysis revealed that negative afterlife belief and ego integrity were salient predictors of death anxiety and explained 14% and 11% variance in death anxiety respectively. Intrinsic religious orientation, and positive afterlife belief appeared also as significant predictors of death anxiety. Structural Equation Modeling was carried out through AMOS and results revealed that negative afterlife belief and ego integrity fully mediates the relationship of death anxiety with intrinsic religious orientation. Results of the current study supported the Death apprehension theory and Erikson theory of psychosocial development.