



The Attitude of the Clergymen to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Case Study: The City of Qom

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Abstract

During the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the influence of Clergymen on religious groups, we endeavored to gather information about their attitudes towards the Corona phenomenon from the quarantine to the vaccination periods, in order to gain a deeper understanding of how this group impacts religious-social life in Iranian society. To do present study, the researchers used a qualitative method to capture the attitudes of Clergymen in Qom, which is the central hub of their various spectra. Questioning was carried out in two stages: first, from the December 2020 to the February 2021 and the second stage, in January 2022. This research was conducted by the use of questionnaires and face-to-face interviews. According to the contextual method, only the responses of 51 clergymen with fewer errors have been considered as the main true data. The research findings of the first stage indicate a conservative attitude among them. In the second stage, the results reflect a shift towards a more open-minded attitude based on the clergyman's experiential encounters with the challenges of the corona-virus. However, in both stages, the predominant attitudes of respondents are conservatism in response to contradictions, dogmatism in response to religious orders, and fundamentalism in response to religious emotions. Based on the research methodology, the data cannot be generalized to other Clergymen.

Keywords: clergymen and covid-19, covid-19 and religion, dimensions of religiosity.

Introduction

The emergence of the Corona pandemic has changed the religious environment in Iranian society. Since Islamic clergymen have a significant impact on shaping the beliefs and attitudes of religious individuals, especially in a country like Iran where traditional religious thinking is widespread, it is important to explore how this group views Corona from a sociological and religious psychological perspective, because their perspectives could potentially influence the overall societal mindset in Iran.

Research Findings

Data was gathered through a questionnaire and participant observation, and the findings from 25 questions were analyzed in the conclusion section.



Conclusion

1. There is a positive correlation between unfamiliarity and cautiously approaching to issues.
2. Clergymen exhibit a positive disposition towards science, yet they do not hold it of holy value.
3. The dimension of religious emotions is positively correlated with the dimension of religious obligations.
4. The solution for clergymen engaged in social bottlenecks, lies in disciplining matters through religious guidelines and meeting humanitarian needs based on religious responsibilities.

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Cite this article: Heyvari, M., & Heidari, H. (2024). The Attitude of the Clergymen to COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case Study: The City of Qom. *Religions and Mysticism*, 56 (2), 465-499. (in Persian)

Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22059/jrm.2024.365455.630468>



Article Type: Research Paper

Received: 17-Sep-2023

Received in revised form: 24-Dec-2023

Accepted: 28-Feb-2024

Published online: 16-Mar-2024