

Reversion to Islam by indigenous Namibians as from 1979 – 2005: A study of motivations and outcomes of religious conversions.

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This study primarily investigates the phenomenon of religious conversion, with a focus on motivations and outcomes of religious conversion on identity and lifestyle of those who convert. The target groups are persons that have left their previous religious affiliations to convert to the religion of Islam. This study will investigate a group of indigenous Namibians who converted to Islam as from 1979 to 2005. The basic units of analysis will be their conversion narratives and self-reports, with a specific interest in their motivations for becoming Muslims. The study is, additionally, interested in the emotions and challenges involved in their transition from one's previous religious tradition to a Muslim identity and Islamic lifestyle. A structured questionnaire and open-ended interviewing methods will be used as data gathering techniques. Since the study is largely qualitative, a narrative analysis method will be used for data analysis, to be employed in conjunction with any appropriate quantitative data analysis method(s).

Family / School Environment and Personality Related to Adolescent Students' Adjustment.

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Abstract : The objective of the study was to investigate the relationship among adolescent students' adjustment, family environment, school environment and personality factors, and to predict adolescent students' adjustment from family - school environment and personality. The sample comprised of 391 adolescent students who lived with their parents from 9 schools of Office of the Basic Education Commission in Bangkok. Independent variables in the study consisted of 1) seven types of family environment and school environment : fathers' age, fathers' education, fathers' income, fathers' roles in family and social, democratic rearing practices, teachers' relationship, and friends' relationship, 2) five types of personalities : extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional instability, openness. A dependent variable was adolescent students' adjustment. The data was collected by using questionnaires. The SPSS Version 12 (Statistical Package for the social science for Windows) was used for analyzing the data by Basic Statistic data, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis. Research results were summarized as follows :

1. Democratic rearing practices, father roles in recreation, support and problem solving, families' expenses were positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the .01 level of significance.
2. Friends' relationship and teachers' relationship were statistically positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the .01 level of significance.

3. Personality of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness were statistically positively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment but personality factors on emotional instability was statistically negatively correlated with adolescent students' adjustment at the 01 level of significance.

4. Emotional instability, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, democratic rearing practices, friends' relationship, and teachers' relationship could predict 75.2% of the variance in adolescent students' adjustment at .05 level of significance. Father roles in recreation, support and problem solving, families' expenses and openness could not predict adolescent students' adjustment at an acceptable level