

Research on Spiritual Belief of Medical College Students

Wen Hu^{1,*}, Hui Wang¹

¹Department of Psychology, Gannan Medical University, Ganzhou, Jiangxi 341000, China

*Corresponding author. Email: 84217248@qq.com

ABSTRACT

In this paper, a questionnaire survey was conducted among 707 medical college students, and the following characteristics were found in different grades and majors. In terms of the general state of college students' spiritual belief, their social belief is the strongest, followed by pragmatistic belief, and their supernatural belief is the weakest; their social belief decreases with the increase of grade, but there is no significant difference between sophomores and juniors; the pragmatistic belief increases with the increase of grade, and the juniors and their seniors score the highest in pragmatistic belief; there are significant differences in supernatural beliefs among the three grades, but no significant differences between any two of them.

Keywords: college students, spiritual belief, social belief

I. INTRODUCTION

With the continuous development of modern education mechanism and market economy system, the opportunities and challenges faced by college students are also increasing [1]. College students are in the critical period of integrating into the society and forming their beliefs, during which they will also face many psychological problems. Research results show that college students' spiritual belief has a certain predictive effect on the development of individual psychology [3]. In combination with General Secretary Xi Jinping's belief view, belief plays an indispensable role in individuals, nations, countries and political parties [4]. Therefore, based on the spiritual belief of

contemporary college students and its influencing factors, this study is carried out in order to provide useful reference for college students to establish a correct belief view and improve the quality of life.

II. OBJECT AND METHODS

A. Object

The students of all grades from an undergraduate medical school are selected as respondents. In the survey, 751 questionnaires were issued and 707 effective questionnaires were returned, with an effective rate of 94.14% and a high effective recovery rate. The sample distribution of subjects is shown in "Table I":

TABLE I. THE COMPOSITION OF THE EFFECTIVE SUBJECTS (N=707)

demographic variables	level	number of people	Percentage (%)
<i>gender</i>	Male	273	38.6
	Female	434	61.4
<i>grade</i>	junior year and above	133	18.8
	sophomore year	162	22.9
	freshman year	412	58.3
<i>major</i>	medico	537	76.0
	non-medico	170	24.0
<i>origin of student</i>	cities and towns	241	34.1
	rural area	466	65.9

B. Tools — questionnaire of college students' spiritual belief [5]

The questionnaire was compiled by Song Xingchuan et al., with a total of 39 questions, and consists of three parts: supernatural belief, social belief

and pragmatistic belief. Supernatural belief includes religious belief and worship of gods, while social belief includes nationalism, statism and political belief. Pragmatistic belief includes life worship, money worship, family worship and familism. In this questionnaire, there are 5 levels of score, among which A 1 is a strong disagreement, and a 5 is a strong agreement. The higher the score is, the stronger the

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pursuit of the belief it shows. The coefficient of internal consistency of this part of questionnaire is 0.809, indicating that the internal consistency of the 39 questions in the questionnaire is good.

C. *Statistic analysis*

The questionnaire is administered by group test. The experimenters are undergraduates majoring in psychology. The test has a uniform guideline. SPSS25.0 software was used to establish the database and conduct statistical analysis.

TABLE II. THE FACTOR DIFFERENCE TEST OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' BELIEFS

	quadratic sum	degree of freedom	mean square	F	significance
factor	1651662.778	1	1651662.778	45854.063	.000
error	25430.111	706	36.020		

The "Table II" shows that $F=45854.063$, $P=0.000$, indicating that there is a significant difference between

III. RESULT

A. *The general situation of college students' spiritual belief*

The repeated measurement method was used to test the overall difference and compare the three factors of spiritual belief. The results are shown in "Table II" and "Table III":

TABLE III. MULTIPLE COMPARISONS OF FACTORS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS' BELIEFS

	mean value	standard error	Multiple comparison result	
1	25.355	0.354	1<2***	1<3***
2	62.901	0.343	2>1***	2>3***
3	56.745	0.373	3>1***	3<2***

^a. Supernatural belief; 2, social belief; 3, pragmatistic belief.

^b. * $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$, *** $p<0.001$, the same below.

The "Table III" shows that there is a significant difference in college students' score of each belief ($p<0.001$). The order of mean value of the three kinds of beliefs is social belief, pragmatistic belief and

college students' supernatural belief, social belief and pragmatistic belief on the whole.

supernatural belief. This suggests that college students pay more attention to social beliefs, while supernatural beliefs take a secondary place.

B. *Analysis on the influence of gender factors on college students' spiritual belief*

TABLE IV. COMPARISON OF SPIRITUAL BELIEF SCORES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT GENDERS

	gender	number of cases	mean value	standard deviation	t
Total score of supernatural belief	male	273	24.685	9.57	-1.502
	female	434	25.776	9.30	
total score of social belief	male	273	62.454	10.46	-0.977
	female	434	63.182	8.16	
total score of pragmatistic belief	male	273	57.223	10.57	1.016
	female	434	56.444	9.47	
Total score of spiritual belief	male	273	144.36	19.605	-0.748
	female	434	145.40	16.93	

The "Table IV" shows that there is no significant difference in the total score of spiritual belief and each dimension in different gender. That is, there is no significant difference between male and female students in spiritual beliefs.

C. *Characteristics of spiritual belief development of college students of different grades*

The overall spiritual beliefs and scores of each dimension of students in different grades were compared and the results show that the scores of students in different grades differ significantly in the overall spiritual belief and its dimensions; in the dimension of supernatural belief, the score of freshmen < score of juniors and above < score of sophomores; in

the dimension of pragmatistic belief, score of freshmen < score of sophomores < score of juniors or above; in the dimension of social belief, > score of freshmen > score of sophomores > score of juniors or above; and in

terms of the overall score of spiritual belief, score of freshmen < score of sophomores < score of juniors or above.

TABLE V. COMPARISON OF SPIRITUAL BELIEF SCORES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT GRADES (N=70)

item	freshman year	sophomore year	junior year and above	F
<i>supernatural belief</i>	24.59±9.31	26.10±9.63	25.81±9.32	3.454***
<i>pragmatistic belief</i>	54.93±9.78	57.64±9.58	61.27±9.19	22.676***
<i>social belief</i>	64.16±8.44	61.67±9.57	60.48±9.93	10.372***
<i>total score of spiritual belief</i>	143.70±17.36	145.40±18.27	148.56±19.24	3.758***

From "Table V", it can be seen that the F value of the anova overall test is significant on the total score of supernatural belief, pragmatistic belief, social belief and

spiritual belief. Furthermore, the Scheffe method was used to make posterior comparisons, and the result is shown in "Table VI".

TABLE VI. MULTIPLE COMPARISONS OF SPIRITUAL BELIEFS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT GRADES

dependent variable	grade	grade	Mean difference (I-J)	standard error	significance	confidence interval of 95%	
						lower limit	upper limit
<i>total score of supernatural belief</i>	freshman year	sophomore year	-1.49793	0.87044	0.228	-3.6331	0.6372
		junior year and above	-2.21737	0.93608	0.061	-4.5135	0.0788
	sophomore year	junior year and above	-0.71944	1.09829	0.807	-3.4135	1.9746
<i>total score of social belief</i>	freshman year	sophomore year	2.49221*	0.83492	0.012	0.4442	4.5402
		junior and above	3.68385*	0.89788	0.000	1.4814	5.8863
	sophomore year	junior year and above	1.19164	1.05347	0.528	-1.3925	3.7758
<i>total score of pragmatistic belief</i>	freshman year	sophomore year	-2.70134*	0.89276	0.011	-4.8913	-0.5114
		junior year and above	-6.33621*	0.96099	0.000	-8.6913	-3.9811
	sophomore year	junior year and above	 	1.12646	0.006	-6.3980	-0.8717
<i>total score of spiritual belief</i>	freshman year	sophomore year	-1.70706	1.66323	0.591	-5.7869	2.3728
		junior year and above	-4.86974*	1.78866	0.025	-9.2572	-0.4822
	sophomore year	junior year and above	-3.16268	2.09860	0.322	-8.3105	1.9851

It can be seen from "Table VI" that, freshmen score significantly lower than those of juniors and above in terms of the pragmatistic belief and overall spiritual belief and significantly higher in terms of the total social belief score than that of juniors and above, with

no significant difference in supernatural belief between them. They score significantly higher than that of sophomores in term of social belief, and significantly lower in terms of the pragmatistic belief than sophomores. Sophomores score significantly lower in

terms of pragmatistic belief than juniors and their seniors, and there was no significant difference in other beliefs and overall spiritual beliefs between them.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. *The spiritual belief of contemporary college students is dominated by social belief*

The results of this study show that among the three spiritual beliefs of college students, social belief scores the highest, followed by pragmatistic belief and supernatural belief scores the lowest, which is consistent with the previous research results [7] [8]. China's valuable cultural wealth of five thousand years has had a profound impact on the contemporary Chinese people. Social belief attaches great importance to the unity of loving family, country and society, which is inseparable from the fine traditional culture of the Chinese nation. With the thoughts of "patriotic loyalty" and "serve the country worthily" in traditional Chinese culture deeply imprinted in the minds of all Chinese people, in the context of the new era, the belief of the nation, the belief of the great Communist Party of China, is the main belief of contemporary college students [9]. However, contemporary college students have been receiving education of science, Marxism and "atheism" since they are young, so they are less influenced by Buddhism, Christianity and other religions [3], thus score the lowest in supernatural belief.

B. *College students of different grades have significant differences in the three dimensions of spiritual belief*

In terms of supernatural beliefs, sophomores score highest and freshmen lowest. Song Chuanxing shows that there are differences in supernatural beliefs among college students of different grades. There are significant differences between religious belief and god worship, especially in the third year [7]. However, in this study, grade difference is not obvious, which is inconsistent with the existing research and needs further discussion.

In terms of social belief, freshmen score significantly higher than sophomores, juniors and above, with the belief decreasing as the grade increases, which is consistent with existing studies [7]. This may be related to the compulsory course "Basic Principle of Marxism" provided by the university in the freshman year. Through this course, students have accepted many materialist thought and increased their Socialist belief.

The pragmatistic belief of college students tend to increase with the growth of grade. Juniors and their seniors score significantly higher than sophomores, and sophomores score significantly higher than freshmen. This is because college students have a deeper

understanding of material social life with the increased age and social experience. Li Yousui's research points out that with the increase of age, the pursuit of material belief becomes stronger and stronger [10]. With the enrichment of social experience, contemporary college students have a deeper understanding of social life and increasingly understand the importance of practical skills to individual life.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper comes to the following conclusions:

First, on the whole situation of college students' spiritual belief, social belief accounts for the most proportion, pragmatistic belief next and supernatural belief the least.

Second, some spiritual beliefs of college students are different in grade. Social belief decreases with the increase of grade, but there is no significant difference between sophomore year and junior year and above; the pragmatistic belief increases with the increase of grade and the juniors and above score the highest in terms of pragmatistic belief.

Third, there are significant differences in supernatural beliefs among the three grades, yet none between any of the two.

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