ABSTRACT

Human behaviour emanates from various psycho-philosophical as well as socio-political, biological and environmental factors. Moral Competence is the competence with which a moral action is performed and is the active application of the moral intelligence. It enable individuals to act according to what is ‘right’ or stand for ‘truth’ and exhibit moral behaviour. Moral information processing in the human mind involves a series of intangible cognitive and meta-cognitive events which are influenced by multifarious psycho-social factors. This study was conducted to explore the specific effect of Metaphysical Beliefs, Religio-Spiritual Institutional Affiliations, Psychological Values, Personality Traits, Emotional Intelligence, etc, on Moral Competence and Moral Traits.

Sample of the study consisted of 331 Males and 645 Females, totalling 976. The mean age of the sample is 35.82 with a standard deviation of 13.63 forming into age groups 17-25 (N=293), 26-35 (N=272), 36-45 (N=169), 46-55 (N=133), 56-65 (N=75) and Above 65 (N=34) for analysis and comparison. The sample has representation from all geographic continents with participants from Asia (N=376), Africa (N=25), Europe (N=121), Oceania (N=43), North America (N=401) and South America (N=10) with a total of 640 Non Indians and 336 Indians respectively from North (N=135), East (N=20), South (N=152) and West (N=29) regions. Major criterion groups were formed in this study based on the psycho-social variables like Metaphysical Beliefs, Religio-Spiritual Institutional Affiliation of the Sample, Psychological Value priorities, Personality Traits and Emotional Intelligence Traits; and the demographic variables like Gender, Age and Geographic Location of the sample. The study adopted a Relationship cum Comparative Survey Research Design.
which is broadly Descriptive in nature. Sample of the study was collected online, via simple random sampling.

After determining the normality of the data and calculating the basic descriptive statistics of the criterion groups, parametric methods were adopted for inferential analysis of the data. Moral Competence and the Moral Traits were the dependent variables and Gender, Age, Metaphysical Beliefs, Religio-spiritual Institutional Affiliation, Geographic Location, Psychological Values, Personality Traits and Emotional Intelligence traits formed the independent variables. Correlations between the variables were calculated using Pearson’s Correlation analysis and the predictive effect of the independent variables like age, value orientations, personality traits, emotional intelligence etc. was determined using Simple and Multiple Linear Regression methods. The significant variances caused by the various age groups, geographical locations of the sample and religio-spiritual institutional affiliations etc. were calculated using one way ANOVA and Multivariate Analysis of Variance tests. The group differences between the genders, metaphysical beliefs, and high and low group on each of the independent psychological variables was calculated using independent samples ‘t’ Test.

Significant relations were found between the variables of the study and the findings directed towards the conclusion that the Metaphysical Beliefs, Religio-Spiritual Institutional Affiliations, Values, Personality Traits, Emotional Intelligence and the demographic variables including Age, Gender and Geographic Location has significant effect on Moral Competence.