

Title: Multiple Perspectives of Spiritual Intelligence

Abstract:

Spiritual Intelligence (SI) is a theoretical approach that emerged causing controversy among its academics. Because it contains the word “spirituality it brings with it the concepts and prejudices that the term carries. The reader is often mistaken for believing that it is an approach to religious and dogmatic issues.



However, Spiritual Intelligence is a human intelligence, which manifests itself through the ability to solve problems. It awakens in subjects the desire to have purpose and meaning in life. Its characteristic is the search for a meaningful existence through the expansion of consciousness.

Empirical studies indicate that people with a greater capacity for spiritual intelligence are able to overcome difficult situations by better coping with extreme realities such as the death of loved ones and terminal illnesses, preventing depression, anguish, suicidal thoughts and emotional maladjustment.

Despite being a theoretical perspective with a positive impact on the lives of subjects, the study of spiritual Intelligence brings the challenge of being presented in scientific articles in different, discordant and even contradictory ways.

From a systematic literature review, I realized that the authors imprinted their personal beliefs on the understanding and discussion of Spiritual Intelligence. Four different perspectives (Western, Eastern, Islamic, and Hindu) were identified. In the Western perspective, an egocentric and utilitarian approach to the construct prevails. In the Islamic perspective, religion is understood as the only possible expression of SI. In the Eastern perspective, the point of view of the common good and the connection with nature prevails. In the Hindu perspective, however, knowledge is the key to expanding spiritual awareness. The results indicate that the authors' perspective interferes in the understanding of the conceptualization of IS and its dimensions, and in the interpretation of the research results. To place the studies of spiritual Intelligence in a scientific context, the four perspectives exposed here will be examined through their understanding of what religion is, what spirituality is and how this affects the understanding of the concept of spiritual intelligence, moving away from or approaching the original theory.

Biography:

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