

Abstract

Social axioms are emerging field of research in social sciences. Social axioms are deeply rooted in a culture and have significant impact on individuals' behaviours, attitudes, interpersonal relationships, and health and well-being. The current research project was designed to assess the role of social axioms (viz., social cynicism, social complexity, reward for application, religiosity, and fate control) to predict four dimensions of well-being (viz., subjective well-being, psychological well-being, social well-being, and spiritual well-being) of university students in a longitudinal study. Two studies were carried out to achieve the objectives of this research project. Psychometric properties of the research instruments to be used in study 2 were determined as a prerequisite in study 1. Study 1 was completed in three phases: in phase I, English versions of Negative Life Events Scale for Students, Scale of Positive and Negative Experience, Social Well-being Scale, Spirituality Index of Well-being and Perspective Taking subscale were translated into Urdu language by following Brislin's guidelines of forward and back translation method. In phase II, cross language validity was established on a sample of 90 university students of age ranged between 18 to 22 years ($M = 19.77$, $SD = 1.39$). Results showed that all translated scales were empirically equivalent to their original English versions. In phase III, psychometric properties of the scales translated in phase I of the study and existing Urdu versions of Social Axioms Survey, Satisfaction with Life Scale, Psychological Wellbeing Scale and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale were established on a sample of 374 university students of age ranged between 18 to 22 years ($M = 19.26$, $SD = 1.31$). Results of confirmatory factor analysis supported the original factor structures of all the scales. Results also showed promising construct validity and reliability of these scales. Study 2 was conducted on a sample of 484 university students who participated in all three waves. The age of the sample at the time of inclusion in the first wave of the study ranged between 18 to 20 years ($M = 18.68$, $SD = .73$), among them, 239 (49.4%) were male and 245 (50.6%) were female university students. Participants were selected through a stratified purposeful sampling technique. Data were gathered in three waves, with 4-month lags (i.e., duration of a semester). Findings of Pearson's product moment correlation analyses indicated significant intercorrelations among dimensions of social axioms (viz., social cynicism, social complexity, reward for application, religiosity, and fate control) at time 1, 2, and 3 which showed the stability of social axioms over the period of time. Findings also indicated significant relationships among dimensions of social axioms, dimensions of well-being, perspective taking and self-esteem. In hierarchical regression analyses, run to test the lagged effects; social cynicism appeared as a significant predictor of subjective well-being, psychological well-being, and social well-being; social complexity appeared as a significant predictor of psychological well-being; reward for application appeared as a significant predictor of subjective well-being and spiritual well-being; religiosity appeared as a significant predictor of subjective well-being, psychological well-being and spiritual well-being; and fate control appeared as a significant predictor of subjective well-being and psychological well-being, which showed the stability of prediction over the period of time. Results of mediational analyses indicated that perspective taking and self-esteem significantly mediated in the relationships of dimensions of social axioms with social well-being. The study has wide implications in the fields of educational psychology, positive psychology, clinical psychology, and social psychology.