

## **ABSTRACT**

The current study aimed to assess the phenomenological differences of hallucinations and delusions between less and more religious schizophrenic patients. A total of 53 inpatients admitted in three psychiatric units in Lahore i.e. Punjab Institute of Mental Health, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Fountain House were interviewed by using Present State Examination (PSE; Wing, Cooper, & Sartorius, 1974) and Religiosity Index (RI; Aziz & Rehman, 1996). Both qualitative and quantitative research design were employed and content analysis of verbatim records of patients' interviews was done in order to categorize and code different themes pertaining to delusions and hallucinations. The data were analyzed using the SPSS for Windows, Version 12.00. The comparison between groups was computed by the chi-square analysis with cross-tabulation on presence and absence of different types and themes of delusions and hallucinations. The results of this study indicated greater difference in the phenomenology of hallucinations and delusions between less religious and more religious group. The more religious patients showed greater frequency of delusion of grandiosity and religion than their respective counterparts. Similar results were obtained on verbal and visual hallucinations where again more religious group exceeded the less religious group. Consistent with this, both strong believers and practitioners of religion showed preponderance of many delusional and hallucinatory themes. The findings suggested strong influence of religiosity level on the phenomenology of delusions and hallucinations and indicated that religion can be used to understand the content of schizophrenic symptoms, particularly delusions and hallucinations. This understanding may also help creating and maintaining good rapport with the patients for greater therapeutic outcomes.