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Orginal Article

The Relationship between Ethical Growth and Intelligence with the Mediation of Moral Intelligence and Emotional Intelligence in Students

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Abstract

Wisdom is an important psychological characteristic that enhances psychological and social well-being. Indeed, there is an interaction between wisdom and moral development. Considering the significant role of intelligence in the definitions of wisdom, moral intelligence and emotional intelligence were chosen as influencings variables in wisdom. This research is important given lack of information about the structures that are effective on wisdom and its important role in solving various life problems of the society; it was conducted with the aim of determining the mediating role of moral and emotional intelligence in the relationship between moral development and wisdom of students. The population consisted of 15,000 students, with the sample size of 240students of Allameh Tabatabai University, who were selected via cluster sampling method. The tools used included: Schering's 1996 emotional intelligence- Lenik and Keel's 2005 moral intelligence- Webster's 2007 wisdom, Graham's moral foundations 2011. The findings were analyzed by SEM and using AMOS.v22 plus SPSS.v23 software. The results indicated that moral development (P=0.001), moral intelligence (P=0.001) and emotional intelligence (P=0.019) have a direct and significant relationship with wisdom. Further, the indirect relationship between moral development and wisdom through the mediation of moral intelligence was significant (P=0.01). Thus, the research model has a favorable fit and moral intelligence plays a mediating role in the relationship between moral development and wisdom. This research provided insights into the complex dynamics between moral development, emotional intelligence, and wisdom. In particular, it highlights the pivotal role of moral intelligence as a mediator in the relationship between moral development and wisdom. The results revealed that if the moral growth increases, the structure of wisdom will improve. with the increase of moral intelligence, moral growth is positively affected and wisdom grows thanks to accurate goal choices with the increase in emotional intelligence, human behavior and emotions are regulated whereby wisdom is ameliorated. In order to generalize the results, it is suggested to undertake further research on other samples. Ultimately, through holding workshops and classes related to wisdom and the structures that affect it, the psychological and social well-being of the society was increased.

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Keywords: Emotional Intelligence, Moral Development, Moral Intelligence, Structural Equation, Wisdom.

Extended Abstract

Introduction

"Moral development and wisdom are among the fundamental constructs in shaping personality and responsible decision-making in adulthood. In academic settings, where students face numerous cognitive, social, and value-related challenges, these two components play a decisive role in the quality of interactions, ethical judgments, as well as their individual growth path. Moral development refers to the process of transformation in ethical reasoning, judgment, and behavior, reflecting an individual's ability to distinguish right from wrong and act based on internalized principles. Meanwhile, wisdom is a multi-dimensional concept which includes integration of knowledge, experience, reflection, empathy, and balanced judgment in complex life situations. Nevertheless, the formation and strengthening of wisdom and moral development are not solely restricted to cognitive factors; they are also influenced by an individual's emotional and ethical capacities. In this context, emotional intelligence, as the ability to understand, regulate, and manage one's own and others' emotions, plays a significant role in ameliorating interpersonal relationships and making considered decisions. Those with higher emotional intelligence generally possess a greater ability to control impulses, empathize, and understand different perspectives when confronting ethical dilemmas." In today's world, the personal and social development of students as the future generation is of great importance. In the meantime, concepts such as "moral growth" and "wisdom" play a fundamental role in the formation of personality, correct decision-making as well as effective role of individuals in society. Moral growth means progress in understanding and adhering to moral principles and higher values, while wisdom refers to the ability to make sound judgments, deeply understand issues and make informed decisions in complex situations. Meanwhile, "moral intelligence" and "emotional intelligence" as two key psychological constructs have attracted the attention of researchers and behavioral science experts in recent years. Moral intelligence refers to the ability to understand, distinguish, and act based on moral values; it includes components such as honesty, empathy, respect and responsibility. Emotional intelligence also deals with the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and effectively apply one's own and others' emotions. These two types of intelligence not only affect interpersonal relationships and career success, but can also function as important factors in guiding the processes of moral growth as well as achievement of wisdom.

Wisdom is one of the important psychological characteristics that enhances psychological and social well-being. According to different definitions related to wisdom, there is a complex interaction between wisdom and moral development since the behavior of wise people is mainly accompanied by moral foundations. Considering the significant role of intelligence in the definitions of wisdom as well as its influence in interpersonal relationships and wise behavior, moral intelligence and emotional intelligence were chosen as two influencing variables in wisdom. This research is important owing to the lack of information about the structures that are effective on wisdom and its important role in solving various life problems of the society. It was conducted with the aim of determining the mediating role of moral intelligence and emotional intelligence in the relationship between moral development and wisdom of students.

Method

The population consisted of 15,000 students with the sample size of 240 students of Allameh Tabatabai University who were selected via cluster sampling method. The tools used included: Schering's 1996 emotional intelligence questionnaire which has 5 subscales of self-awareness, spontaneity, self-control, empathy, and social skills; Lenik and Keel's 2005 moral intelligence which measures 10 competencies; Webster's 2007 wisdom, including 40 items; and Graham's moral foundations 2011, which measures 5 ethical dimensions. The findings were analyzed by structural equation modeling and using AMOS.v22 plus SPSS.v23 software.

Results

The results revealed that moral development (P=0.001), moral intelligence (P=0.001), and emotional intelligence (P=0.019) have a direct and significant relationship with wisdom. Further, the indirect relationship between moral development and wisdom through the mediation of moral intelligence was significant (P=0.01). Thus, the research model has a favorable fit, and moral intelligence plays a mediating role in the relationship between moral development and wisdom.

Conclusion

This research provided valuable insights into the complex dynamics between moral development, emotional intelligence, and wisdom. In particular, it highlights the pivotal role of moral intelligence as a mediator in the relationship between moral development and wisdom. The results revealed that if the moral growth increases, the structure of wisdom in people will improve. Certainly, with the increase of moral intelligence in people, moral growth is positively affected and wisdom also grows thanks to accurate goal choices and understanding the meaning of life. Also, with the increase in

emotional intelligence, human behavior and emotions can be controlled and regulated whereby wisdom grows. In order to generalize the results, it is suggested to undertake further research on other samples. Finally, through holding workshops and classes related to wisdom and the structures that affect it, the psychological and social well-being of the society was increased.

Keywords: Emotional Intelligence, Moral Development, Moral Intelligence, Structural Equation, Wisdom.

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