

ABSTRACT
of the dissertation by Rakhymzhan Temirkhanovich Rashimbetov
«Motivation in Islam and its manifestation among the youth of
Kazakhstan», submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
under the educational program «8D02206 – Religious Studies»

General characteristics of the research. The dissertation is aimed at the theoretical and empirical study of the concept of motivation in Islam. The research examines the historical development of theories of religious motivation, as well as the psychological and social aspects of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Based on G. Allport and J. Ross's theory of religious orientation, the Religious Orientation Scale methodology was adapted to the Kazakhstani context and assessed in terms of its applicability in an Islamic environment. In addition, the motivational content of the Meccan and Medinan verses of the Qur'an was analysed, and the influence of religious motives on spiritual resilience and social status was identified. The empirical findings showed that young people's intrinsic and extrinsic religious motives influence their academic engagement and perseverance in achieving goals. The results of the dissertation not only expand the theoretical foundations of religious motivation but also make a practical contribution to explaining value orientations.

Relevance of the research topic. At present, the motivational aspect of religion attracts particular attention in the academic community and is studied from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Religion is considered not only as a theological doctrine but also as an influential force that shapes an individual's value system and regulates social behaviour. This feature increases the relevance and importance of the scientific study of religion. One of the important directions of contemporary research is the study of young people's religiosity and religious motivation, as well as their influence on the interests and personal development of the new generation. Youth, as an active part of society and its future, require an in-depth study of their spiritual world and religious motives, since these factors are directly related to mental well-being and the harmonious development of personality. The study of religious motivation among Kazakhstani youth, whose values and worldview are changing rapidly, is of special scientific interest. Although Kazakhstan is a secular state, recent years have seen an increase in religiosity among young people and a growth in the audience consuming religious content. This provides a sufficient empirical basis for studying religious motivation in a secular context. The state also pays particular attention to the spiritual and mental well-being of citizens, considering it one of the important factors of national development. In accordance with the Kazakhstan–2050 Strategy, the formation of educated and competitive citizens is one of the key priorities. Therefore, the study of young people's spiritual issues and value orientations is of significant scientific and practical importance.

Object of the research. The religious motivation and value orientations of contemporary youth in Kazakhstan.

Subject of the research. The intrinsic and extrinsic forms of Islamic religious motivation among Kazakhstani youth and their socio-psychological manifestations.

Aim of the dissertation research. The main aim of the study is to conduct a comprehensive theoretical and empirical analysis of Islamic religious motivation, to identify the specific features of intrinsic and extrinsic motives among Kazakhstani youth, and to determine their socio-psychological influence.

Research objectives.

To conduct a comparative review of theories of religious motivation, their historical development, and modern applications;

To analyze the features of motivation in Islam and its manifestation in sacred texts;

To provide a critical review of the history and application of the theory of intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation;

To conduct a theoretical analysis of the applicability of the Religious Orientation Scale (ROS) in the Kazakhstani context;

To explore empirically the level and characteristics of religious motivation among Kazakhstani youth.

The degree of scientific elaboration of the dissertation topic. In the psychology of religion, religious motivation has developed as a special subject of scientific inquiry. The problem of motivation and youth has also been studied within sociology and developmental psychology. K. Mannheim considered youth as an important reserve of social development and a dynamic social force. E. Erikson analysed youth through the process of identity formation and emphasized the importance of stable values and life orientations. W. James contributed to the study of religious experience, while V. Frankl associated motivation with the search for meaning in life. G. Allport and J. Ross developed the theory of intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientation. According to this theory, intrinsic motivation is based on faith and the spiritual needs of the individual, whereas extrinsic motivation relies on social pressure, status or material benefit. Later, S. Gorsuch, S. McPherson, E. Kahoe, R. Hood, C. Batson and other scholars expanded the empirical application of this approach. Among foreign researchers who studied religious motivation in the Islamic context are H. Khan, I. Ibrahim, C. Ji, R. Raj and others. Their works focus on analysing the theological and social aspects of motivation in Islam and the motivational approaches reflected in key texts. The Islamic Doctrinal Orthodoxy Scale developed by I. Ibrahim and C. Ji is recognized as one of the practical tools for studying motivation in the Islamic context. These studies have contributed to revealing the specific features of religiosity in Islamic societies and the influence of religious motives on social development. In the Kazakhstani academic context, religious motivation has not yet been widely developed as an independent research subject. Although some articles address young people's religious orientations and values, comprehensive and empirical studies are rare. For example, O. Aimaganbetova and her colleagues analysed the socio-psychological character of

religious movements in contemporary Kazakhstan. M.N. Zhumageldinov and his colleagues presented empirical data on religious orientations. However, these works are limited to a particular region and do not fully apply the theory of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. For this reason, the theoretical and practical study of Islamic religious motivation among Kazakhstani youth is a new topic for the academic community. Research in this direction, firstly, complements global scientific practice and makes it possible to test the theory of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in a new cultural environment; secondly, it helps to understand the spiritual values of Kazakhstani youth.

Main provisions and other conclusions constituting new knowledge.

Finding 1. It has been demonstrated that a religious orientation scale based on the works of G. Allport, J. Ross, C. Ji and Y. Ibrahim can be applied to measure the religious motivation of Kazakhstani youth in the Kazakh cultural and Islamic context.

Finding 2. Young people's religious motivation is manifested through intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientations. Although these two orientations have independent characteristics, they are defined as interrelated motivational structures.

Finding 3. The intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of religious motivation appear at different levels in the Meccan and Medinan verses of the Qur'an. The Meccan verses more clearly reflect the motives of spiritual faith and inner resilience, whereas the Medinan verses emphasize the motives of social responsibility and public order.

Finding 4. The content of Islamic motivation is revealed through such concepts as ikhlas, ihsan, Allah's pleasure, reward, paradise and the fulfilment of religious obligations. These concepts reflect the main substantive dimensions of intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation in Islam.

Finding 5. A positive relationship has been established between extrinsic religious motivation, young people's academic motivation and their perseverance in achieving life goals. This demonstrates the influence of religious motivation on socio-practical behaviour.

Finding 6. No significant differences were found between male and female respondents in intrinsic religious motivation. At the same time, male respondents showed higher indicators of extrinsic religious motivation and perseverance in achieving goals.

Finding 7. The motives of ziyarat change depending on age characteristics. Among older pilgrims, intrinsic spiritual motives predominate, whereas among young people a historical, cultural, touristic and externally motivated perception of ziyarat is more often observed.

Finding 8. Popular preachers influence young people's religious motivation through intrinsic and extrinsic channels. Intrinsic motivation is manifested through spiritual development, sincerity and moral improvement, while extrinsic motivation is expressed through social recognition, national values and modern communication formats.

Scientific novelty of the research.

1. For the first time in the Kazakhstani youth context, intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation in Islam was comprehensively studied, and its theoretical and methodological foundations were identified.

2. The Religious Orientation Scale methodology was adapted to the environment of Kazakhstani Muslim youth and substantiated as a tool suitable for measuring intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation.

3. The Meccan and Medinan verses of the Qur'an were analysed from the perspective of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation; it was shown that the Meccan period is dominated by the motives of inner faith, while the Medinan period is characterized by the motives of social responsibility.

4. Islamic concepts such as ikhlas, ihsan, ridwanullah and jannah were examined in relation to intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation, and the main types of Islamic motivation were systematized.

5. The empirical study showed the influence of intrinsic and extrinsic religious motivation on young people's academic engagement and perseverance in achieving goals.

6. Gender analysis revealed no significant differences in intrinsic religious motivation, while the indicators of extrinsic religious motivation and perseverance were higher among male respondents.

7. The analysis of ziyarat experience showed that intrinsic religious motivation is more often observed among the older generation, whereas extrinsic, cultural and touristic motives are more common among young people.

8. It was established that in the influence of popular preachers on youth, intrinsic motivation is manifested through spiritual renewal, sincerity and hope, while extrinsic motivation is expressed through social recognition, national values and modern communication.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the study lies in supplementing theories of motivation in religious studies and social psychology through the systematization of the psychological and social dimensions of religious motivation. Its practical significance consists in the adaptation of a reliable diagnostic tool that can be used to assess young people's religious orientation, spiritual values and level of goal-directedness. The research results may serve as a basis for developing scientific and methodological recommendations in the fields of religious education, youth policy and spiritual education. The findings correspond to the priorities of improving the quality of spiritual and human capital set out in the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Science" and the Kazakhstan-2050 Strategy. They are also consistent with the principles defined in the Concept of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029, approved by Resolution No. 247 of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated March 28, 2023.

Publication and approbation of the research results. The main scientific provisions and results of the dissertation research are reflected in 11 scientific

publications. These include 3 articles published in international peer-reviewed journals indexed in the Scopus database and 4 articles in scientific publications recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In addition, 1 article was published in the proceedings of an international scientific-practical conference abroad, 2 articles in the proceedings of scientific-practical conferences held in the Republic of Kazakhstan, and 1 article in a Kazakhstani scientific journal not included in the list of publications recommended by the authorized body.

Structure of the research work. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter is devoted to a scientific review and theoretical analysis of general religious motivation. The second chapter covers Islamic religious motivation and theoretical issues of its study. The third chapter is aimed at an empirical study of religious motivation among young people. The dissertation also includes a list of references and appendices.