

A Survey of Relationship Between Hierarchy of Values and Students' Alienation

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Abstract: The aim of current study is to evaluate relationship between hierarchy of values and alienation of students of Mohaghegh Ardabili University. Then 200 students of Mohaghegh Ardabili University (100 male and 100 female) were selected through simple random sampling method and completed hierarchy of values questionnaire (Alport *et al* 1962) and scale of hierarchy. Results of correlation coefficient showed that there is negative relationship between economic ($p=-0.17$), social ($r=-0.135$) and political ($r=-0.16$) values and hierarchy among female students ($p=0.05$). Also among males this negative correlation exist between economic ($r=-0.155$), social ($r=-0.175$) and political ($r=-0.155$) values and hierarchy ($p=0.05$). Also results of multivariate correlation coefficient showed that economic, social and political values are the most powerful variables of hierarchy prediction both among males and females.

Key words: Hierarchy of values • Alienation • Students

INTRODUCTION

Alienation is one of most important issues in liberal arts and has been noticed by different courses of liberal art like sociology, psychology, philosophy and even psychiatry [1]. Hegel is using alienation concept in different domains like in the religion domain and it is concluded of its sentences that he know religion as a cause of alienation in its negative definition. In Marx opinion alienation is personality roguery and human depletion of its own humanity. Marx means alienation as estrangement and *entfremdung* and knows it as human difference with his fabrication, his own self, society and nature [2]. Dean has broached three main dimension of alienation: A) Powerlessness feeling: this expectation or probability in person that his/her behavior has no effect on determining requisite outcomes. B) Normlessness, it is a conceptual condition in which person imagines that only his/her behaviors make the goal access easier, that aren't approved by society. C) Feeling of isolation, it is a conceptual reality in which person feels that he/she doesn't belong to common values of society. One of the subjects that can influence alienation is hierarchy of values. Value is a process one response environment through it. Values are showing every person's doctrines and in fact direct one's life toward special goal and orientation. Values like insights are processes that one get and learn those and one learns from its social and cultural environment desirable and undesirable behaviors that are the main base of its learning. Process of values growth is

in fact internalization of a society's values that are being learned through important factors like parents, teachers and social associates like family and school [3]. Alport divides values into six parts: theoretical (or operational) values (severe interest in truth discovery through experiment individualistic and intellectual) economic values (emphasis on advantageous scientific-economic values), aesthetic or artistic values (maximal emphasis on shape and balance, taking pleasure in each experiment and its evaluation on the basis of symmetry and conformity), social values (love for people, Humanitarianism), religious values (rapt in spiritual factors, explorer of unity in experience and interested in world perception as a symmetry and conformity) and political values (interest in power, personality leverage and popularity that is not necessarily limited in political territory). Sutherland (1989) believes that alienation is as feeling of life senselessness, felling of isolation of friends and abomination society values [1]. In the study of Teymoori (1999) under the title of evaluation of system of values among adolescents of Tehran, it was shown that there is a gentle value evolution among them as, secular values has been ranked at top of list and social, religious and artistic values are at next ranks. In this research factors like ethnicity, place of residence and education are indicated [4]. Bao *et al.* (2006) showed that social system and social values can be as one of main factors that can inhibit alienation, however this factor is shining beside other factors like situational factors, organizational and personal factors [5]. Palasou (2000) showed that alienation is more related

to socio-economic factors and share of this factor is much more than factors like life style. Banai *et al* (2003) showed that when the alienation changes with factors like political and economical factors, alienation is evaluated toward reaction to environmental changes [6]. Current study aims to evaluate relationship between hierarchy of values and alienation of students. Since that current study is of most rare studies in this field then its advantage from the view point of increasing dimension in sociology and psychology is of great importance. In thus survey following hypothesis are broached:

- There is relationship between hierarchy of values and alienation.
- Theoretical, economical, aesthetic, social, religious and political values have capability of alienation prediction among male and female students.

METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Statistical Society: Statistical society includes students of Mohaghegh Ardabili University who are studying there within 2006-2007.

Statistical Sample: Statistical sample comprise 200 students (male and female) of Liberal art and literature, Agriculture and Science and Technique faculties. Of each faculty 50 students were selected (25 female and 25 male) through simple random sampling. It is noteworthy that selection of sample size has been executed according to study method (correlation).

Research Method: Research method of this survey is correlation. In this research alienation variable is regarded as criterion variable at three levels; normlessness, feeling of powerlessness and isolation and values variable is regarded as prediction variable at six level; theoretical, economical, aesthetic (artistic), social, religious and political. The tools of this research are:

Hierarchy of Values Questionnaire: This questionnaire have been created by Alport, Vernon and Lindsey (1996). It has 45 questions and has 6 scales; theoretical, **economical**, aesthetic (artistic), social, religious and political. The questions are in two parts: in the first part one response to questions in Yes/No form (first 30 questions) and in the second part (second 15 questions) one of 4 options is selected. In this questionnaire Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was for both parts 0.76 and 0.81, respectively. Also Cronbach's Alpha for first was 0.73 and for second part was 0.79.

Alienation Test: This: Questionnaire is created by Dean (1979) and has 24 items [7]. The responder answer each question in a 5 degree scale; from "extremely agreeable" to "extremely disagreeable". Obtaining higher score in this scale is indicator of higher level of alienation. The minimal and maximal scores are 24 and 120, respectively. This questionnaire has three sub-scale; normlessness (6 items), powerlessness (9 items) and isolation feeling (9 items). In the Dean study (1976) reliability coefficient of all scales intersection was 0.78 and it has reported for powerlessness, normlessness and isolation feeling, 0.78, 0.73 and 0.83 respectively[7]. And Cronbach's Alpha coefficient has reported 0.75-0.95 and validity coefficient has reported 0.59-0.78 [1]. Also Cronbach's Alpha was obtained 0.77 in this survey.

RESULTS

Results indicated that there is negative correlation between economic ($p=-0.17$), social ($r=-0.135$) and political ($r=-0.16$) values and hierarchy among female students ($p=0.05$). Also among males this negative correlation exist between economic ($r=-0.155$), social ($r=-0.175$) and political ($r=-0.155$) values and hierarchy ($p=0.05$) (Table 1).

Result of multivariate regression show that economical, artistic and religious values are the most powerful variables for prediction of isolation as a dimension of alienation among female students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.345$, $p<0.005$, $R=0.165$) also economical, social and theoretical values are the most powerful variables for prediction of isolation as a dimension of alienation among male students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.08$, $p<0.025$, $R=0.14$) (Table 2).

Result of multivariate regression show that economical and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of powerlessness as a dimension of alienation among female students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.13$, $p<0.008$, $R=0.135$) also economical, social and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of powerlessness as a dimension of alienation among male students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.02$, $p<0.01$, $R=0.125$) (Table 3).

Result of multivariate regression show that economical, social and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of normlessness as a dimension of alienation among female students. ($df=6.117$, $F=1.98$, $p<0.021$, $R=0.12$) also these values are the most powerful variables for prediction of normlessness as a dimension of alienation among male students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.8$, $p<0.05$, $R=0.147$) (Table 4).

Table 1: Correaltion of theoretical, economical, aesthetic (artistic), social, religious and political values with alienation (powerlessness, nomlessness and isolation) among students

Sex	Female		Male	
	Correlation	Sig	Correlation	Sig
Prediction variables				
Theoretical value	0.12	0.051	0.09	0.115
Economical value	-0.17	0.016	-0.155	0.041
Artistic value	-0.085	0.12	-0.09	0.14
Social value	0.135	0.47	0.175	0.014
Political value	-0.16	0.02	-0.155	0.015
Religious value	-0.11	0.071	-0.106	0.11

Table 2: Multivariate regression coefficient with enter method for isolation variable prediction among males and females

Sex	Prediction	Non-standard coefficients		Standard coefficients		Sig
		B	Std.Error	Beta	t	
Female	Theoretical value	-0.022	0.047	-0.115	-0.477	0.634
	Economical value	0.065	0.027	1.235	2.271	0.002
	Artistic value	0.073	0.018	-2.242	-3.311	0.001
	Social value	-0.052	0.044	-0.629	-1.195	0.234
	Political value	-0.036	0.058	-0.463	-1.106	0.271
	Religious value	0.067	0.029	-1.161	2.231	0.002
Male	Theoretical value	0.060	0.032	2.213	-1.504	0.041
	Economical value	0.058	0.033	1.03	1.272	0.042
	Artistic value	0.057	0.036	0.365	1.584	0.117
	Social value	0.068	0.027	-1.61	-2.35	0.002
	Political value	0.028	0.038	0.158	0.74	0.46
	Religious value	0.037	0.029	0.25	1.292	0.20

Table 3: Multivariate regression coefficient with enter method for powerlessness feeling prediction among males and females

Sex	Prediction	Non-standard coefficients		Standard coefficients		Sig
		B	STd.Error	Beta	t	
Female	Theoretical value	-0.081	0.051	-0.375	-1.584	0.115
	Economical value	0.058	0.027	-0.985	1.02	0.045
	Artistic value	0.007	0.030	0.089	0.229	0.819
	Social value	-0.051	0.044	-0.64	-1.195	0.234
	Political value	-0.066	0.023	-2.242	-3.311	0.001
	Religious value	0.038	0.041	0.251	0.919	0.360
Male	Theoretical value	-0.011	0.061	0.062	-0.184	0.855
	Economical value	0.057	0.026	1.12	-1.51	0.044
	Artistic value	-0.044	0.044	-0.199	-0.987	0.327
	Social value	0.056	0.025	-1.03	-1.12	0.045
	Political value	0.062	0.022	-1.78	-2.35	0.004
	Religious value	0.006	0.043	0.033	0.152	0.880

Table 4: Multivariate regression coefficient with enter method for nomlessness prediction among males and females

Sex	Prediction	Non-standard coefficients		Standard coefficients		Sig
		B	STd.Error	Beta	t	
Female	Theoretical value	0.062	0.040	0.353	1.557	0.122
	Economical value	0.053	0.023	1.221	2.254	0.01
	Artistic value	0.004	0.023	0.065	0.175	0.861
	Social value	0.065	0.021	-1.242	-3.09	0.003
	Political value	0.063	0.025	-1.158	2.24	0.004
	Religious value	-0.009	0.032	-0.077	0.292	0.771
Male	Theoretical value	0.079	0.058	0.336	1.374	0.174
	Economical value	0.049	0.028	-2.17	-1.62	0.031
	Artistic value	0.020	0.048	-0.081	-0.422	0.675
	Social value	0.056	0.025	-1.11	-1.295	0.041
	Political value	0.066	0.022	-1.76	-2.45	0.002
	Religious value	0.051	0.046	0.226	1.107	0.272

Table 5: Multivariate regression coefficient with enter method for alienation prediction among males and females.

Sex	Prediction	Non-standard coefficients		Standard coefficients		
		B	STd.Error	Beta	t	Sig
Female	Theoretical value	0.041	0.112	-0.088	-0.370	0.712
	Economical value	0.054	0.024	1.21	2.235	0.02
	Artistic value	0.004	0.066	0.026	0.066	0.948
	Social value	0.067	0.021	-1.240	-3.11	0.002
	Political value	0.061	0.024	-1.148	2.21	0.004
	Religious value	0.117	0.090	-0.356	1.294	0.198
Male	Theoretical value	-0.191	0.127	-0.478	-1.501	0.138
	Economical value	0.051	0.027	-1.65	-2.14	0.034
	Artistic value	-0.112	0.093	-0.228	-1.200	0.234
	Social value	0.055	0.024	-1.14	-1.355	0.04
	Political value	0.065	0.020	-1.73	-2.41	0.002
	Religious value	0.094	0.089	0.213	1.052	0.297

Result of multivariate regression show that economical, social and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of alienation among female students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.23$, $p<0.04$, $R=0.155$) also these values are the most powerful variables for prediction of alienation among male students. ($df=6.117$, $F=2.05$, $p<0.25$, $R=0.13$) (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

Results showed that there is negative correlation between economical values and alienation among females ($r=-0.17$) and males ($r=-0.155$), between social values and alienation among females ($r=-0.135$) and males ($r=-0.175$), between political values and alienation among females ($r=-0.16$) and males ($r=-0.155$) ($p=0.05$). This finding accords with findings of previous researchers like Bao *et al* [5], Banai *et al* [6] and Plasou [8]. They indicate similarly in their findings that alienation is more related with socio-economic factors and alienation changes with factors like political and economical systems, alienation is evaluated with reaction to environmental changes. For interpretation of these findings can say that whereas according to Sutherland's theory alienation means as life senselessness, feeling of separation of friends and abomination of society values then, negative relationship of these variables with alienation witness alienated person abomination toward political, social and economical values.

Results of multivariate correlation coefficient showed that economical, aesthetic and religious values among female students and theoretical, economical and social values among male students are the most powerful variables for prediction of isolation as one of alienation's dimension (Table-2). This finding accords with results of Bao *et al*. [5], Banai *et al*. [6] and Plasou [8]. They showed similarly that economical, social and political values have

relationship with alienation. According to these finding can say that the more economical, aesthetic and religious values among female the less their isolation (as a dimension of alienation) will be appeared and this model is good one for isolation prediction among females. And among males the more theoretical, economical and social values are the less their isolation (as a dimension of alienation) will be appeared and augmentation of these values among males can be a good model for isolation reduction as a as a dimension of alienation.

Also results of multivariate correlation coefficient showed that economical and political values among female students and economical, social and political values among male students are the most powerful variables for prediction of feeling of powerlessness as one of alienation's dimension (Table-3). This findings accord with results of Teymoori *et al*. [4], Bao *et al*. [5], Banai *et al*. [6] and Plasou [8]. They have indicated similarly in their findings to these variables and their relationship with alienation. According to these findings can say that the more economical and political values among female are the less feeling of powerlessness will be among them and the more economical, social and political values among male students are the less feeling of powerlessness will be among them.

Also results multivariate correlation coefficient showed that among female and male students economical, social and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of feeling of normlessness as one of alienation's dimension (table-4). This finding accords with results of Bao *et al*. [5], Banai *et al*. [6] and Plasou [8]. They have indicated similarly in their findings to these variables and their relationship with alienation. Then according to findings of previous studies can say that, the more economical and political values among female and male students are, the less feeling of normlessness will be among them.

Also results of multivariate correlation coefficient showed that economical, social and political values are the most powerful variables for prediction of alienation (Table5). This finding accords with results of Bao *et al.* [5], Banai *et al.* [6] and Plasou [8]. They have indicated similarly in their findings to these variables and their relationship with alienation. Then can say that, the more economical, social and political values are among males and females the less they will expose to alienation. And whereas our country Iran, has located geographically in a situation that had been for a long time as a gangway and as a bridge between west and east and civilized, semi civilized and wild nations was passing this gangway continuously and dispose our historical and cultural continuance to desultoriness, then it is natural that this situation pave the way for our weakness and cultural disarray in some historical stages. However our research sample were selected from university students and their political and social values have influenced by their knowledge and learning and they have selected an educational course according their beloved job then having such values inhibit their alienation.

CONCLUSION

According to findings of survey it is suggested that in universities Hierarchy of values and its impact on alienation receive special attention because having values accordant with society, especially economic, social and political ones can inhibit alienation of students.

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