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**EFFECT OF RELIGIOSITY ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS EUTHANASIA IN
MEDICAL STUDENTS.**

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The study aimed to assess the impact of Religiosity on Attitude towards Euthanasia among medical students.

Study method: A quantitative Cross sectional design was used to assess the impact of Religiosity on attitude towards euthanasia. 209 I – year medical students participated in the study and were given data collection tools such as socio – demographic sheet, Attitude towards euthanasia scale, Centrality of religiosity scale and Lester’s attitude towards euthanasia scale. After obtaining informed consent from the participants, data was collected and correlation and regression analysis were administered.

Results: It has been found that there is a negative correlation between No Recovery (NR) dimension of ATE and overall religiosity, religious private practice, and religious experience dimensions. Overall religiosity has also been seen to predict the favourability towards euthanasia in various dimensions such as mode of administration (active and passive euthanasia), internal locus of control (doctor's authority), patient's condition (severe pain / no recovery). Specifically, religious intellect has been seen to promote a positive attitude towards euthanasia in all the dimensions of ATE. Further, the results suggest that religious private practice predicts the favourability towards euthanasia when the patient requests it. On the contrary, results also suggest that religious experience predicts a negative attitude towards euthanasia in dimensions such as mode of administration (active and passive euthanasia) and

patient's condition of no recovery. Results in the current study show a significant negative correlation between dimensions of attitude towards euthanasia and attitude towards death among medical students. Results show that attitude towards death predicts an increase in all the dimensions of ATE positively.

Conclusion: It can be said that religiosity has a positive impact on attitude towards euthanasia among medical students. But it is also important to note that it is premature to conclude that religious views are the reasons for the development of these attitude towards euthanasia. It was also found that attitude towards death positively influences the attitude towards euthanasia. Therefore, we can say as I – year medical students are new to the field may be more influenced by personal values, experiences and attitudes which may influence their perspectives towards euthanasia. Execution of appropriate educational programs regarding helps in appropriate compartmentalization of personal values, and enhances professional relationship with the patients during the training.

Keywords: *Euthanasia, Religiosity, Death, Medical Students, Religious beliefs*