

# Predicting Citizens' Social Resilience to Natural Disasters Based on Religious Attitudes Mediating Coronary Anxiety

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## Abstract

**Background and Objective:** In recent years, researchers have paid increasing attention to the concept of resilience against disasters. Natural disasters, which are part of the human life and increase in number and diversity every day, have been raised as a fundamental challenge to achieving sustainable development of human societies. The aim of this study was to predict the social resilience of citizens against natural disasters based on religious attitudes with the mediating role of corona anxiety.

**Methods:** The present study was applied in terms of purpose and correlational in terms of method of implementation. The statistical population of this study included all citizens of 15th district of Tehran in 2021. From the present statistical population, a sample size of 380 people was selected by stratified random sampling method based on Morgan's table. Data were collected using the George Religious Attitude Questionnaire, the Connor and Davidson Resilience Questionnaire and the Alipour's Corona Anxiety Scale. Finally, the collected data were analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficient, regression, and path analysis. In this study, all ethical considerations were observed and the authors reported no conflict of interests.

**Results:** The results of data analysis showed that religious attitude can predict the positive and safe emotions of citizens and control negative effects. It was also found that corona anxiety could play a mediating role in predicting citizens' social resilience to natural disasters based on religious attitudes.

**Conclusion:** It can be stated that to promote citizens' social resilience to disasters, in addition to paying attention to the religious attitude of individuals, experts and thinkers should use programs to reduce anxiety.

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## Summary

### Background and Objective

Natural disasters are a basic challenge on the path to achieving sustainable development of human communities (1). Therefore, knowing the ways to achieve has been included in different models of reducing vulnerability in planning for and managing the disasters finding an appropriate

position in every country's national policy making so create desirable conditions for efficient and more effective reduction of the risks at different levels of managing the disasters (2).

During the recent years, researchers have paid increasing attention to the concept of resilience against the disasters. Despite researchers' several decades of valuable experience in the field of resilience against disasters, there are still many ambiguities particularly at the local scale in this

field. It seems that in the context of Iran there are certain social capacities and capitals that can help to promote resilience against disasters. One of these capacities is people's religious attitude (3). Religious attitudes enable human being to overcome selfish desires and act beyond selfishness. Religious beliefs and attitudes are the foundation for social organization and a source of social values and affect individual choices and many areas of daily life (4).

## Methods

**Compliance with ethical guidelines:** In order to observe the ethical principles in the present study, the participants were informed about the purpose and method of implementation of the study and their informed consent was obtained. Furthermore, they were assured that their information would be kept confidential.

The present study was applied in terms of purpose and correlational in terms of method of implementation. The statistical population of this study included all citizens of 15th district of Tehran in 2021. Due to the largeness of the sample population, the number of residents in this district was estimated to be 202,508 people according to the census in 2016. The sample size of was determined to be 380 people selected by stratified random sampling method based on Morgan's table. Finally, four questionnaires were incomplete, which were excluded and a final sample of 380 questionnaires was analyzed. The collected data were analyzed using path analysis and the measurement tool included questionnaires and was field-based.

## Results

The participants' mean age was  $38.72 \pm 9.28$ . 76.1% of the participants were female and 23.9 were male. 23.7 had a diploma or a lower educational degree, 6.6% had an associate degree, 32.4 had BA and 36.8% had an MA. The participants' mean was 29.69 in individual competence, 24.82 in trust in individual instincts, 19.04 in accepting positive emotions, 11.18 in safe emotions and control, 8.20 in spiritual effects, 121.86 in religious attitude, 4.09 in mental symptoms, and 1.53 in physical symptoms.

## Conclusion

The results of data analysis showed that religious attitude can predict the positive and safe emotions of citizens and control negative effects. It was also found that corona anxiety could play a mediating role in predicting citizens' social resilience to natural disasters based on religious attitudes. It can be stated that to promote citizens' social

resilience to disasters, in addition to paying attention to the religious attitude of individuals, experts and thinkers need to develop and use programs to reduce anxiety.

Religious attitude is both an instrumental and a non-instrumental reason that individuals express in their religious beliefs and practices. Resilience, on the other hand, varies from one person to another and can develop or reduce during the time and be formed in the process of trial and error in life based on mental and practical self-refining (5). Therefore, it is very important to develop certain plans to develop resilience and there is a need to use all the existing capacities for promoting it. As confirmed by the results of the present study, in religious communities like Iran, religious attitude can play an effective role in social resilience and since social resilience is the capacity to return from stable and continued difficulties and the ability to refine oneself, this human capacity helps one to move through undesirable events and to promote one's social, educational, and occupational capabilities and competence despite being exposed to high tension.

One of the undesirable and stressful events at the international level and in Iran is the Covid-19 pandemic, which has influenced people's life and the society. To tolerate and manage the individual and social effects of this pandemic, it is essential to promote resilience in the society. Based on the findings of the present study, which are consistent with those of Fallahi et al. (6) and Bastaminia et al. (7), religious attitude can be used as capital to promote resilience in the society under the corona pandemic conditions and similar conditions and to ameliorate the negative effects of these phenomena.

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## Ethical considerations

According to the authors, this article was obtained from the MA thesis of the first author entitled "Predicting Citizens' Social Resilience against Natural Disasters Based on Religious Attitude: The Mediating Role of Corona Anxiety", which has been approved by the Ethics Committee of Payam-e Nour University, Tehran South Branch, under the code 02111400.

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According to the authors, this study had no sponsor and was carried out at the authors' personal expense.

**Conflict of interest**

The authors reported no conflict of interests in this study.

**Authors' contribution**

Article writing and data collection: first author; Data analysis, participation in the writing and supervision of the research: second author and participation in the writing and consultation in the research: third author.

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## تقييم الصمود الاجتماعي لدى المواطن تجاه الكوارث الطبيعية وتأثير النظرة الدينية ودور قلق الإصابة بـكورونا الوسيط

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### معلومات المادة

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### الكلمات الرئيسية:

الصمود الاجتماعي

قلق الإصابة بـكورونا

الكوارث الطبيعية

النظرة الدينية

### الملخص

**خلفية البحث وأهدافه:** حظي مفهوم الصمود الاجتماعي تجاه الكوارث الطبيعية باهتمام الباحثين في الآونة الأخيرة. فالكوارث الطبيعية التي تعتبر جزءاً من الحياة البشرية؛ وأخذ وقوعها وتنوعها منحى تصاعدياً في السنوات الأخيرة، تشكل تحدياً أساسياً أمام التنمية المستدامة لكل مجتمع بشري. تسعى هذه الدراسة لإلقاء الضوء على مفهوم الصمود الاجتماعي للمواطن تجاه الكوارث الطبيعية وتأثير النظرة الدينية على هذا المفهوم ومدى تأثير الدور الوسيط الذي يؤديه قلق الإصابة بـكورونا.

**منهجية البحث:** المنهجية التي اعتمدها الدراسة هي منهجية تطبيقية من ناحية الهدف، وإرباطية من ناحية التنفيذ والتطبيق. أما المجتمع الإحصائي فقد شمل مواطني المنطقة الـ ١٥ في مدينة طهران في عام ٢٠٢١. ومن مجموع الإحصاء الموجود، تم اختيار حجم عينة من ٣٨٠ مشاركاً باستخدام طريقة أخذ العينات العشوائية الطبقة على أساس جدول مورغان. كما اعتمدت الدراسة في جمع البيانات على الاستبيان الديني عند جورج، واستبيان الصمود لدى كورنر وديفيدسون ومقياس غليور في تقييم قلق الإصابة بـكورونا. وفي نهاية الدراسة وأخذ النتائج تم تحليل البيانات باستخدام معامل الارتباط وتحليل الانحدار لدى بيرسون. تمت مراعاة جميع الموارد الأخلاقية في هذا البحث وإضافة إلى ذلك فإن مؤلفي البحث لم يشيروا إلى أي تضارب في المصالح.

**المعطيات:** أظهرت النتائج أنّ النظرة الدينية قادرة على التنبؤ بالعواطف الإيجابية، وتعزيز الشعور بالأمان لدى المواطن، والسيطرة على المشاعر السلبية. كما اتضح أنّ القلق والإضطراب من الإصابة بـكورونا وتقييم الصمود الاجتماعي للمواطن تجاه الكوارث الطبيعية وتأثير النظرة الدينية، له دور وسيط وقادر على أن يكون همزة الوصل بين كلا المفهومين.

**الاستنتاج:** أثبتت الدراسة أنّه يجب على المتخصصين والخبراء في الشؤون الاجتماعية، أن يعدوا برامج ومخططات ممنهجة لرفع مستوى الصمود لدى المواطن تجاه الكوارث الطبيعية من خلال النظرة الدينية وأن ينظروا للأمر من زاوية دينية وروحية بغية التخفيف من وطأة القلق والإضطراب في الحالات الحرجة.

يتم استناد المقالة على الترتيب التالي:

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## پیش‌بینی تاب‌آوری اجتماعی شهروندان در برابر سوانح طبیعی بر اساس نگرش مذهبی با نقش واسطه‌ای اضطراب کرونا

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### واژگان کلیدی:

اضطراب کرونا

تاب‌آوری اجتماعی

سوانح طبیعی

نگرش مذهبی

### چکیده

**سابقه و هدف:** محققان در سال‌های اخیر به مفهوم تاب‌آوری در برابر سوانح بسیار توجه کرده‌اند. سوانح طبیعی که جزئی از فرایند زندگی بشر به شمار می‌رود و هر روزه بر تعداد و تنوع آنها افزوده می‌شود، چالشی اساسی در جهت نیل به توسعه پایدار جوامع انسانی مطرح شده است. پژوهش حاضر با هدف پیش‌بینی تاب‌آوری اجتماعی شهروندان در برابر سوانح طبیعی بر اساس نگرش مذهبی با نقش واسطه‌ای اضطراب کرونا انجام شده است.

**روش کار:** روش پژوهش حاضر از نظر هدف کاربردی و از نظر اجرا همبستگی است. جامعه آماری پژوهش تمامی شهروندان منطقه ۱۵ شهر تهران در سال ۱۴۰۰ بود. از جامعه آماری حاضر با استناد به جدول مورگان نمونه‌ای به تعداد ۳۸۰ نفر با روش نمونه‌گیری تصادفی طبقه‌ای انتخاب شد. برای گردآوری داده‌ها از پرسش‌نامه نگرش مذهبی جورج، پرسش‌نامه تاب‌آوری کانر و دیویدسون و مقیاس اضطراب کرونای علیپور استفاده شد. در نهایت داده‌های جمع‌آوری شده با استفاده از آزمون آماری ضریب همبستگی پیرسون، رگرسیون و تحلیل مسیر تجزیه و تحلیل شد. در این پژوهش همه موارد اخلاقی رعایت شده است و مؤلفان مقاله تضاد منافی گزارش نکرده‌اند.

**یافته‌ها:** نتایج تحلیل داده‌ها نشان داد که نگرش مذهبی توانایی پیش‌بینی عواطف مثبت شهروندان، عواطف امن و کنترل تأثیرات منفی را دارد. همچنین مشخص شد که اضطراب کرونا توانسته است در پیش‌بینی تاب‌آوری اجتماعی شهروندان در برابر سوانح طبیعی بر اساس نگرش مذهبی نقش واسطه‌ای ایفا نماید.

**نتیجه‌گیری:** می‌توان گفت متخصصان و صاحب‌نظران جهت ارتقای تاب‌آوری اجتماعی شهروندان در برابر سوانح علاوه بر توجه به نگرش مذهبی افراد باید از برنامه‌هایی برای کاهش اضطراب نیز استفاده نمایند.

استناد مقاله به این صورت است:

Shokri-Khoubestani M, Rezaei M, Shobeiri SM. Predicting Citizens' Social Resilience to Natural Disasters Based on Religious Attitudes Mediating Coronary Anxiety. Journal of Pizhūhish dar dīn va salāmat. 2022;8(Supplement):100-113. [https://doi.org/10.22037/jrrh.v8\(Supplement\)38581](https://doi.org/10.22037/jrrh.v8(Supplement)38581)