



Quran and Causal Mechanisms in Explaining Social Harms Applied to the Proposition of the Influence of Worldliness on Sin

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ABSTRACT

Causal explanations in social sciences consist of three main elements: independent variable, dependent variable, and the relationship between them, which is realized in the form of a causal mechanism. The explanation of the causal mechanisms depends on the identification and analysis of mediating factors between the independent variable and the dependent variable, and based on this, the causal mechanisms refer to the processes during which various types of causal influences are formed between the independent variable, mediating factors, and the dependent variable. In this article, by searching the verses of the Holy Quran and using conventional qualitative content analysis techniques, an attempt has been made to formulate a comprehensive framework of mediating factors between worldliness and sin, including action, motivational and structural variable, a framework that can be used to explain many social harms by connecting independent and dependent variables. In this regard, more than 600 different factors were coded in the Holy Quran, which, after removing duplicates, were separated into two categories of mediating factors: factors whose effects are specific to a specific sin, and factors whose scope is inclusive of various sins. Due to the extensiveness of the first category factors, they were avoided in this discussion and only the second class factors were focused on, which included about 150 mediating factors.

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1. Introduction

The philosophers consider explanation to be the main goal of social sciences. Explanations are usually answers to why-questions. Usually, these answers have the form of co-variation (symmetry and succession) or correlation between variables. However, if we are asked why this co-change happened, we often do not know. Therefore, the expression of causal mechanisms has gained great importance in social sciences in recent years. Causal mechanisms refer to causal chains consisting of mediating factors that establish a link between the independent variable and the dependent variable.

This article tries to analyze the reflection of the debate on mechanisms in Islamic and Quranic social studies. Inspired by the hadith "Love of the world is the head of all sin" (Kulaini, 1996, vol. 2: 131), the article focuses on the hypothesis of the influence of worldliness on sin and tries to search in the verses of the Quran by using the techniques of thematic analysis, to identify a set of mediating factors that can be used to explain the causal mechanisms of the influence of worldliness on sin.

It seems that a similar research with this approach has not been implemented so far, and some articles that sometimes talk about mechanisms in the Quran, usually have assumed another meaning of this statement, such as the process or model of causal explanation.

2. Methodology

In this article, all the verses of the Holy Quran have been searched for data collection, and conventional content analysis method has been used for data analysis.

3. Findings

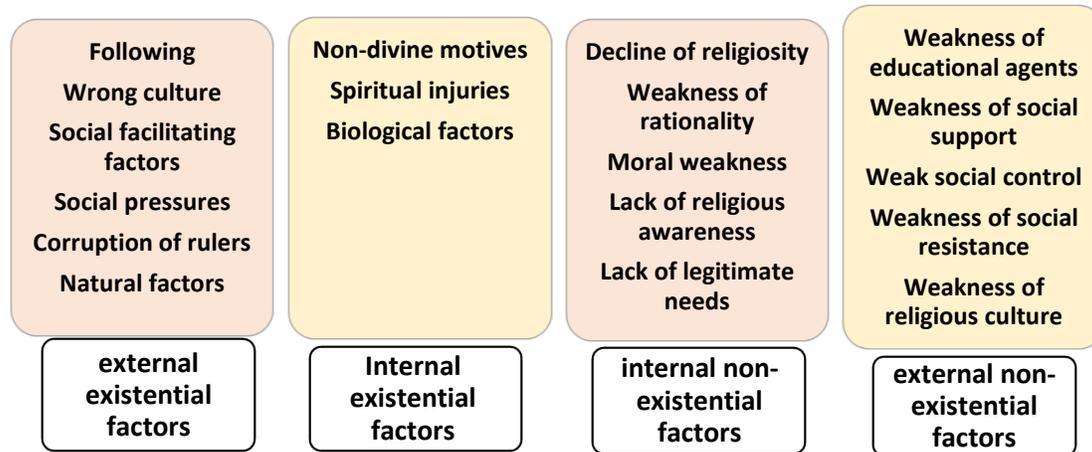
In this part, the result of the search in the Holy Quran will be presented in order to extract concepts that can probably be attributed the role of mediating factors between worldliness and sin.

In order to achieve the mentioned goal, in the first step, with a flexible look, I attempt to ensure that the group of mentioned factors is as comprehensive as possible, in such a way that it includes all the active, motivational and structural variables that have the possibility of influence.

The result of this look was the identification of nearly 150 possible mediators between worldliness and sin in the Holy Quran.

In the next step, a set of mediating factors including 19 main categories and consisting of 8 internal categories and 11 external categories was grasped. Internal factors have a mental and psychological aspect, and external factors have a social or environmental nature.

Each of these two categories also includes two types of existential and nonexistent factors, in the sense that some of them are effective on the dependent variable in the case of their presence and some in the case of their non-existence or weakness. Based on this, nineteen categories derived from nearly 150 common mediating factors, which categorized in the bellow chart:



4. Discussion and Conclusion

In this article, an attempt was made to present a comprehensive Quranic framework consisting of mediating factors between worldliness and sin and the categories derived from them, a framework with the capacity that researchers in the field of social harms can use to draw the causal mechanisms needed in their explanations in a more comprehensive way.

However, the presented analytical framework needs to be applied in various applied researches in the field of pathology in order to eliminate possible shortcomings and prove its efficiency.

It is worth noting that in a research, the direction and general perspective of this work has been drawn in the form of explaining some social deviations.

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