RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION AND PREFERENCE FOR THE INCLUSION OF A RELIGIOUS MODULE IN THE COUNSELING PROCESS AMONG HISPANIC COLLEGE STUDENTS

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A number of previous studies have underscored the issue of accommodating clients in non-religious counseling. However, there have been few studies that have methodically researched whether religious orientation impels clients to prefer the inclusion of a religious module in the counseling process.

Statistics have consistently shown over the years that a vast majority of the general population is religious and that phenomenon increases with age. Available figures show that in comparison to the general population, the 18-29 age group is the least religious.

Consequently, this study focused intentionally on the 18-29 age group, because it was hypothesized that the older population, at least in Puerto Rico, might be more inclined to regard religious orientation issues as an integral part of their individuality and therefore indispensible component of the counseling process.

The participants were randomly selected volunteers from the undergraduate student population at the UT. The sample consisted of 90 participants. Two-part questionnaire was administered to collect data relating to
the participants’ religious orientation and participants’ preference for the religious module in counseling.

After the information was gathered and analyzed, it was concluded that a majority of participants are religiously oriented. Furthermore, the study corroborated that a majority preferred the inclusion of a religious module in the counseling process. As a result of the study, several recommendations were offered.