

The Big Five Personality Traits Determine Tendencies Toward Religious Understanding among Students in Higher Education

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Abstract

This paper aims to examine whether an individual's tendency towards religious understanding is influenced by their Big Five Personality factors and determine which of these five personality factors is the most dominant in influencing tendencies towards religious understanding. The religious understanding in this research does not focus on the specific religious group or ideology but rather on the content of the understanding itself. This research takes the form of correlational ex post facto research, utilizing previously collected data from respondents. The sample analyzed comprises 343 respondents who are students at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula, considering a significance level of 0.05. Samples were selected using the quota random sampling technique. Data analysis and hypothesis testing were conducted using multiple regression after testing for analysis prerequisites, which include continuous data, linearity, normality, homogeneity, and the absence of multicollinearity or heteroscedasticity. The research results demonstrate that the Big Five Personalities collectively influence an individual's tendency towards religious understanding. Higher personality scores correspond to a greater inclination towards a positive religious understanding, characterized by flexibility and respect for differences. Among the Big Five Personality factors, one factor, neuroticism, exhibits a negative correlation, although it is not statistically significant. Openness and Conscientiousness are the most influential factors in shaping an individual's tendency towards religious understanding, while the remaining three factors -neuroticism, extraversion, and agreeableness- do not significantly impact an individual's religious understanding tendencies.

Keywords: Big Five Personality, Personality Traits, tendency towards religious understanding, Personality and Religion, Psychological Factors,

Introduction

Universities, as institutions responsible for educating and guiding students, play a significant role in shaping the nation's future generation in alignment with the goals and ideals of Indonesian education. Nevertheless, the issue that has emerged in recent years regarding the susceptibility of several Indonesian universities to radicalism is a concern that requires attention. Several studies indicate that the issue of radicalism within higher education is not merely a conjecture. Budi Gunawan, the Head of the Indonesian Intelligence Agency (*Badan Intelijen Indonesia (BIN)*), has reported that a survey conducted across 20 State Universities in 15 Provinces in Indonesia revealed the presence of state universities serving as breeding grounds for radical ideologies. What is even more concerning is his statement that 39% of tertiary education students in Indonesia have been exposed to radicalism. Furthermore, he disclosed that 24% of students expressed agreement with the idea of jihad to establish a caliphate or Islamic state (Azra, n.d.). Research conducted by Achmad and his colleagues illustrates that students' perceptions of radicalism vary, indicating the potential vulnerability of some students to radical influences (Achmad et al., 2023).

An equally alarming statement comes from Hamli, the Director of Prevention at the Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (*Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme - BNPT*), who mentioned during a seminar on radicalism at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University in Jakarta that nearly all state and

private universities in Indonesia are susceptible to radicalism (Azra, n.d.). The Setara survey corroborated these statements, revealing that 10 universities have been exposed to radicalism:

1. *Universitas Indonesia*
2. *Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah*
3. *Institut Teknologi Bandung*
4. *Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung*
5. *Institut Pertanian Bogor*
6. *Universitas Gadjah Mada*
7. *Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta*
8. *Universitas Brawijaya*
9. *Universitas Airlangga*
10. *Universitas Mataram* (Yasir, 2019).

What's even more surprising is that the universities in question are state universities with strong reputations and are among the highest-quality universities in Indonesia, often highly sought after by students from across the country. Furthermore, all 10 universities studied (used as samples) were found to be exposed to radicalism. This highlights the endemic nature of the radicalism problem in various universities across Indonesia (Yasir, 2019).

The choice of a particular religious understanding by students doesn't simply emerge on its own but can be influenced by factors within the student themselves, such as their personality, as well as by the environment in which they live, their friends, or even social media, which currently wields significant influence over people's behavior. According to Goldberg, there are five main dimensions in human personality, namely openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. These five personality dimensions can influence how a person acts, including the decisions they make regarding religious beliefs that they find appealing and meaningful (Annabelle G.Y. Lim, 2023). The Big Five Personalities can provide a foundation for understanding human behavior and explaining why individuals engage in specific behaviors (Chung, 2017). This research aims to examine whether the tendency towards religious beliefs is influenced by personality, specifically the Big Five Personality traits (neuroticism, extroversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness). Religious understanding in this context does not refer to the name of a particular religious sect but rather to the characteristics of one's preferred religious beliefs. Additionally, this research aims to determine whether the five factors within the Big Five Personality traits differ in their influence on tendencies towards religious understanding.

Literatur Review

Religious understanding is the opinion or thought of a person or a group regarding teachings related to religion. According to Zamakhzari Dhofier, in Islam, there are two main understandings, namely traditional Islam and modern Islam. Traditional Islam is an Islamic group that bases its understanding of Islamic teachings on the al-Quran, al-Hadith, Ijma, and Qiyas. Meanwhile, modernist Islam is an Islamic group that bases its understanding of Islamic teachings solely on the al-Quran and al-Hadith (tim peneliti balai makassar, 2007).

There are various factors that may cause students to embrace religious ideas, which in some cases may include radical ones. Among these factors, as stated by Police Brigadier General Hamli, Director of the Indonesian BNPT (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme, National Counterterrorism Agency), are the factors of a lack of understanding of religion and a lack of national insight. These factors can make it easier for radicalism to infiltrate campuses (Wildansyah, 2018). Other factors, as stated by Azyumardi Azra, include organizational factors that are followed, scientific factors that may only speak in simple polarizations (black or white), an incomplete understanding of Islam, and a lack of comprehension regarding political issues developing in Indonesia, such as democracy (Sumandoyo, 2018).

From the description above, it can be concluded that the exposure of several campuses to radicalism did not simply emerge spontaneously; rather, there were underlying factors that contributed to it. In this case, organizational factors that are followed and a superficial understanding of religious teachings can act as

triggers, making it easier for radical ideas to influence students. Within society, various religious ideologies are evolving, spanning from moderate to radical and rigid beliefs.

As human beings, students are unique individuals, and it is impossible to find two students who are entirely the same, even if they are twins. Each student possesses their own characteristics, shaped by the dominant personality traits they exhibit. Personality is a personal characteristic that distinguishes one person from others. Goldberg proposed five major groups of human personalities known as the Big Five Personality theory, which include openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism (Annabelle G.Y. Lim, 2023; Akbari et al., 2022).

Students, as the next generation, bear a significant responsibility in upholding the sustainability of this nation. It is hoped that in their hands, the noble values of the nation can be preserved and applied in everyday life. Students are not only expected to excel in scientific fields but also to assume a role as future guardians of society. Additionally, they are expected to be able to apply the knowledge they have acquired effectively in society later on (Kompas.com, 2021). As the next generation, students are expected to develop and possess a balanced religious understanding.

Religious understanding can be interpreted as a tendency to view the same type of thinking in the context of the beliefs and beliefs held. Religious understanding in a religion can vary according to the interpretation of the teachings or meaning of the source of religious teachings in the form of holy books. In general, religious understandings can be grouped into several categories, namely religious understandings which tend to be traditional and religious understandings which tend to be rational when seen from their content, and can also be grouped into radical and moderate when seen from the attitudes of adherents of these understandings. (Walshe, Karen; Geoff, 2013).

Religious understanding essentially stems from an interpretation of historical religious teachings, particularly those followed by the Muslim society in general, rather than normative ones with provisions clearly defined in religious law. Religious comprehension can evolve alongside societal changes and the diverse interpretations that emerge due to advancements in science and technology, which may occasionally deviate from the original teachings (Faylasuf, n.d.).

In higher education institutions, there are typically numerous religious beliefs that may influence students' inclinations towards certain faiths. In this context, students require adequate guidance to select and discern which religious beliefs they can embrace and which they cannot. One of the factors that determines students' choices regarding existing religious beliefs is the factor of personality (Andy Prayogo (editor), n.d.).

Personality, as one of the most crucial elements in human nature, plays a profoundly significant role in human life. The five primary factors in human personality—namely neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, openness, and conscientiousness—hold immense importance. These five factors play a pivotal role in shaping a person's attitudes and inclinations towards various aspects of life (Lubis et al., 2022).

Neuroticism is an aspect of an individual's personality characterized by personality dimensions that assess a person's ability to withstand pressure or stress. Individuals who have a predominant neuroticism trait may appear easily anxious, frequently nervous, and lacking in self-confidence, leading to the tendency for this personality factor to have a negative impact on individuals (Widiger & Oltmanns, 2017).

Extraversion is an aspect of an individual's personality that relates to interactions in their surrounding social environment. Individuals with a high level of extraversion feel comfortable when engaging with other people, are sociable, and enjoy activities in social settings such as parties and the like (Cherry, 2022).

Openness is a personality trait that reflects an individual's receptiveness to new experiences and their drive to explore and comprehend novel things. Individuals who possess a high level of openness tend to exhibit characteristics such as creativity, a strong imagination, curiosity, and a broad perspective. Someone with an open disposition is marked by an intrinsic interest in undergoing various experiences across different fields and possesses a highly flexible awareness. This openness often has a genetic component and typically remains stable throughout adulthood. Open individuals tend to be creative and adaptable, while those who are less open tend to be more pragmatic and inclined to adhere to reality. Recent research on openness and behavior in professional settings indicates that openness is a relevant factor in career preferences, adaptation to organizational changes, and transformation-focused leadership (McCrae & Greenberg, 2014). Individuals who possess a high level of openness tend to exhibit an open attitude towards new things, fresh ideas, and

experiences they have not encountered before. They maintain an open mindset, approach novel situations with curiosity, and actively seek out knowledge they do not yet possess. Furthermore, they have a strong inclination to seek adventure, engage in new experiences, and pursue innovative creative endeavors. Their capacity for conceptual thinking enables them to establish connections between diverse concepts and ideas (Cherry, 2023)

Agreeableness is an aspect of an individual's personality characterized by the ease of finding harmony or agreement with others. Individuals with a predominant agreeable personality tend to be accepting of other people's perspectives and often choose not to engage in conflicts or disagreements. They typically lean towards compromise rather than challenging the views of others (Mark Leary, n.d.).

Conscientiousness is the characteristic of a cautious individual. Individuals with a dominant conscientious personality tend to exhibit careful behavior in their actions and often make decisions after careful consideration. They also possess high self-discipline and reliability. Those with high conscientiousness are characterized by being reliable, responsible, persistent, and achievement-oriented (Gordon, 2022).

Many previous researchers have conducted studies on the Big Five Personality traits, but there hasn't been as much exploration of their connection to tendencies towards religious beliefs. One aspect that should be taken into consideration in this research is the stability of the Big Five Personality traits (Cobb-Clark & Schurer, 2012), research has explored various links involving the Big Five Personality traits. These include research linking it to gender (Jirjahn & Ottenbacher, 2023), research connecting it to intrapreneurial behavior and individual performance (Mahmoud et al., 2020; Bazkiaei et al., 2020; Şahin et al., 2019), research examining its association with stress related to the coronavirus (Agbaria & Mokh, 2022), research investigating its relationship with life satisfaction (Çikrikci et al., 2022), research delving into its connection with work burnout (Liu et al., 2022), and research linking the Big Five Personality traits with religiosity, where religiosity serves as a moderating variable shaping the Big Five Personality traits (Yamagata & Takahashi, 2020).

Research Hypothesis

Based on the literature review above, two hypotheses will be tested in this research:

1. There is a significant positive influence of the Big Five personality factors on the tendency towards religious understanding.
2. There are significant differences among the five personality factors concerning tendencies towards religious understanding.

Research methodology

Types of research

This study is a quantitative correlational research endeavor aimed at exploring the relationships among several variables. The independent variables under examination in this research are openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism, while religious understanding serves as the dependent variable.

Population and Sample

The population for this study included all students enrolled at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University. The total student population at Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University is 30,435 individuals. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula with a significance level of 0.05 (5%), namely 395 people. Out of the 395 sampled individuals, only 355 questionnaires were returned, and among these 355 respondents, only 343 were deemed valid for inclusion in the analysis. Twelve individuals had partially completed questionnaires and were excluded from the analysis. The sampling technique employed in this research was quota random sampling.

Variables and relationships between variables

Generally, this research examines two major categories of variables: the big five personality variables (Variable X) and inclinations towards religious understanding (Variable Y). However, the big five personality variable consists of five sub-variables (neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness, openness, conscientiousness), which

can also be analyzed individually. The relationship between these variables is asymmetric, where the independent variable can induce changes in the dependent variable, but not vice versa.

Data collection technique

This research employs several data collection techniques, including:

1. The use of a test to assess the respondent's Big Five personality score. For this purpose, the researchers utilized a test available at bigfive-test.com
2. The distribution of questionnaires to assess respondents' inclinations towards religious perspectives

Validity and Reliability Test

Before administering the questionnaire to respondents, validity and reliability tests were conducted. The validity test used the one-tailed product-moment test with the SPSS application, which confirmed the validity of all items. The output of the validity test demonstrated the validity of each item used. Reliability was assessed using Cronbach's alpha via SPSS, and the results indicated that the instrument was reliable for collecting data from respondents.

Techniques for Research Data Analysis

The type of data to be analyzed in this research is interval data for variable X and ordinal data for variable Y. Therefore, in order for the data to be analyzed using inferential statistical tests, the data for variable Y needs to be transformed into interval data using the Sturges formula

After the data has been transformed, several prerequisite tests for multiple regression analysis are conducted, including tests for normality, homogeneity, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity.

To test the research hypotheses, multiple regression analysis is employed, utilizing the F-test and R-squared (R²) for the first hypothesis. Additionally, coefficient (t) outputs are examined to determine which of the five personality factors within the Big Five personality framework has a greater influence than the others. Furthermore, a product-moment analysis is performed using the SPSS for Windows program.

Results

Tendency towards Religious Understanding and Big Five Personality

From data processing and statistical tests, the results obtained show that the tendency towards religious understanding is determined simultaneously by personality factors in the big five personalities. The analysis results can be seen from the following SPSS output.

Table 1 Analysis of Variance for Big Five Personality and Religious Understanding Variables in Linear Regression Output

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2938.954	5	587.791	6.240	.000 ^b
	Residual	31744.463	337	94.197		
	Total	34683.417	342			

The ANOVA table above indicates an F-test value of 6.240 with a significance level of 0.000, which is smaller than 0.05. This signifies the rejection of the null hypothesis, suggesting that the combined effects of the big five personality traits (Conscientiousness, Openness, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Agreeableness) can determine a respondent's tendency towards religious understanding. In other words, individuals with better personality traits tend to have a stronger inclination towards religious beliefs. The extent of the contribution of the big five

personalities (Conscientiousness, Openness, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Agreeableness) to the tendency towards religious understanding can be observed in the summary model output below."

Table 2 Model Summary Output: Calculated R Regression and R Square for Big Five Personality and Religious Understanding Variables

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. Change
1	.291	.085	.071	9.706	.085	6.240	5	337	.000

The model summary table above displays the values R = 0.291 and R squared = 0.085. This indicates that the combined influence of the big five personality traits (Conscientiousness, Openness, Extraversion, Neuroticism, Agreeableness) on individuals' tendencies toward specific religious beliefs is only 8.5%. The remaining 91.5% is determined by other variables.

Dominance of factors in the big five personality in determining tendencies towards religious understanding

To determine whether the five personality factors within the Big Five personality framework play equal roles in the tendency to understand religious beliefs or if each factor has a distinct role, we can refer to the Coefficients output in the subsequent linear regression test.

Table 3 The output is the difference in the dominance of factors in the big five personality towards respondents' tendencies towards religious understanding

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.711	11.616		-.061	.951
	Neurotism	-.045	.050	-.049	-.906	.365
	Ekstraversion	.043	.056	.042	.780	.436
	Openness	.189	.076	.134	2.495	.013
	Agreeableness	.053	.087	.036	.616	.539
	Concientiousness	.411	.125	.197	3.297	.001

From the table above, we can create a regression equation by examining the unstandardized coefficients in column B, which is as follows:

Religious Understanding = -0.711 - 0.045 (Neuroticism) + 0.043 (Extraversion) + 0.189 (Openness) + 0.053 (Agreeableness) + 0.411 (Conscientiousness)

The table reveals that the Neuroticism personality factor has a significance level of 0.365 regarding its impact on respondents' tendencies to understand religion. A significance level greater than 0.05 suggests that the influence of Neuroticism on the tendency to understand religion is not statistically significant. Additionally, the direction of the relationship between these two variables can be discerned from the t-value output, which is negative (-0.906). This indicates a negative relationship between Neuroticism and the tendency to believe in religious beliefs. In other words, an increase in the Neuroticism personality score corresponds to a decrease in

the tendency score for moderate religious beliefs. Furthermore, for the Extraversion personality factor, a significance level of 0.436 was obtained. A significance level greater than 0.05 also suggests that the Extraversion personality factor does not have a statistically significant influence on respondents' tendencies to understand religion.

The direction of the relationship is positive, indicating that a higher extraversion score corresponds to a higher tendency score for better religious understanding. The openness personality factor has a significance level of 0.013, which is smaller than 0.05. This suggests that the openness factor within the Big Five personality significantly influences the respondent's tendency towards a positive and non-rigid understanding of religion. The agreeableness factor has a significance level of 0.539, which is greater than 0.05, indicating that it is not significant in determining tendencies towards religious understanding. The direction of the relationship is positive. For the conscientiousness factor, the significance level is 0.01, much smaller than 0.05. This implies that the Big Five personality factor can indeed determine an individual's tendency towards religious beliefs. The direction of the relationship between the two is positive.

Discussion

This research has revealed that the Big Five Personalities can collectively influence an individual's inclination towards their preferred religious beliefs. However, the analysis results indicate that this personality's influence is relatively modest. This suggests that various other factors, both internal (such as intelligence, hobbies, motivation, and emotions) and external (including family, school, society, and notably, the influence of social media), may play pivotal roles in shaping one's inclination towards specific religious beliefs. These factors can exert both positive and negative influences on religious belief preferences. This finding aligns with the research conducted by Aida Abdullah and Sabitha Marican, who also identified a connection between the Big Five Personalities and deviant behavior (Abdullah & Marican, 2016; Friesen, 2019). Otašević & Kodžopeljić (Otašević & Kodžopeljić, 2016) also observed the influence of the Big Five personality traits on other variables, specifically the main life goals, although the impact was relatively modest. Additionally, the inclination towards religious beliefs may be influenced by the parenting style employed by parents during a student's upbringing before they pursue higher education at the university (Yusra & Tabroni, 2022). Mojca Petrič and Maja Zupančič's research also demonstrates that the Big Five personality traits can predict various aspects of well-being (Petrič & Zupančič, 2021).

In alignment with this, past experiences, such as personal instances of harassment, can elevate the risk of radicalism, although the effects may not manifest immediately. Support from parents and the environment can mitigate the adverse consequences it engenders. (Miklikowska et al., 2023). Ways to strengthen religious understanding include:

1. Enhancing thought patterns by promoting logical thinking.
2. Conducting lectures that reinforce neutral and non-rigid religious perspectives.
3. Fostering an attitude of religious moderation and promoting an understanding of the significance of differences.
4. Creating discussion forums and offering literature to support a better understanding of religion.
5. Maximizing the role of student organizations in emphasizing the importance of inclinations toward moderate religious understanding (Raharjo et al., 2021).

Local wisdom can also be harnessed to cultivate tolerance, reducing the attraction of individuals to radical and rigid ideologies. Amin and his colleagues discovered, through their examination of the local wisdom of Neuronatul Anam, that it can promote tolerance and serve as a deterrent to radicalism (Amin et al., 2022).

Among the five factors in the Big Five personality model, neuroticism is a factor that warrants attention. While its effect may not be statistically significant in calculations, individuals with high levels of neuroticism are often associated with a preference for rigid religious beliefs and a reduced emphasis on teachings about love. They are also more likely to gravitate towards organizations and friendships that align with their views. Individuals with high neuroticism tend to be introverted, keeping their thoughts and feelings to themselves, making it challenging for those around them to understand their true sentiments. In essence, individuals with high

neuroticism scores tend to have lower levels of openness. Therefore, individuals with high neuroticism levels require special attention and encouragement to become more open. Moreover, individuals with a high neuroticism factor are at an elevated risk of adopting rigid and non-pluralistic religious beliefs, potentially making them more susceptible to exposure to radical ideologies than those with low neuroticism scores (Mineka et al., 2020). Individuals with high neuroticism may also experience heightened social anxiety, making them more susceptible to influence by groups with intolerant views (Clague & Wong, 2023).

Based on the findings of this research, it is advisable to conduct personality assessments for students prior to their admission to higher education. This can assist universities in guiding students towards a more open and moderate religious understanding. Individuals with high levels of neuroticism should receive special attention, with efforts focused on minimizing factors that contribute to neuroticism, and engaging them in activities that promote openness. Similar to neuroticism, extraversion also does not significantly influence tendencies towards specific religious beliefs. Relevant research findings that align with the author's results can be found in the literature Stavrova et al. (2022), in previous research, it was found that extraversion does not play a significant role in shaping trust decisions, whereas agreeableness carries social benefits and can influence such decisions. Individuals with dominant extraverted personalities often excel at managing and influencing others, making them less susceptible to the influence of groups attempting to sway their views and beliefs (Landis et al., 2022). Although the analysis results indicate that these three personality factors (neuroticism, extraversion, and agreeableness) do not significantly influence tendencies towards religious beliefs, they still hold importance within an individual's character. The research essentially highlights that these personality factors continue to exert some influence, albeit not statistically significant.

There is concern that individuals with high levels of agreeableness may lean towards radical and rigid ideologies if many of their close friends adopt such ideologies. Thus, the influence of friends and social groups becomes dominant among individuals with a pronounced agreeable personality trait.

The four factors of the Big Five personality model—positive neuroticism, extraversion, openness, and agreeableness, coupled with low neuroticism—collectively empower individuals in making informed choices about which religious beliefs are worth embracing and which should be avoided.

Among the five factors in the Big Five personality model, two factors, namely openness and conscientiousness, emerge as the most influential in shaping an individual's tendency towards religious understanding. The research results indicate that greater openness in an individual correlates with a preference for moderate religious beliefs, a choice of moderate religious organizations, a preference for liberal and non-rigid religious teachings, and a reduced focus on affiliation with specific groups or like-minded friends. Individuals with high scores in the openness factor tend to embrace experiences that emphasize love and compassion (Lawn et al., 2023). This could occur because individuals with high openness tend to communicate openly about all their activities with their parents or lecturers. This communication allows for a better understanding of the groups they can join and those they should avoid.

Similar to openness, conscientiousness also exerts a positive influence on an individual's inclination towards specific religious beliefs. Individuals with high conscientiousness tend to refrain from joining groups or organizations with particular religious beliefs without first thoroughly evaluating the pros and cons of such associations.

Research demonstrates that the factors of openness and conscientiousness have the most pronounced positive impact on an individual's tendency to embrace or favor religious beliefs with certain characteristics. This implies that universities, as institutions responsible for educating young adults, should focus on nurturing these personality traits in students. This can be achieved by encouraging students to be open to new experiences, express their opinions, convey their preferences, practice empathy, and regard all humans as inherently noble beings, regardless of differing religious beliefs.

These findings align with research conducted by Fernández-González et al. (2020). In line with this, it appears that interventions and manipulations of the Big Five personality traits should be considered (Carmona-Rojas et al., 2023) to potentially yield positive effects on various aspects influenced by these personality traits. The research model carried out by Maša Tavčar and Ana Arzenšek, namely by combining various aspects of the human self, such as flow at work, work satisfaction, and Big Five Personality Traits, can also be taken into consideration for further research (Tavčar & Arzenšek, 2019).

The results of this research reveal that two dominant factors within the Big Five personality greatly influence an individual's inclination towards specific religious beliefs. However, this study does not analyze the relationships between each factor within the Big Five personality model. Consequently, questions remain unanswered, such as whether individuals with high neuroticism will exhibit low openness, or vice versa, whether high openness corresponds with high conscientiousness, or whether individuals with high neuroticism will also have high extraversion, despite neuroticism not aligning with extraversion and agreeableness in terms of their significant effects on religious understanding. This represents a limitation of the present research, and these questions could be addressed through further investigation.

In conclusion, the Big Five Personalities play a significant role in shaping an individual's inclination towards religious beliefs. Among these factors, openness and conscientiousness exhibit strong dominance over tendencies towards religious understanding. Strengthening these two traits can reduce individuals' tendencies towards rigid and potentially radical religious beliefs. Conversely, neuroticism has a negative impact on an individual's inclination towards religious beliefs, warranting special attention for individuals with high neuroticism scores. As a recommendation, it is advisable for universities to administer the Big Five Personality test to incoming students. This proactive measure can help mitigate students' exposure to rigid religious ideologies that do not embrace differences.

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