

Why are people religious? – A small analyses of survey data

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Survey Data Analyses

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1. Introduction

In the modern world, everybody is free to believe what he wants to. Despite that freedom, most of the people in the world follow a system of religious believes. That is not the same system, but nearly everywhere in the world there was such a system developed. Many researchers think it is a necessity of the human mind, because he is unable to explain things that go on around him with rational thoughts. Since humanism was established in the 15th century, the idea of atheism is growing larger slowly, but is still small globally.

In this paper I will try to find reasons and relations as to why so many people are still religious although they don't have to and there are no obvious incentives to be in a religious community.

2. General model

I will conduct a regression in which I will include all variables I can find in my dataset that could influence the religiosity of people for some reason, a total of 46 variables. Afterwards I cope with issues of multicollinearity mainly to improve the model and get meaningful coefficients. This is a halfway-data-mining approach, as I first think of which variables could be meaningful and afterwards filter and change them to improve the model.

The variables include proxys for traditional values, such as 'Important in life: family', 'Important child qualities: Obedience' or 'One main goal of my life is to make my parents proud'. The idea behind that is, that a person valuing tradition should be less likely to be rebellious against a religion he got from his parents.

There are variables that proxy the social status of a person, including wage decile, subjective social status, or quality of the neighborhood coded in 5 variables.

I included variables signaling for a bad situation in life. It might be more useful for people that are in a bad or difficult situation to take refuge with religion.

A belief in the correctness of science could be a negative influence for being religious. Although not total opposites, people who are fond of science tend to be more fact-reliant than other people. That could influence their view on religion.

I included proxys for intelligence and education to see if these affect religion. I am not a priori sure of the relation, but I suspect intelligent people to be less religious on average.

Lastly I decide to put some variables in the model that measure the access to information of the respondent. If a person is confronted with news and different opinions it is more

likely he overthinks his own opinions on every matter in general. That could lead to a different opinion on religion too.

The percentage of people in the respondents country that are in not a religious community was added, because religion is a group phenomenon. It is much harder to overthink ones own position, if a large amount of people around have a certain standing in that matter. Some but not all of this ideas for potential influences are taken from Iannaccone (1998)

3. Obtaining and reading data

3.1. Data

As primal dataset I use the World Values Survey – 6th wave, that consists of interviews that were conducted between 2010 and 2014. Additionally I searched for data for a variable that had could tell me how many people in the country of a respondent are religious or atheistic as the opposite I found this information in the Pew Research Center Global Religion Report (Hackett 2012). This Report has information about the percentage of atheist in nearly every country in the world. I imported a new variable into SPSS that shows this percentage. The thought behind this variable is that religion is a “club good” (Iannaccone 1998). That means for everybody around religious people, it should be more likely that they are religious too. This makes total sense as in social sciences there is a strong consensus that humans are affected by their peer.

From the dataset I need a dependent variable showing he strength of a person’s religiosity. There are several variables Concerning that complex. To even the answers out I decided to code an Index from them. I tried to focus on the variables that are more related the strength of religion and not the result of this sstrength (e.g. excluding if religion should stand above science). I also excluded the believe inn hell, because this concept might not apply to every religion. In total I have 8 variables left: Importance in life: Religion, Important Child Quality: Faith, Active Member of a Church?, How often one participates in religious ceremonies, how often one prays, are you a religious person?, do you believe in god?, how important is god in your life?. To measure the internal reliance of my new variable I conduct a Crohnbach’s alpha test on the 8 variables (table 2 in the appendix). The alpha is 0.691. That is very close to 0.7, which is usually taken as a threshold for sufficient reliability. Because it is so close I will use the index, in other words the correlations are big enough for me, also considering, that the variables have different steps to them. To put them into one index I recode all the variables, so they have the same range,

for them to be weighted equally in the index. Then I sum them up, and norm the index, so it has a range from 0: very religious to 100: atheist.

3.2. Descriptives/Histogram and nonparametric testing

The religion index has 43019 valid observations (table 3). That's a nicely large sample. So we can expect to uncover some of the relations. It's minimum value is 0 and it's maximum is 93.06. That means at least one respondent answered to all 8 questions in the most religious way, but nobody answered in the most atheist way, because there is no 100. The mean value is 29.59, which is a lot closer to the religious side than to the other. This could mean, there are more generally religious people in the sample than non religious. With the assumption of a sufficiently good sampling method, we can conclude, because of the high number of observations, that in the world there are more religious people than not religious. That matches with all big studies about this issue. Lastly we see a relatively small skewness and kurtosis, which could mean the index is somewhat normally distributed, but let's test that.

The Histogram (table 4) does not really look like it, with huge spikes on the lower values. The structure of the data with the spikes is probably caused by the fact, that the input variables were not continuous. The formal Kolmogorov-Smirnow-test (table 5) for normality, that is good for large samples, returns the information , that our data is not normally distributed, which also looked like that in the histogram.

For non parametric testing I run a t-test to obtain additional information about the mean in the population from the mean in the sample. I entered the actual sample mean. So it is not surprising to find a significance of 1, meaning the mean in the population has the most likelihood density at the sample mean. Interesting is the confidence interval. The real population mean is with 95 % likelihood in an area of the width of 0.3813. For a variable with possible values from 0 to 100 that is really exact.

Next I test the variable with two independent t-tests for two relations. I test if the mean of the religion index is the same in both the group of males and females and if it is the same in the group of best educated compared to the least educated (table 7). The test variable shows different variances in the groups in both cases. In both cases also the mean of my index is different. In the case of gender the males average is about 1 point higher. Males seem to be less religious than women. In the other test the average for highly educated people is about 9 points higher than the one for the lowest educated. Highly educated people therefor seem to be less religious.

A complete picture of the educational groups gives us the table 8. The average ranges widely between the different groups. Apart from that, we can see that the variance differs greatly. We can see that from the ANOVA test too (table 9, significance of 0). Specifically from the 5 % and the 95 % quantiles we can deduct that in every group there are very religious people (value close to 0), but in general the higher the educational level, the higher the number of very atheist people.

4. Estimating the models

For possible independent variables there is a huge variety of possible influences. At first I check for their correlations with my new index variable to see which ones of the variables I think could have an influence, I should include in a regression. Of course I might include a not very strong correlated, if the theory suggests it is necessary (table 10). A lot of the variables are strongly and significantly correlated. I will pick out cases that seem noteworthy:

‘If someone has joined a boycott in his life’ is not significantly correlated. I included this variable with others to measure interest in politics and proxy with it some kind of interest and intelligence. From the politics it is the most awkward, because only 6 % of the people answered, that they had participated in a boycott. Apart from that someone can well be political active or interested without participating in boycotts. Because of that far fetched theoretical relation and the low the correlation is I drop this variable here. It will not be included in further analyses.

‘I see myself as someone who has an active imagination’ is not significant as well. That (missing) correlation is more interesting. I assume the subjective measure of people on this is on average not totally wrong. It seems that creative processes like imagination happen unrelated to the ability of believing in something supernatural unproven by science. In other words, creative people, who are able to imagine all kinds of different things are not more or less religious than uncreative people. I speculate, but the reason could be that nearly all religions in the world have an established set of believes. There is no need to be creative as one can simply follow this guidelines. As this variable has obviously no influence it can be excluded.

Now is the time for m first regression (table 11). I include every correlated factor. If that proves to be too many variables I will construct more thematically related index-variables from the independents to make them fewer in number. That is also a possible course of

action when high multicollinearity appears. The R^2 is 0.129 and the adjusted R^2 is 0.122. That is not as much as hoped for but it shows 46 variables are not too much as the adjusted R^2 is not a lot smaller than R^2 .

All regressors were significantly correlated to the religion index. In the regression a lot of them are no longer significant. That most likely means, there is a high amount of multicollinearity in the data. The correlation coefficient between 'Information Source: E-Mail' and 'Information Source: Internet' is e.g. around 0.8. That is a very high number and implies collinearity between the two. I will try to code variables that express a similar information into indices to reduce the number of multicollinear variables.

The access to information variables have an internal reliability Cronbach's alpha of 0.718 (table 12). They code the same information and are likely to be one of the major sources of multicollinearity. I therefore construct an information index from them using the same method as for the religion index.

The two variables 'most people can be trusted' and 'do you think most people would try to take advantage of you...' are highly correlated and code nearly the same information. I drop the variable most people can be trusted, because the other one has a bigger range of possible answers.

The variables about the quality of the neighborhood can are very reliable with an alpha of over 0.8. Consequently I code an index from them.

In finding other sources of multicollinearity, I need a little help. So I conduct a new regression in SPSS with turned on checks for collinearity in the statistics option. First thing to notice is, that the adjusted R^2 got bigger. It is now at 0.129. Still not very strong. But when explaining personal views of very diverse people, we can not expect to explain everything. The SPSS-check for multicollinearity works this way:

It runs an extra auxiliary regression for every regressor in the original regression, where it is the dependent and the other regressors are the explaining variables. The tolerance, that appeared right of the significance in the coefficients table is $1-R^2$ of this auxiliary regression. Knowing that, a tolerance of 0.2 or lower is taken to be a sign for multicollinearity, because the other factor explain at least 80 % of the variance of the tested regressor. In my regression the lowest value is 0.605. This means there is no multicollinearity left in the sample and factors that are not significant now, simply don't. SPSS has no easy way to correct for heteroscedasticity so this is it.

5. Conclusion

After correcting my model for the effects of multicollinearity I have an adjusted R^2 of 0.129 percent. That is not a lot. But with such a big sample as this one it is definitely different from nothing. So there should be some really explaining factors in the regression. What is obvious from looking at the data is that conservative values and the dependency on family and parents play a role in being religious. Maybe a common religion is a binding factor for families. It could also be that the closeness to ones family makes it harder to rebel and think over the ideas obtained in the upbringing. In general traditional values of a person could hint to a character that does not doubt his surroundings.

People longing for secure environments seem to be more religious. Maybe this people are in difficult life situations which is why they need the security believe can provide. The same argument holds for the variables that evolve around the ability to handle stress and if human rights are protected in the respective country.

As expected a higher educational level and social status are inducing less religiosity. Being old or living in a small town also means more religiosity.

Surprisingly access to information is no significant factor. I would have thought that better information and more thinking about it, made increasingly doubtful about the world. Also state of health is not significant on its own. People don't get more religious just because they are in a dire situation with their health.

References

Hackett, C, Grim, B, 2012, 'The Global Religious Landscape', *Pew Research Center*

Iannaccone, L, 1998, 'Introduction to the Economics of Religion', *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 36, No. 3, pp. 1465-1495

Appendix – Tables

Table 1 – list of included variables

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| traditional values | Important in life: Family | Important child qualities: Obedience | One of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud | How proud of nationality |
| dire situation | State of health (subjective) | Most people can be trusted | Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair? | Schwartz: Living in secure surroundings is important to this person |
| | How democratically is this country being governed today | How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in this country | I see myself as someone who: is relaxed, handles stress well | Employment status |
| | Respondent immigrant | | | |
| free spirit | How much freedom of choice and control over own life | | | |
| status | Satisfaction with financial situation of household | How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Robberies | How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Alcohol consumed in the streets | How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Police or military interfere with people's private li |
| | How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Racist behavior | How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Drug sale in streets | Social class (subjective) | Scale of incomes |
| conservative | Self positioning in political scale | | | |
| sciencefocus | Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable | Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation | One of the bad effects of science is that it breaks down people's ideas of right and wrong | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| no other category | Thinking about meaning and purpose of life | I see myself as someone who: has an active imagination | I see myself as an autonomous individual | Sex |
| | Age | percentage of people in country who are not in a church | | |
| openness for new ideas | How proud of nationality | I see myself as a world citizen | I see myself as part of my local community | Size of town |
| Intelligence | Nature of tasks: manual vs0. intellectual | Highest educational level attained | | |
| access to information | Information source: Daily newspaper | Information source: Printed magazines | Information source: TV news | Information source: Radio news |
| | Information source: Mobile phone | Information source: Email | Information source: Internet | Was the respondent literate |

Table 2 – Cronbach’s Alpha for religiousness variable

Reliability Statistics

| Cronbach's Alpha | N of Items |
|------------------|------------|
| .691 | 8 |

Item-Total Statistics

| | Scale Mean if Item Deleted | Scale Variance if Item Deleted | Corrected Item-Total Correlation | Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| church Member | 20.5187 | 153.024 | .268 | .700 |
| Importance of God | 26.2137 | 179.944 | .404 | .676 |
| Importance Reigion | 25.3077 | 155.699 | .518 | .637 |
| child religious | 22.4283 | 133.611 | .403 | .668 |
| church attendance | 23.5572 | 137.292 | .540 | .620 |
| prayer | 24.8661 | 140.371 | .555 | .618 |
| religious person 10 | 26.1417 | 172.522 | .352 | .672 |
| believegod | 27.3243 | 179.449 | .221 | .691 |

Table 3 – Descriptives of religion index

Descriptives

| | Statistic | Std. Error |
|--|-----------|------------|
| | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| religion index | Mean | 29.5916 | .09218 |
| | 95% Confidence Interval for Mean | Lower Bound | 29.4110 |
| | | Upper Bound | 29.7723 |
| | 5% Trimmed Mean | 28.9491 | |
| | Median | 27.0833 | |
| | Variance | 365.505 | |
| | Std. Deviation | 19.11819 | |
| | Minimum | .00 | |
| | Maximum | 93.06 | |
| | Range | 93.06 | |
| | Interquartile Range | 28.87 | |
| | Skewness | .400 | .012 |
| | Kurtosis | -.480 | .024 |

Table 4 – Histogram of religion index

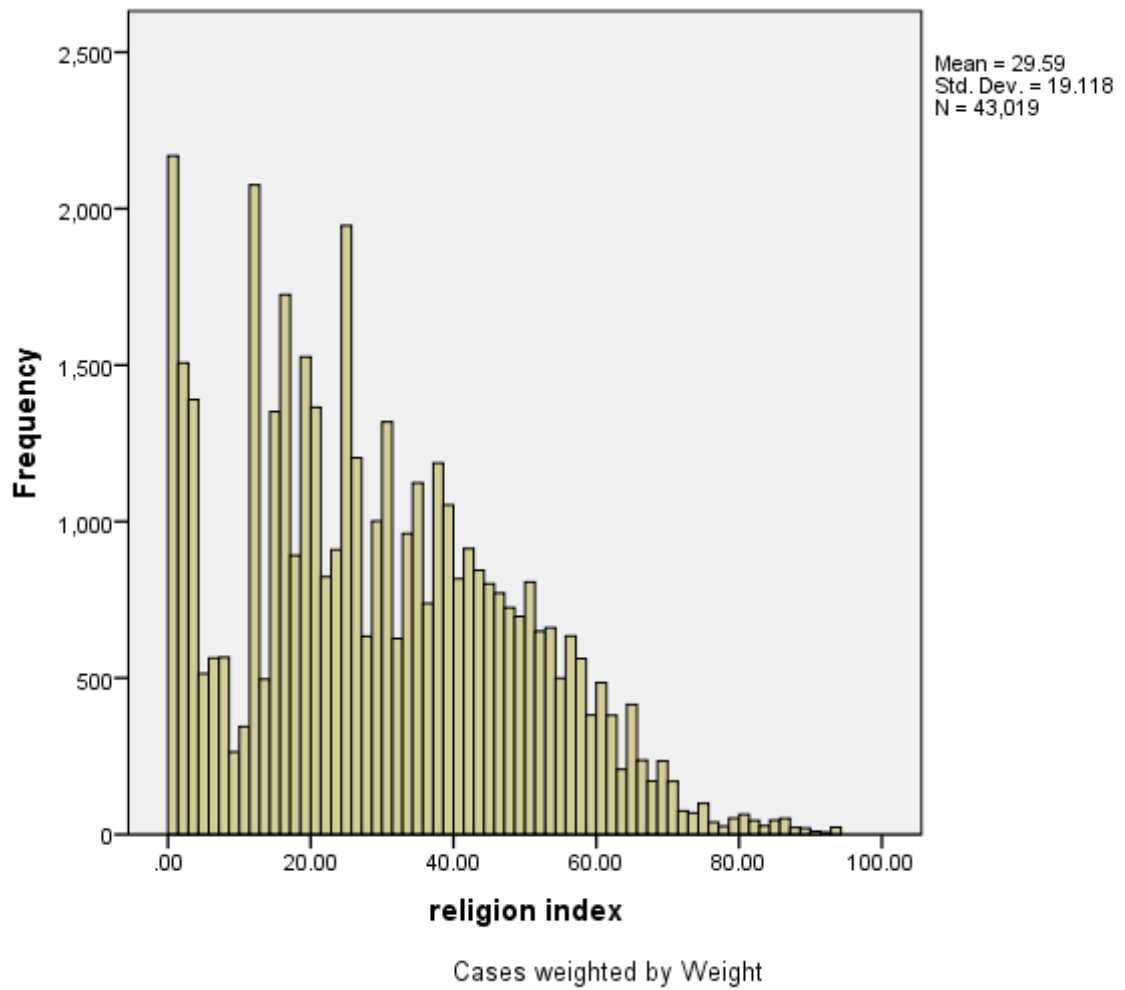


Table 5 – normality test of religion index

| Tests of Normality | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|
| | Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a | | |
| | Statistic | df | Sig. |
| religion index | .065 | 43019 | .000 |

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Table 6 – t-test for religion index

| One-Sample Test | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | Test Value = 29.5916 | | | | | |
| | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| religion index | .001 | 43018 | 1.000 | .00005 | -.1806 | .1807 |

Table 7 – independent samples t-tests for religion index

For sex:

| Independent Samples Test | | | religion index | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | | Equal variances assumed | Equal variances not assumed | |
| | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | F | | 45.092 | |
| Sig. | | .000 | | | |
| t-test for Equality of Means | t | | 5.781 | 5.763 | |
| | df | | 43002 | 41295.984 | |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 | .000 | |
| | Mean Difference | | 1.06891 | 1.06891 | |
| | Std. Error Difference | | .18491 | .18548 | |
| | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | Lower | | .70648 | .70537 |
| | | Upper | | 1.43135 | 1.43245 |

For lowest/highest education:

| Independent Samples Test | | | religion index | |
|------------------------------|---|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | Equal variances assumed | Equal variances not assumed |
| | Levene's Test for Equality of Variances | F | | 243.904 |
| Sig. | | .000 | | |
| t-test for Equality of Means | t | | -18.989 | -21.554 |
| | df | | 8359 | 3827.990 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 | .000 |
| | Mean Difference | | -9.31803 | -9.31803 |
| | Std. Error Difference | | .49072 | .43231 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | Lower | -10.27995 | -10.16561 |
| | | Upper | -8.35610 | -8.47045 |

Table 8 – Custom table for religion index with grouping education

| | religion index | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | Mean | Median | Percentile 05 | Percentile 95 | Variance |
| No formal education | 23.76 | 22.92 | 0.00 | 52.48 | 240.97 |
| Incomplete primary school | 23.41 | 20.54 | 0.00 | 54.17 | 276.86 |
| Complete primary school | 26.06 | 23.21 | 0.00 | 60.52 | 323.14 |
| Incomplete secondary school: technical/ vocational type | 26.97 | 25.00 | 1.39 | 60.02 | 319.53 |
| Complete secondary school: technical/ vocational type | 31.75 | 30.65 | 1.79 | 64.58 | 395.72 |
| Incomplete secondary school: university-preparatory type | 30.15 | 28.87 | 1.79 | 62.50 | 363.42 |
| Complete secondary school: university-preparatory type | 31.64 | 30.95 | 2.08 | 64.58 | 370.09 |
| Some university-level education, without degree | 28.52 | 25.69 | 0.00 | 63.49 | 370.08 |
| University - level education, with degree | 33.07 | 33.04 | 1.79 | 64.88 | 385.13 |

Table 9 – ANOVA for religion index grouped by education

ANOVA

religion index

| | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|----------------|----------------|-------|-------------|---------|------|
| Between Groups | 413282.989 | 8 | 51660.374 | 145.352 | .000 |
| Within Groups | 15197604.618 | 42760 | 355.416 | | |
| Total | 15610887.607 | 42768 | | | |

Table 10 – correlation of possible influencing variables and the religion index

| | | religion index |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| religion index | Pearson Correlation | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | |
| | N | 43019 |
| Important in life: Family | Pearson Correlation | .098** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 42953 |
| Important in life: Politics | Pearson Correlation | .073** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 42628 |
| State of health (subjective) | Pearson Correlation | .114** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 42909 |
| Important child qualities: Obedience | Pearson Correlation | .186** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 |
| | N | 43018 |
| Most people can be trusted | Pearson Correlation | -.084** |

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| | Sig. (2-tailed) N | .000 42119 |
| Would not like to have as neighbors: Immigrants/foreign workers | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.016** .001 43016 |
| One of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .162** .000 42133 |
| How much freedom of choice and control over own life | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.062** .000 42646 |
| Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair? | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .043** .000 42203 |
| Satisfaction with financial situation of household | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.039** .000 42886 |
| Schwartz: Living in secure surroundings is important to this person; to avoid anything that might be dangerous | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .168** .000 42574 |
| Interest in politics | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .048** .000 42791 |
| Political action: Signing a petition | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .012* .016 38561 |
| Political action: Joining in boycotts | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .004 .383 38418 |
| Political action: Attending peaceful demonstrations | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .045** .000 38820 |
| Political action: Joining strikes | Pearson Correlation | .044** |

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| | Sig. (2-tailed) N | .000 38669 |
| Political action: Any other act of protest | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .021** .000 35627 |
| Self positioning in political scale | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.074** .000 34625 |
| How democratically is this country being governed today | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.035** .000 40744 |
| How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in this country | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .010* .044 41209 |
| Thinking about meaning and purpose of life | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .151** .000 42672 |
| I see myself as someone who: is relaxed, handles stress well | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.053** .000 15976 |
| I see myself as someone who: has an active imagination | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.010 .230 15753 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Robberies | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .099** .000 41237 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Alcohol consumed in the streets | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .063** .000 41587 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Police or military interfere with people's private li | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .057** .000 39702 |

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Racist behavior | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .073** .000 38225 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Drug sale in streets | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .111** .000 37085 |
| Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .050** .000 42176 |
| Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .049** .000 42105 |
| We depend too much on science and not enough on faith | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.052** .000 41761 |
| One of the bad effects of science is that it breaks down people's ideas of right and wrong | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.125** .000 40928 |
| How proud of nationality | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .148** .000 42689 |
| I see myself as a world citizen | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .127** .000 41563 |
| I see myself as part of my local community | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .248** 0.000 42239 |
| I see myself as an autonomous individual | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .128** .000 41256 |
| Information source: Daily newspaper | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) | -.064** .000 |

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| | N | 42163 |
| Information source: Printed magazines | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.071** .000 42030 |
| Information source: TV news | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.068** .000 42218 |
| Information source: Radio news | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .110** .000 42117 |
| Information source: Mobile phone | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .034** .000 42020 |
| Information source: Email | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.061** .000 41918 |
| Information source: Internet | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.090** .000 41990 |
| Employment status | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.093** .000 42251 |
| Nature of tasks: manual vs. intellectual | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .051** .000 34507 |
| Social class (subjective) | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.084** .000 42341 |
| Scale of incomes | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | .039** .000 42242 |
| Sex | Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N | -.028** .000 43004 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|
| Age | Pearson Correlation | -.018** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 42995 |
| Respondent immigrant | Pearson Correlation | .039** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 41098 |
| Highest educational level attained | Pearson Correlation | .134** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 42770 |
| Size of town | Pearson Correlation | .075** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 34774 |
| Was the respondent literate | Pearson Correlation | -.107** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |
| | N | 38582 |
| percentage of people in country who are not in a church | Pearson Correlation | .252** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 |
| | N | 43019 |

Table 11 – coefficients of the first regression with all correlated factors

| | | Coefficients ^a | | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
| Model | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | 13.936 | 3.929 | | 3.547 | .000 |
| | Important in life: Family | 3.448 | .574 | .081 | 6.008 | .000 |
| | Important in life: Politics | .425 | .255 | .025 | 1.665 | .096 |
| | State of health (subjective) | .074 | .310 | .003 | .239 | .811 |
| | Important child qualities: Obedience | 1.704 | .471 | .049 | 3.621 | .000 |
| | Most people can be trusted | -.407 | .615 | -.009 | -.663 | .507 |
| | One of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud | 1.775 | .333 | .075 | 5.326 | .000 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|------|--------|--------|------|
| How much freedom of choice and control over own life | -0.150 | .119 | -0.018 | -1.263 | .207 |
| Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair? | .007 | .089 | .001 | .074 | .941 |
| Satisfaction with financial situation of household | -0.165 | .111 | -0.022 | -1.483 | .138 |
| Schwartz: Living in secure surroundings is important to this person; to avoid anything that might be dangerous | 1.418 | .185 | .108 | 7.655 | .000 |
| Interest in politics | -0.736 | .270 | -0.043 | -2.722 | .007 |
| Political action: Signing a petition | .288 | .353 | .013 | .815 | .415 |
| Political action: Attending peaceful demonstrations | 1.050 | .383 | .044 | 2.740 | .006 |
| Political action: Joining strikes | .520 | .444 | .020 | 1.173 | .241 |
| Political action: Any other act of protest | -0.450 | .462 | -0.016 | -0.975 | .330 |
| Self positioning in political scale | -0.302 | .096 | -0.042 | -3.135 | .002 |
| How democratically is this country being governed today | .167 | .101 | .024 | 1.664 | .096 |
| How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in this country | -1.014 | .269 | -0.055 | -3.772 | .000 |
| Thinking about meaning and purpose of life | 1.890 | .268 | .097 | 7.065 | .000 |
| I see myself as someone who: is relaxed, handles stress well | -0.806 | .182 | -0.060 | -4.433 | .000 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Robberies | 1.158 | .290 | .065 | 3.993 | .000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|--------|------|
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Alcohol consumed in the streets | .184 | .277 | .012 | .665 | .506 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Police or military interfere with people's private li | .096 | .320 | .005 | .301 | .763 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Racist behavior | .324 | .316 | .017 | 1.025 | .306 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Drug sale in streets | .453 | .283 | .028 | 1.602 | .109 |
| Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable | .067 | .129 | .009 | .521 | .602 |
| Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation | .083 | .130 | .010 | .642 | .521 |
| One of the bad effects of science is that it breaks down people's ideas of right and wrong | -.143 | .089 | -.021 | -1.597 | .110 |
| How proud of nationality | 1.274 | .325 | .058 | 3.922 | .000 |
| I see myself as a world citizen | -.367 | .282 | -.019 | -1.302 | .193 |
| I see myself as part of my local community | 1.771 | .346 | .075 | 5.120 | .000 |
| Information source: Daily newspaper | -.239 | .177 | -.022 | -1.353 | .176 |
| Information source: Printed magazines | .353 | .211 | .027 | 1.675 | .094 |
| Information source: TV news | .301 | .242 | .018 | 1.245 | .213 |
| Information source: Radio news | .215 | .160 | .019 | 1.346 | .178 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| Information source: Mobile phone | -.172 | .150 | -.017 | -1.140 | .254 |
| Information source: Email | -.064 | .251 | -.006 | -.255 | .799 |
| Information source: Internet | -.094 | .249 | -.009 | -.377 | .706 |
| Employment status | -.186 | .113 | -.023 | -1.641 | .101 |
| Nature of tasks: manual vs. intellectual | .208 | .084 | .036 | 2.465 | .014 |
| Social class (subjective) | -.193 | .247 | -.012 | -.783 | .434 |
| Scale of incomes | -.048 | .124 | -.006 | -.386 | .699 |
| Sex | -3.038 | .470 | -.087 | -6.463 | .000 |
| Age | -.111 | .017 | -.097 | -6.377 | .000 |
| Respondent immigrant | -1.705 | 1.302 | -.018 | -1.309 | .190 |
| Highest educational level attained | -.269 | .118 | -.036 | -2.288 | .022 |
| Size of town | .167 | .102 | .025 | 1.633 | .102 |
| Was the respondent literate | 1.664 | 1.181 | .019 | 1.409 | .159 |
| percentage of people in country who are not in a church | 5.227 | 3.232 | .026 | 1.617 | .106 |

a. Dependent Variable: religion index

Table 12 – reliability for access to information

Reliability Statistics

| Cronbach's Alpha | N of Items |
|------------------|------------|
| .718 | 8 |

Item-Total Statistics

| | Scale Mean if Item Deleted | Scale Variance if Item Deleted | Corrected Item-Total Correlation | Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Information source: Daily newspaper | 18.68 | 34.953 | .462 | .678 |
| Information source: Printed magazines | 17.88 | 36.167 | .528 | .668 |
| Information source: TV news | 20.08 | 42.481 | .193 | .724 |
| Information source: Radio news | 19.02 | 37.947 | .267 | .723 |
| Information source: Mobile phone | 18.71 | 33.551 | .442 | .684 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|------|
| Information source: Email | 17.89 | 31.760 | .623 | .637 |
| Information source: Internet | 18.22 | 31.652 | .571 | .649 |
| Was the respondent literate | 20.50 | 45.275 | .233 | .726 |

Table 13 – reliability of neighborhood variables

Reliability Statistics

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Cronbach's Alpha | N of Items |
| .808 | 5 |

Item-Total Statistics

| | Scale Mean if Item Deleted | Scale Variance if Item Deleted | Corrected Item-Total Correlation | Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Robberies | 13.39 | 7.339 | .615 | .764 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Alcohol consumed in the streets | 13.56 | 6.840 | .610 | .769 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Police or military interfere with people's private li | 13.05 | 8.115 | .562 | .781 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Racist behavior | 13.00 | 8.213 | .550 | .785 |
| How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Drug sale in streets | 13.16 | 7.090 | .654 | .752 |

Table 13 – new regression with check for multicollinearity

| Model | Coefficients ^a | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. | Collinearity Statistics | |
| | B | Std. Error | Beta | | | Tolerance | VIF |
| 1 (Constant) | 18.093 | 3.086 | | 5.863 | .000 | | |
| Important in life: Family | 3.896 | .537 | .092 | 7.262 | .000 | .923 | 1.083 |
| State of health (subjective) | -.023 | .294 | -.001 | -.077 | .938 | .829 | 1.206 |
| Important child qualities: Obedience | 2.104 | .443 | .060 | 4.748 | .000 | .919 | 1.088 |
| One of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud | 1.653 | .314 | .070 | 5.269 | .000 | .847 | 1.181 |
| How much freedom of choice and control over own life | -.201 | .112 | -.024 | -1.797 | .072 | .831 | 1.203 |
| Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair? | -.005 | .084 | -.001 | -.057 | .954 | .909 | 1.100 |
| Satisfaction with financial situation of household | -.157 | .106 | -.021 | -1.489 | .137 | .766 | 1.306 |
| Schwartz: Living in secure surroundings is important to this person; to avoid anything that might be dangerous | 1.662 | .174 | .127 | 9.535 | .000 | .838 | 1.193 |
| Self positioning in political scale | -.263 | .092 | -.036 | -2.862 | .004 | .933 | 1.071 |
| How democratically is this country being governed today | .123 | .095 | .018 | 1.291 | .197 | .783 | 1.276 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|------|-------|--------|------|------|-------|
| How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in this country | -1.038 | .251 | -.055 | -4.127 | .000 | .825 | 1.212 |
| Thinking about meaning and purpose of life | 2.034 | .252 | .103 | 8.056 | .000 | .910 | 1.099 |
| I see myself as someone who: is relaxed, handles stress well | -.699 | .172 | -.051 | -4.062 | .000 | .934 | 1.070 |
| Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable | .073 | .123 | .009 | .588 | .557 | .605 | 1.654 |
| Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation | .078 | .123 | .010 | .636 | .525 | .618 | 1.617 |
| One of the bad effects of science is that it breaks down people's ideas of right and wrong | -.141 | .085 | -.021 | -1.665 | .096 | .943 | 1.061 |
| How proud of nationality | 1.063 | .301 | .048 | 3.536 | .000 | .793 | 1.261 |
| I see myself as a world citizen | -.392 | .266 | -.020 | -1.478 | .140 | .830 | 1.204 |
| I see myself as part of my local community | 1.810 | .324 | .077 | 5.581 | .000 | .784 | 1.275 |
| Employment status | -.177 | .106 | -.022 | -1.666 | .096 | .870 | 1.150 |
| Nature of tasks: manual vs. intellectual | .253 | .079 | .044 | 3.196 | .001 | .796 | 1.257 |
| Social class (subjective) | -.334 | .230 | -.020 | -1.453 | .146 | .759 | 1.317 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|-------|
| Scale of incomes | -.055 | .116 | -.007 | -.477 | .633 | .735 | 1.361 |
| Sex | -2.622 | .440 | -.075 | -5.966 | .000 | .945 | 1.058 |
| Age | -.122 | .016 | -.107 | -7.699 | .000 | .768 | 1.301 |
| Respondent immigrant | -.489 | 1.194 | -.005 | -.410 | .682 | .895 | 1.118 |
| Highest educational level attained | -.367 | .106 | -.049 | -3.467 | .001 | .735 | 1.361 |
| Size of town | .197 | .091 | .029 | 2.161 | .031 | .823 | 1.215 |
| percentage of people in country who are not in a church | 4.358 | 2.627 | .025 | 1.659 | .097 | .659 | 1.518 |
| information index | .010 | .038 | .004 | .251 | .802 | .756 | 1.322 |
| quality of neighborhood | .067 | .009 | .095 | 7.454 | .000 | .911 | 1.098 |

a. Dependent Variable: religion index