Factors Influencing Morality

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Abstract

Morality is a psychic trait specific to each individual. Morality was reflected by a morality test, and the variables followed were gender, age, school, occupation, families, condition and causes that led to involvement in volunteering. In order to highlight the characteristics that influence morality, a questionnaire was applied to 384 individuals and the multinomial logistic regression analysis was performed using SPSS. The results indicated that demographic variables and volunteering significantly influence the level of morality.

Key words: morality, questionnaire, demographic variables, multinomial logistic regression.
J.E.L. classification: C35, C80, C87.

1. Introduction

Morality is a specific feature of each individual, based on a certain philosophy, religion, education, culture. Morality influences the way we feel, act, and think about "good" and "bad."

The literature on morality explains the emergence of moral norms based on the process of natural selection. An individual with a high morality can give up personal benefit in favor of the benefit of other individuals, and in this case would have a reduced ability to adapt compared to those who receive the benefit. In this context, the purpose of this paper is to highlight the factors influencing morality, especially that morality depends on many characteristics and influences many aspects.

In order to do this, a questionnaire was realized, being applied to a random sample of 384 people practising volunteering. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and multinomial logistics analysis and SPSS software. The variables used are demographic characteristics (age - intervals), gender, studies - high school, post-secondary school, college, postgraduate course, master, doctorate) and volunteering (period when working as a volunteer, marital status, causes and benefits of volunteering, field in which he perform as a volunteer, and occupation) and morality level (score for morality test).

Therefore, the article is structured as follows. Section 1 highlights the relevance of topic and the main aim of our research, section 2 is dedicated presenting the theretical background regarding morality, section 3 presents the data and methodology, and the last part reflects the main results and conclusions.

2. Theoretical background

According to the dictionary, morality is a perception of behavior that differentiates intentions, decisions and actions. The etymology of the word moral is the Latin moralitas, which means manners, character, appropriate behavior.

Morality may be used in a descriptive and normative sense. In a descriptive sense, morality refers to certain codes of conduct presented by a society or a group or accepted by a person for his or her own behavior. In a normative sense, morality refers to a code of conduct proposed by all rational people (Gert and Gert, 2020).

In general, the definitions of morality have been directed towards the notion of moral judgment (Hare 1952, 1981). Sinnott-Armstrong (2016) argues that morality itself is not a unified field. Greene (2013) argues that morality is a set of psychological adaptations in order to allow selfish individuals to reap the benefits of cooperation. Haidt (2011) argues that moral systems are sets of values, virtues, norms, practices, identities, institutions, technologies, and evolved psychological mechanisms that work together to suppress or regulate self-interest and make cooperative societies possible.

Kohlberg (1963) studied the growth and development of morality and the gradual formation of consciousness and concludes that morality has three levels, each with two stages of development: i) level 1 with stage 1- orientation towards submission and punishment and stage 2- relativistic instrumental orientation corresponds to conventional morality (4-10 years); ii) level 2 with stage 3- orientation towards being a good child and stage 4-orientation towards order and discipline, corresponds to conventional morality (10-13 years) and iii) level 3 with stage 5 - orientation towards legality and stage 6 - moral judgment based on personal conscience, corresponds to conventional morality (adolescent, maturity).

3. Research methodology

In order to assess the extent to which the value of the morality test is influenced by demographic variables and volunteering, a database was developed in the SPSS program package and the multinomial logistic regression analysis was performed. The sample was formed from 384 indivudulas practicing voluntering random selected. The analyzed variables are age (intervals), gender, studies (high school, post-secondary school, college, postgraduate course, master, doctorate), period when working as a volunteer, marital status, causes and benefits of volunteering, field in which he perform as a volunteer, and occupation, and the dependent variable is the morality level, considering the value of the morality test.

Multinomial logistic regression is a statistical method used to predict categorical placement or the probability of categorical membership. Independent variables can be either dichotomous or continuous (interval or scale ratio). Multinomial logistic regression is an extension of binary logistic regression, allowing more than two categories of the dependent or result variable (Starkweather and Moske, 2011).

4. Results

As it can be seen from Table 1, for the chosen sample, the minimum level of the morality test rate was 0, the maximum level was 3, and average value was 1.7474, with a standard deviation of 0.87.

Table no. 1. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
sexul	384	1	2	1,73	,442	,196	-1,065	,125	-,869	,248
stareciv	384	1	3	1,72	,709	,503	,454	,125	-,932	,248
inceputul	384	1	2	1,35	,476	,227	,648	,125	-1,588	,248
familie	384	1	3	1,08	,296	,088	4,023	,125	16,991	,248
şcoală	384	1	6	3,61	1,240	1,538	-,106	,125	-,483	,248
ocupatia	384	1	5	2,09	,779	,607	1,632	,125	4,003	,248
cauzele care v-au determinat să vă implicaţi ca voluntar	384	1	7	2,80	1,433	2,053	,923	,125	1,067	,248
timp	384	1	3	2,23	,720	,518	-,378	,125	-1,009	,248
Varsta	384	1	6	3,23	1,198	1,434	,142	,125	-,421	,248
starea	384	1	3	2,01	,511	,261	,017	,125	,866	,248
Test	384	,00	3,00	1,7474	,87688	,769	,305	,125	-1,266	,248
Valid N (listwise)	384									

Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

Furthermore, variables (gender, school and time) indicates negative asymmetries, with a deviation to the left. The rest of the variables have positive asymmetries, deviating to the right (the variable value of the morality test, although it has a positive value, is close to 0, which is more like a normal distribution, the other variables have distributions that differ significantly from a normal distribution). Regarding the Kurtosis indicator, the variables family, occupation, causes and status register values higher than 0, indicating a stronger grouping of values around the central value, showing a leptocurtic distribution, and for the rest of the variables are negative values, indicating a weaker grouping around the central value, the frequency curve being more flattened, therefore, it has a platicurtic distribution.

Figure no. 1. P-P Plot
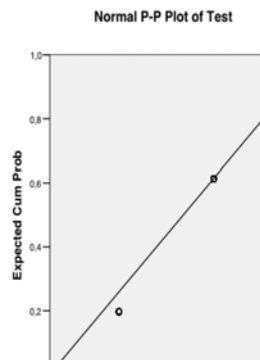
Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

From the P-P diagram it is observed that most of the values of the morality test are close to the average, closely following the points of the normal curve.

All variables have multiple response variants, so dummy variables were created for each variable. A multinomial logistic regression was performed. In Table 2 were presented informations on the estimated model.

Table no. 2. Model Fitting Information

Model Fitting Information

Model	Model Fitting Criteria			Likelihood Ratio Tests		
	AIC	BIC	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	604,679	620,460	596,679			
Final	488,132	977,364	240,132	356,547	120	,000

Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

It is observed that the statistical value of 2Log Likelihood is significant. The simplest model does not contain any of the predictor variables, only the constant. The final model uses the grouping of the best predictors, which is significant. The results obtained in Table 3 and Table 4 provide information on the degree to which the estimated coefficients explain the phenomenon studied more efficiently.

Table no. 3. Goodness of Fit

Goodness-of-Fit

	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Pearson	759,125	384	,000
Deviance	196,677	384	1,000

Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

Consequently, we deduce that there is no significant difference between the 2 models and we can consider that the estimate is correct.

Table no. 4.Goodness of Fit

Pseudo R-Square

Cox and Snell	,607
Nagelkerke	,714
McFadden	,492

Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

Regarding the correlation between a set of predictors and the category variables, in our case, 3 calculation methods were used and we notice that the result has values higher than 0.5. This result indicates a combined overall correlation between the independent variables and the dependent variable.

The significance of each regression coefficient is given by the Wald test. In our case the significant level of this test (Sig column) is less than 0.05, so the parameters can be kept in the model.

Table no. 5. Classification

Classification

Observed	satisfactie	autorealizare	socializare	dezvoltare	implinire	Percent Correct
			Predicted			
satisfactie	258	0	5	8	0	95,2%
autorealizare	17	16	1	3	0	43,2%
socializare	18	0	15	0	0	45,5%
dezvoltare	14	0	0	24	0	63,2%
implinire	0	0	0	0	3	100,0%
Overall Percentage	80,4%	4,2%	5,5%	9,2%	,8%	82,7%

Source: Authors projection, using SPSS

Table 5 presents a classification of the accuracy of the estimates. Given the parameters obtained, it shows what predictions could be obtained given the independent variables and how accurate these predictions could be.

5. Conclusions

Morality is a trait that depends on many characteristics and influences many aspects, so it is important to know the factors that influence this trait, in oder to can intervene.

Following the analysis of the sample of 384 individuals who practice voluntarily, it was found that morality is normally distributed, and voluntary actions, and demographic traits significantly influence the level of morality.

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