



ע"ש ד"ר מג'די אבו לטיף - على اسم الدكتور مجدي أبو لطيف - Named after Dr. Majdi Abo Latif

God created Man and Man created religions

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Abstract

In the discussion of "God had Created Man, Man created religion," different studies were explored that included 17 books and articles. The information gathered highlighted that God created heavens and earth, and then He created man. Also, He created females and provided them with dominance over other species on the earth. Moreover, He provided them with food and told them to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth. Also, the articles and books mentioned that religions are man-made, as per different concepts that man had towards Gods/Goddesses. Moreover, the religions he created were based on the morals, beliefs, and values of the person, living in the society. Also, in man-made religions, there are different symbolism of Gods/Goddesses to which people are attracted and often change their religion based on mythological stories. Also, there are religious books that are rewritten time by time to match their statements and verses with the current time so that they can be applied in the current time.

Keywords: *God, Man, Religion, Hinduism, Jews, Christianity, Muslims, Islam, Buddhism, Atheism*



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Introduction

Monotheistic thought provides the view of the God as creator, supreme big, and principal object of faith. God is considered omniscient, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, and omnipresent with necessary and external existence (Nash, 1983). In line with this, God is needed to be incorporeal along with the characteristics of being immanence and transcendence. There are some religions in which God is considered to be related to a specific gender. Just like the religion of Hinduism, there are certain Goddesses, while others are male Gods which highlights the God having a gender (Bansal, 2005). Adding to this, God has been conceived as impersonal or personal also. However, in theism, God is the sustainer of the universe. In addition to this talking about deism, God is not the sustainer, but the creator of the universe. In pantheism, the term God denotes the universe while the universe is part of it but not fully God (Morris, 1987). In contrast, atheism argues that there is no God, while agnosticism mentions that the existence of God is unknowable and unknown.

Coming to the topic "God Created Man," the concept can be taken from the book Coddington (n.d.) in which Genesis 1:1 mentions that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth". This is the introductory verse which has different interpretations throughout chapter 1 of the book. In chapter 2:4 it is mentioned that God "laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of [His] hands (Cockerill, 1999)." It further is mentioned that this was the beginning of the creation of the universe. The



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beginning is about commencing the time to demonstrate that there should be a definite origin for the universe's creation (Benware, 2001). However, in Hebrew, God means more than one. However, Erickson (1998) highlights that God is for the creation of the world. By the verse, it has appeared that Father is the one who brought the universe into existence by creating it. It further is mentioned in the same book as the verse, “Although the creation is from the Father, it is through the Son and by the Holy Spirit (Erickson, 1998, p 373).” It is mentioned by Borchert (1996) that, “through [the Son] all things were made [...]by [the Son] all things were created.” Created word has the meaning “to form” or “to make” which is utilized in Bible when the subject is God. The created word covers the things which God has made, which includes the heavens and the earth, and man.

However, after God created man, man created different religions through his perspective toward God. Christians are monotheistic and believe in one God only who created earth and heaven. In line with this, Altizer (2012) mentioned that the Godhead in Christianity is comprising here of “the father (God himself), the son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.” Adding to this, Hindus have multiple Gods and Goddesses but they universally believe in Brahman who is worshiped in different forms. There are female and male deities (Gross, 1978). These are in animal and human forms also. Muslims however believe in one God and his oneness. Muslims believe that God is the creator of all things and is the one who is powerful with no offspring, no gender, no race, no body, and has unaffected by characteristics of human life (Koenig & Shohaib, 2014). Jews,



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however, believe in a single God who created the universe and the Jews can have with God personal or individual relationships (Shandler, 2009). Buddhists however do not believe in God and believe that there are supernatural forces that hinder or help people on earth (Pyysiäinen, 2003).

Hence, the current scientific research is to gather information about the topic and to explore that God had created Man and Man created religions.



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Literature Review

God had Created Man

By coming on the topic first the concept of God should be under consideration. There are different religions that have different concepts towards God but in a monotheistic view, God is the principal object of faith, is a creator, and is supreme big. It has been put forward by Nash (1983) that God is omnipresent, omnibenevolent, omniscient, and omnipotent. Adding to this, Bansal (2005) mentioned that God is free from the characteristics of humans and is immanent and transcendence. However, he further added that there are most religions that have gender biases toward God. This includes the major religion of Hinduism which have different human and animal Gods and Goddesses (Chandra, 1998). In most, the religion God does not have any gender just like the religion Islam in which God is only one and is powerful and free from the heir. The religions are man-made which denotes the different concepts of man towards God (SHAKER & SHAMKHI, 2008). This will be discussed in the latter section.

Coddington, (n.d.) in verse 27 mentioned that “God did everything He planned. So, God created man in His own image - male and female He created them.” In the next verse, it is mentioned that “He shares his plan for man; He personally assigns his mission to the humans; He tells them about His plan for them; He plans it, He does it, and then He tells them about it; God was very involved; He dealt with them very differently from the



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beginning; they are very special and unique; God carefully planned what kind of being they would be and what they would do.”

It is also mentioned in Genesis that God created Man in his own image and he created females and blessed them by telling them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with subdue it and have dominion over sea and fish and over birds of the air and over the things which moves in the Earth. In line with this, it is also mentioned that God said to Behold that He has given the man and woman with plant yielding seed that is on the face of all earth and in the trees with seed in fruits that one can have it in the form of food. Also, it is mentioned that every beast on earth and bird in the air, and the ones that creep on earth and the ones that had the breath of life on earth is provided. Moreover, God-given males and females plant to have food and saw things that He created and behold, which was good (Coddington, n.d.).

The concept of God having created man can be seen in the book Genesis in which verse 1:1 is “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” However, in 2:4 it is highlighted that God has made foundations of the heavens, and earth which are made up of his hands (Cockerill, 1999; Coddington, n.d.). Further, it is mentioned that the creation of the earth and heaven foundation was the beginning of the creation by God. Benware (2001) mentioned that the beginning is regarding time commencement for demonstrating that there should be a definite origin for the universe. The concept of Hebrew is different from God which is that “God is more than one.” it is mentioned by



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Erickson (1998, p 373) that God is for creating the world. Father is the one who bought the universe into existence. Bible has mentioned that “the creation is from the Father, it is through the Son and by the Holy Spirit.” Moreover, Borchert (1996) highlighted that creation is about formation, and the creative word is used for God to denote whenever anything from God is created in the heavens and the earth.

Man Created Religions

Religion is a factor that is complicated in lives however it is a man-made concept. By focusing on any religion one can note some inconsistent and controversial statements. There however are different articles to explain the points like such. If the person focuses on undiscussed arguments that can be about religious man-made concepts and the personality of God the man has made in his mind. In different religions, God displays anger, disappointment, happiness, regret, and other emotions. However, it is not possible that the entity having such powers can feel the same emotions that a human does. It is because emotions show human characteristics from which God should be free. God's attributes however are the reflection of its creators. Just like Hindu Gods and Goddesses are there in which some are the Gods who show anger and are only there to protect the people when they are vulnerable, abused, or harassed (Mohanty, 2009). In Hinduism, Goddess Kali is known as the Goddess of Dark which also can be noticed in the temples where the image of Kali is present (Manzar, 2021). There are other Gods too whose images are calm and are for prosperity, money, and peace (Krishnaswami, 2006).



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Religion being man-made does not disapprove of the fact that the Bible and other religions were constructed more than hundreds of years ago. Archeologists also have found that the bible was pronounced is found to be from 1380 years (Daniell, 2003). Over years bible too was translated into various languages and was re-written also. Also, there are some outdated principles that were found. It is written however that God is a reflection of man and the bible is a reflection of time. There have been different principles in the bible which are also noticed to be absurd but are bought in current times also. An example can be found of the label as sexist like mentioned in Timothy 2:11 that “I permit no woman to teach or have the authority of man.” The verse, however, was a reflection of the time when women were below men and cannot be seen more than as sex objects. However, in 1380 it is for that time appropriate to believe that woman has no right to teach a man. However, the verse in the current times seems controversial as we do not focus on equality.

Apart from the bible, there are other books in Islam that were rewritten and molded by the people based on their times and their needs from the world and from its people. Whether it be a matter of debt or any other (Ummaru & Sharif, 2020). Religion is hence being created by man which is not an idea that most leads to self-doubt and pure chaos. However, it brings questions about what the nature of humans is and why answers are needed by humans. The religious system is for around centuries and different people have formed different religions based on their perspectives, values, beliefs, and morals so



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that the people can live in a peaceful society. It further is possible that the time goes the same way as that of the Greek and Roman beliefs which are now labeled as myths, whether it be about Zeus, Athena, Medusa, or any other mythological God/Goddess. Eventually same can occur with Judaism, Islam, and Christianity along with other religions after centuries and decades pass.

Hence, man created religion by his perspective towards God. In Hinduism, the images are made and even the God/Goddess dolls are created to have an image of the God. Similarly, in Christianity, the statue of Christ is worshiped. Symbolism is also used in religion, like, in Jesus' statute one can see a cross that means sacrifice (Agarwala, Mishra & Singh, 2021). However, in the statue of the Hindu Goddess Kali, the symbolism is of the death of the ego which is the goal of human life, along with moksha which is liberation from the rebirth cycle. Similarly, other Gods and their symbolism predicts something which denotes the people's perspective toward life. Moreover, people have the right to choose their religion (Deloria, 1992); which is why it is noticed that people are attracted to the symbolism of God which denotes what they want in life.

Furthermore, Altizer (2012) highlighted that there are Godhead in Christianity which includes the Holy Spirit, the Father, and the Son. While Hindus universally believe in Brahman which is worshiped in various forms. They have the concept of different God and Goddesses (Gross, 1978). Adding to this, Hinduism also has the concept of human and animal forms in Gods and Goddesses. Koenig & Shohaib (2014) highlighted that,



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Muslim however believe in one God which has no gender, no offspring, no race, and is powerful and unaffected by characteristics of human life. Shandler (2009) mentioned that Jews believe in a single God and can have an individual and personal relationship with it. Pyysiäinen (2003) highlighted that Buddhists do not believe in God but in supernatural forces that help mankind on earth.

Material and Methods

Research Design

It is significant to select the research design of the study as it provides the researcher with the path toward the conclusion. It is important to select appropriate methods for the research as it provides an ease to the researcher and also helps in gaining deeper insights. Hence, the current scientific research article will be following the inductive approach, interpretivism philosophy, secondary data collection, and qualitative data analysis. These are discussed in the sections below for a better understanding of each.



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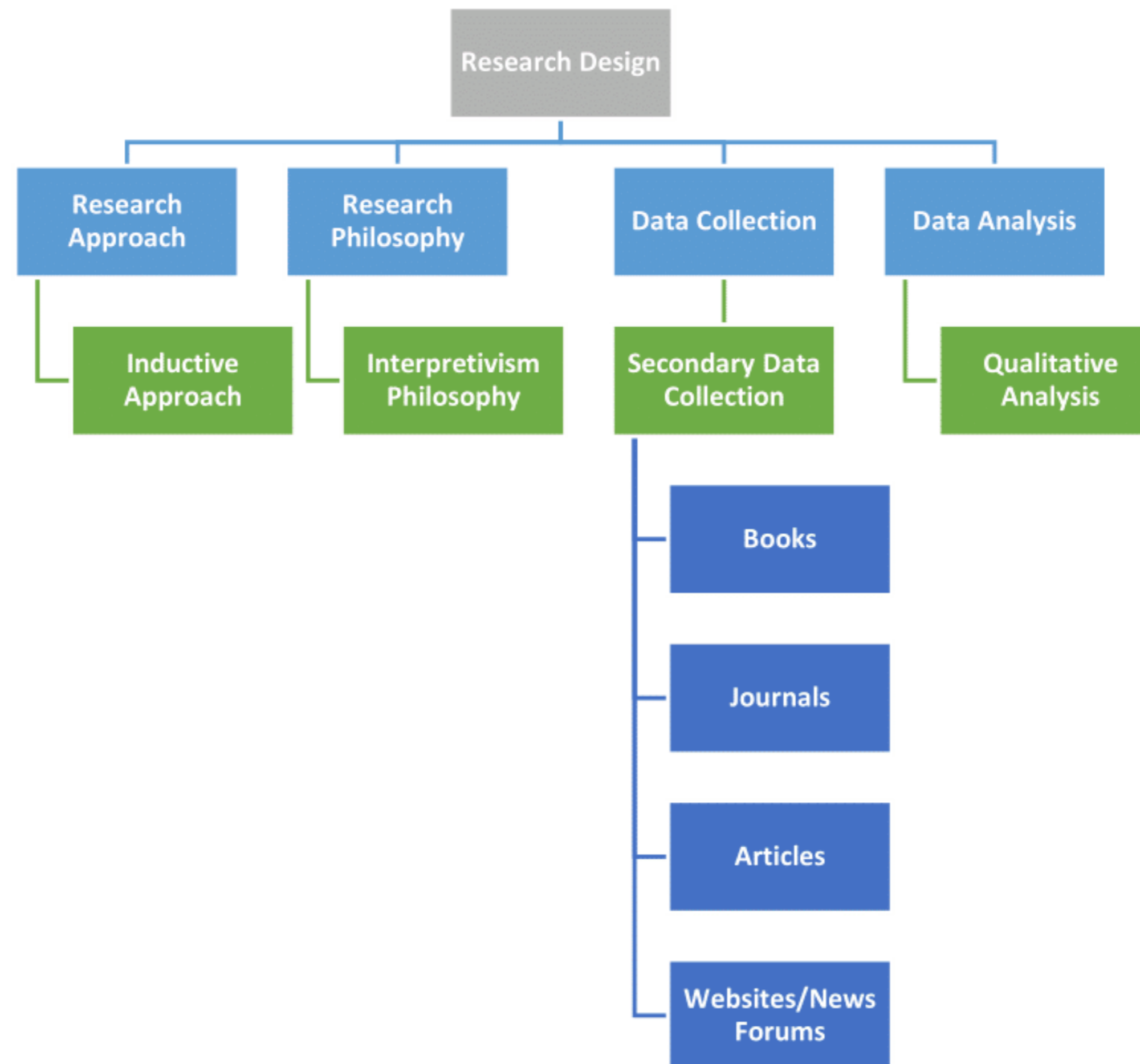


Figure 1: Research Design (Self-formed)

Research Approach

The research approach provides different paradigms to be considered by the researcher so that the researcher can employ an approach to the draft conclusion. There are two major types of research approaches which are deductive and inductive. However, there are other types too but those are not used much by the researchers. These are abductive, exploratory, and explanatory research approaches. Deductive and inductive are used in the research that is focused on quantitative and qualitative data. The current research does not require any quantitative information which is why deductive is omitted from the choice. The researchers will be using the inductive approach to support



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qualitative data for the current research in scientific article formation. The inductive approach will begin by collecting the relevant data with respect to the interest and the topic. Once the data is collected, the researcher will be having bird's eye view of the data and will look for patterns in data for the development of a theory that can explain those patterns. As for the current topic "God created Man and Man created Religions" the data will be collected and patterns will be analyzed, with which the theory will be developed which will be of the general level of focus. The process is also evident from the figure below:



Figure 2: Inductive Approach (Sheppard, 2020)

Research Philosophy

There are different research philosophies that can be used in different types of studies and scientific research. These are pragmatism, positivism, and interpretivism. However, pragmatism is used in research that has both quantitative and qualitative components. While, positivism is used in research that has an entirely quantitative component that involvement of statistics, calculations, and measurements. The current



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study will be having qualitative component by analyzing different studies and articles on the topic. Also, this will have descriptive content throughout, which is why the chosen philosophy is interpretivism. Interpretivism research philosophy is known as interpretivist as it involves researchers interpreting the elements of the study. Thus, the philosophy integrates human interest into the study. Since, the topic is “God created man, and Man created Religion” hence it has contradicting research and is debatable which is why it has a human interest in the study. Interpretive researchers focus on accessing the reality which is socially constructed or given. The formation of the philosophy is based on the positivism critique with respect to social sciences. The philosophy hence supports qualitative analysis over quantitative analysis. Interpretivism is appropriate for the current research as it is for weak prediction and understanding, focus on interest is unique and deviant, and the knowledge which is generated is of meanings, relative to culture, context, time, and values.

Data Collection

There are two forms of data collection which are primary and secondary data collection. Primary data collection is the first-hand source with which the researchers collect data. This can be done through observations, questionnaire surveys, interviews (close-ended) or (open-ended), and experimentation. However, secondary data collection is done by exploring different books, articles, university libraries, websites, and news. For the current research, the researcher will be using secondary data collection. The



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researcher for the creation of scientific research on the topic will be exploring different books, articles, journals, news, and websites to gain enough knowledge and understanding so that different patterns of data can be collected. There are 17 (articles and books) that were explored to gather data regarding the topic.

Data Analysis

There are three ways in which the researcher can do data analysis and interpretation, this can be done by qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method analysis. The quantitative analysis deals with measurements and numbers which is not the requirement of the study. Mixed method analysis deals with the research having both qualitative and quantitative components hence is omitted for the choice too. However, qualitative analysis is one that provides descriptive information to the readers. The core requirement of the topic is also to explore different studies and to analyze the pattern of data collected. Qualitative research includes the analysis and collection of non-numerical data for understanding opinions, concepts, and experiences. In the current research of “God created man, and Man created Religion” different opinions of different authors will be gathered to find the conclusion of the study. Hence, qualitative analysis can help in gaining in-depth insights into the idea to be generated for scientific research. The type of analysis relies on the data which is obtained by the researchers through secondary data collection. The analysis method relies on the data from case studies, documents, news, or books. The data is non-numerical.



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Ethical Consideration

Ethical consideration is essential to be focused on in the research studies so that the researchers do not violate basic research ethics. It is different for the research which involves participants and the research which does not involve any participants. The research which involves participants should focus on ethics which are informed consent, withdrawal, confidentiality, and data protection. However, the current research is based on secondary data collection for which the researcher will consider academic integrity and plagiarism as ethical considerations. The research currently being conducted is original research based on secondary data collection. By being an original researcher, the researcher will make sure not to copy-paste information from any article, news, book, or explore websites. However, only insights will be gained to have a write-up for the readers.

Limitations

There are several limitations of the research however the major one is exploring the data. It is because of the unique topic that there is not much research conducted on the topic. However, the ones that have conducted research on a similar topic have most of the books and articles that are paid for. Hence, the researcher got limited in searching about the topic, especially in gathering the matter from the books and articles which have full access.



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Results

The results revolve around the topic that “God had created man, man created religions.” It is found in the book Genesis and in different verses that God had planned and created everything (Coddington, n.d.). Also, He created man and had a plan for the man with which he assigns the mission to people. God has planned everything differently which makes each thing unique and special and so is the person. Every person is hence provided with a different life, different events, situations, and happenings which make him angry, sad, and happy and also made him feel different emotions. Genesis book also mentions that God created Man in his own image and also he created females and provided them with the blessing to be fruitful for each other and multiply to fill the earth. Moreover, they have been provided with dominion over fish, beasts, birds, and animals which move on the earth. God further beholds that He provided man and woman with plant yielding and to eat on the fruits coming from the trees and seeds. The results from the previous articles and books also include that God first created the earth and heavens and the foundations of those which He made up from his hands (Cockerill, 1999; Coddington, n.d.). This was known to be the beginning of creation after which God made man. There are different religions that have different perspectives toward God which will be discussed below in a section. As mentioned in Bible, it can be found that the creation word is written whenever one talks about the formation of something by God (Erickson, 1998, p 373; Borchert, 1996).



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Furthermore, the results for the topic “man-created religion” is gathered from different articles and books. It has been found that religion is a man-made concept. There further are controversies and inconsistent statement about different religions which also comes from people who are of a different religion than the one which is debated. There are different religions that have religious books that are rewritten, based on the currency of time. It is because, some the religions like Christianity, have a religious holy book Bible has concepts that cannot be applied in current times, especially with respect to women. Books like so are 100s years old which is why there are statements in the book which cannot be followed in current times (Daniell, 2003). The Bible in old times shows no superiority of woman over man, but of the man over woman. Women were thought to be the object of sex. However, things are changed in the current times when we talk about the equality of gender. Similarly, there are books like Zaboor and Torat which were rewritten by the people of their times as per their needs (Ummaru & Sharif, 2020).

Man has made religious and Gods sculptures based on emotions and also provided symbolism which can be noticed by the cross with Jesus in Christianity (Agarwala, Mishra & Singh, 2021); and other symbols in other religions. There are Hindu Gods and Goddesses too which have the symbolism of anger like Goddess Kali (Mohanty, 2009). Others however are noticed to be having the image of calmness with prosperity, peace, and money (Krishnaswami, 2006). Hebrew however believe in multiple Gods and have the concept of a God who is more than one.



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Altizer (2012) mentioned that Christianity has a Godhead which is comprised of the Holy Spirit, Father, and the Son. While Hindus believe in Brahman along with having the concept of different Goddesses and Gods with animals and human forms (Gross, 1978). Muslim believe in One God (Koenig & Shohaib, 2014). Shandler (2009) provided insights into Jews' beliefs towards God so that they can have a personal and individual relationship with it. While Buddhism has no concept of God but supernatural powers (Pyysiäinen, 2003).

There are certain mythologies that include demigods, gods, and other supernatural humans. In Norse mythology and religion, Mitravinda & Pavithra (2020) mentioned that Norse paganism continued after Scandinavia's Christianization of Scandinavian folklore. These are composed of stories of beings, heroes, and deities that were derived from a medieval manuscript. In West Africa, the Gods are associated with nature. They further believe in good and evil. Their religion is not recounted as a single narrative story, unlike western mythology. They further are engaged in ritual practices which are part of their religion. Other religions too have rituals that are man-made too

Another result that is gathered from the studies is that humans always question things, especially when it comes to the religious system. However, it has been around for centuries which makes the people mold their religion based on their values and beliefs for creating peace in society. It is noticed that there are certain mythological Gods and Goddesses towards whom different movies are made, also, there are different research



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shreds of evidence. Romans and Greeks' beliefs of Gods and Goddesses are labeled as myths as they are quite old. Eventually same can occur after 1000 years or so with the religion Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Deloria (1992) mentioned that people have the right to choose their religion. People being attracted towards a particular God/Goddess is also a shred of evidence that man has created religion as the person gets attracted towards the symbolism which denotes what the person wants in life. Moreover, the person starts following a particular God/Goddess due to the characteristics defined, or their mythological story.

Discussion

As per Coddington (n.d.) God created Man in his image and has plans for a man with which He assigns the mission to people. God however plans differently for people. Every person is provided with different tasks, situations, and events in life with different levels of pressure. Cockerill (1999) supported that God created Man in his own image. In addition to this, Coddington (n.d.) added that God created females also and provided men and the female with blessings. Cockerill (1999) added that God made man and woman for each other to be fruitful for one another and to multiply and fill the earth. As per Genesis, God provided man and woman with dominion over other species in the world and also beholds that they are provided with plant yielding and fruits to eat. Cockerill (1999) also mentioned that God made the heavens and the earth. Coddington (n.d.) added that God made the foundations of the heavens and earth from his hands.



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However, Erickson (1998) mentioned that there are different religions that have different perspectives on God. Altizer (2012) highlighted the concept of Christianity towards God which is comprised of a Godhead that is based on three things, “Holy Spirit, Father, and the Son.” Apart from this, Gross (1978) mentioned the Hinduism concept of God. They believe in multiple Gods and Goddesses however the sole belief is towards Brahmans who take various forms. Koenig & Shohaib (2014) added that Muslims believe in one God who has no race, no gender, no heir, and is free from human characteristics. Shandler (2009) added about Jews concept who believe that they can create a personal and individual relationship with God. Pysiäinen (2003) however mentioned that Buddhism has no concept of God but of supernatural powers.

There are different man-made concepts about particular God and religion which is why there have been controversies on such topics, especially about different religions. It has been put forward by Daniell (2003) that there are religious books that are 100s of years old having statements that cannot be followed in the current times. In line with this, there are books that have been rewritten to comply with the issues and solutions for current times, which include Zaboor and Torat (Ummaru & Sharif, 2020). Daniell (2003) supported this by mentioning about Bible having certain statements from which, the major under consideration is regarding the woman. As per Bible, women did not have superiority over men however men had. This however is contradicted in the current times based on the fact that women and men are considered equal. Agarwala, Mishra & Singh



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(2021) have mentioned that man not only created religion but also focused on symbolism. This can be noticed by taking the example of the cross in the statue of Jesus in Christianity. However, in other religions there are other symbolism like God Ganesha is considered to have the image of peace, money, prosperity, and calmness (Krishnaswami, 2006). While Goddess Kali is considered the symbol of anger (Mohanty, 2009). Penchansky (2005) however mentioned that Hebrew believe in multiple Gods.

Apart from this, Sacks (2004) highlighted that there are multiple religions that are around the world for more than 1000 years. This directs to Romans and Greeks who have mythological Gods and Goddesses that are labeled as myths due to them being old (Roman & Roman, 2010). This can happen with the current religions after 1000s of years which include Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism. However, Deloria (1992) mentioned that every person has the right to choose their religion. But, it is noticed that people often get attracted towards a particular God/Goddess due to its symbolism. People start following a particular religion due to its symbolism, and characteristics of God/Goddess as defined in the mythological story or watched in movies (Lyden, 2003). Williams (2012) also supported this by mentioning that the movies and the storyline of the Gods, attract people. It is also not limited then to the movie but then further starts researching the Gods and then admiring them.

The characters in myths are God, Demigods, and other supernatural humans. Mitravinda & Pavithra (2020) added about Norse Mythology in which people from Norse



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paganism continued after Scandinavia Christianization and into the Scandinavian folklore of the modern period. The mythology here was comprised of heroes, deities, and stories of beings which were derived from a medieval manuscript, before and after the pagan period. Some of the Gods here were Freyja, Heimdallr, Njoror, Odin, Thor, and more. While in West Africa the gods and goddesses are associated with nature. The gods here were associated with five elements of earth Achimi, Abosam, Adroa, and others. These are linked with misfortune which happens with evil spirits like Anansi and Ogbanje. African religion is not recounted by a single narrative story, unlike western mythology. These however are transmitted to ritual practices.

Conclusion

It has been concluded by the above discussion that God had created man, man created religions. From different studies, the information has been extracted from which Genesis remains the book having insights about God and his creation. It mentioned that God created man and woman and provided them with dominance over other species in the world. Also, He provided them with food from seeds and trees. However, different articles and books were explored to gather knowledge about man-created religion. It is noticed that there are different concepts of man towards Gods and religions. Based on personal values and morals, the man kept on changing and evolving Gods and books that can be followed in current times. Focusing on Greek and Roman mythology, it is predicted that different religions may have in future the same condition as happened with



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Roman and Greek Gods and Goddesses. It went under the label of mythology. The man also has created different symbolism. However, it is noticed that people often change their religion based on the symbolism and the concepts of that religion through books and readings.



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