

Spirituality and Archetypal Identification: Implications for social work practice

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A. Abstract

This research was designed to determine if there was a correlation between an individual's identification with archetypal energy and their sense of spiritual well-being.

B. Results.

This cross-sectional, non-experimental study included a sample of 202 undergraduate students from a variety of academic majors. The majority of the students were females (73%), Caucasian (66%), between 18 and 22 years old, and seniors (40%). The Pearson-Marr Archetypal Indicator was used to measure the student's identification with archetypal energy and the Spiritual Well-Being Scale to measure the student's sense of spiritual well-being. The Pearson-Marr Archetypal Indicator includes twelve archetypal scales that measure the extent that an individual identifies with twelve archetypes that promote growth at three levels of development: ego level, soul level, and spirit level. The Spiritual Well-Being Scale includes two sub-scales: The Existential Well-Being scale, which measures one sense of purpose and meaning in life; The Religious Well-Being Scale, which measures one's satisfaction with their relationship with God or a divine being. The results of this research supported Jung's supposition that archetypes are spiritual in nature. The findings revealed that the more students identified with archetypes at the ego development level, the more satisfied they were in their relationship with God or a divine being. The more they experienced the archetypes that compel one to identify who they are and what is most important at the soul level, the lower their sense of purpose or sense of existential well-being. The more they identified with archetypes that promote power and freedom at the spirit level, the more satisfied they were with their relationship with God and the greater their sense of spiritual well-being.

C. Publications: None

D. Presentations:

Freeman, D. Can a social worker be religious? Texas State University-San Marcos, School of Social Work. San Marcos, Texas. January 2005.

Freeman, D. Spiritual well-being and archetypal identification. College of Health Professions Research Forum. San Marcos, Texas. April 2005.

Freeman, D. Spirituality and the call to service among college students. (accepted presentation) 23rd Annual Conference of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors. Austin, Texas. November 2005.