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## **Development and Validation of a Three-Dimensional Religious Activity Scale in Bengali**

Liton Mallick<sup>1</sup>, Bijoy Krishna Panda<sup>2,\*</sup> and Muktipada Sinha<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Education, Swami Vivekananda University, India 700 121*

*E-mail: litonmallick5@gmail.com*

<sup>2,\*</sup>*Department of Education, Jadavpur University, India 700 032*

*E-mail: bkp.education@jadavpuruniversity.in*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Education, Jadavpur University, India 700 032*

*E-mail: muktipada.sinha@jadavpuruniversity.in*

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**ABSTRACT** Religion is a global phenomenon, blending culture and personal beliefs and varies across race, society, country, and economies. In India, where people hail from multiple religious beliefs, it is necessary to understand religious diversity for developing interfaith conversations and foster tolerance which are crucial for sustainability. For this, the researchers conducted a study with 421 participants across five geographical regions in West Bengal and tried to conceptualise a Religious Activity Scale for measuring common practices across religions and their adherence to maintaining religious identity. From a pool of 20 items, the researchers used Exploratory Factor Analysis, manually reducing the number of factors to 3. Factor 1 accounted for 9.83 percent of the variance, while Factor 2 and Factor 3 accounted for 8.70 percent and 7.87 percent, respectively. The final scale consisted of 15 items, which are confirmed exclusively in either of three dimensions, that is, acceptance belief, moral imperative and religious solidarity.