

Original Article

Epistemological Examination of the Conditions of Jurisprudence Authorities with An Emphasis on the Role of Effective Factors on their Beliefs

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Abstract

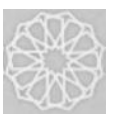
In Shi'a jurisprudence, conditions have been expressed for a jurisprudent, as a reference of the public, which are not limited to scientific and epistemological properties, i.e., some non-epistemological properties are also mentioned for authorities. Are these conditions embedded or based on the epistemic results that they have? If the epistemic influence of these factors is proven, considering the above criteria, is it possible to revise the conditions of authority? It seems that considering the effect of these conditions in beliefs, this can be said such factors prevent referrals to those who purposely create distortions in jurisprudence, and also prevent the jurisprudent from being influenced by these factors, getting away from the truth and going towards false beliefs. Investigating the role of various factors on the knowledge of the jurisprudents introduces a new insight into the determination and enrichment of the conditions of authorities and authentication.

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Extended abstract

1. Introduction

Referral to a specialist in Shiite jurisprudence has been in the form of Itihad and imitation. However, the issue of imitation sometimes leads to deviation from the religion of the people, as the Holy Qur'an says about some of the former religions of Islam, their scholars distorted the religion and misled people. In Shiite jurisprudence, to protect the society from these plagues, conditions have been set for the authority of imitation (Marja). Well-known jurists have mentioned these conditions for the authority of imitation: 1- To be a man 2- To be an adult 3- To be wise 4- To believe in Shiite (twelve Imams) 5- To be lawful 6- To be just and righteous 7- To be indifferent to the material world 8- To be a Mujtahid.

Except for the last two conditions, which are considered as epistemological matters, the other conditions are not epistemological in themselves, but the question is whether these matters have any epistemological effect and do they prevent deliberate deviation, or do they cause changes in the jurist's belief in the process of inference? Religious texts of different religions emphasize the role of non-epistemic matters in understanding human beings headed by sin. Some Western and Eastern thinkers have accepted the impact of these matters on beliefs, explained the process of such beliefs and their impact on what is outside the realm of knowledge.

Investigating the above issues can have a great impact on determining the criteria for referring to a specialist and also preventing epistemological errors.

2. Methods

This research has used the library method and first, by referring to different thinkers with approaches, has shown that various epistemological schools accept the impact of beliefs from non-epistemic factors.

Then, the most important non-cognitive factors alleged to influence the beliefs have been stated and the available evidence for these claims has been examined.

3. Results

Although it is generally believed that beliefs are influenced only by epistemic factors, and change in beliefs depends only on the information and data available to individuals, several non-epistemic factors influence the formation of human thoughts. The factors discussed in this research are as follows: will, guilt, concerns and desires, goals, social space

4. Conclusion

A number of arguments cited by the great Shiite jurists to determine the conditions of jurisprudential authority are as follows: According to the person who has a defect, being close to the truth is the first principle of any condition since the words of an unconditional Mujtahid are not confident.

The present article, without judging these arguments, identifies and demonstrates the influential non-epistemic factors influencing the beliefs that cause proximity to or distance from reality, or change the degree of confidence of the expert;. This article also provides an epistemological explanation for the conditions mentioned in religious texts for the reference of imitation.

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Authors' contribution

"Mohammad Sadeq Badakhsh" is the author of this article and this research has been carried out under the guidance and supervision of Professor Mohammad Mohammad Rezaei

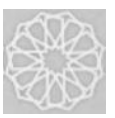
Conflict of interest

Authors declared no conflict of interest



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