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**SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND INTERPERSONAL TRUST FROM THE  
PERSPECTIVE OF PRAYER FREQUENCY IN AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
ENVIRONMENT**

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The statistical data show that regarding the religion shared by the majority of the population of the Republic of Moldova, we are a predominantly Christian-Orthodox country. But some people show a higher degree of religiosity and practice, and others lower. One way to

measure this degree is the frequency of prayer. We set out to see to what extent this frequency is associated with active social behavior and trust in people. Therefore, if prayer could play a role in increasing social capital in the society of the Republic of Moldova.

In our analysis, we used two series of quantitative data obtained in the researches carried out by the Center of Sociology and Social Psychology of the Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research of the State University of Moldova. (2021 – 1698 respondents and 2023 – 1242 respondents).

Data analysis (2021 - 2023) shows a significant increase in the share of those who pray every day (from 17.8% to 32.4%). This change can be explained by the fact that the respondents resort to prayer as a form of religious coping, in order to manage their anxiety related to the crises that the Republic of Moldova is going through.

Among the study's findings, we can mention that those who pray more frequently report a higher level of social activism and participation. They also show a higher degree of interpersonal trust. These trends hold over time, for the most part.

**Key words:** prayer, religiosity, trust, participation, social activism.