


## The Role of Spirituality in Coping with Chronic Illness

Mehdi. Ghezelseflou<sup>1</sup> 



<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Gonbad Kavous University, Gonbad Kavous, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: m.ghezelsefloo@gonbad.ac.ir

### Editor

Mehdi Rostami   
Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.  
mehdirostami@kmanresce.ca

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Seyed Hadi Seyed Alitabar   
Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: hadialitabar@kmanresce.ca  
**Reviewer 2:** Hassan Heidari   
Associate Professor, Consulting Department, Khomein Branch, Islamic Azad University, Khomein, Iran. Email: heidarihassan@khomeiniua.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract should be more concise and structured. It currently reads as a continuous paragraph. Consider using subheadings such as "Objective," "Methods," "Results," and "Conclusion" to enhance readability.

Clarify what is meant by "theoretical saturation" and provide a specific definition. Explain how it was determined that saturation was reached with 23 participants.

Describe the process of developing the semi-structured interview guide. Was it piloted? If so, what were the results and subsequent modifications?

Provide more detail on the coding process used in NVivo. For instance, who conducted the coding, and was there inter-rater reliability assessed?

Elaborate on how themes were identified and validated. Include whether member checking or triangulation was used to ensure the credibility of the themes.

The demographics section should provide more detail on the socio-economic status of participants, which could influence their spiritual practices and coping mechanisms.

Better integrate the findings with existing literature. For example, the connection to Hunter-Hernández et al. (2015) on resilience in Latinos with cancer could be expanded to discuss cultural differences in spiritual coping.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction provides a broad overview but lacks depth in discussing the theoretical frameworks. Specifically, the mention of Bekelman et al. (2007) and Bussing et al. (2009) could be expanded to explain the mechanisms through which spirituality influences psychological outcomes.

The participant selection criteria should be explicitly detailed. Include the specific chronic illnesses considered and the rationale behind selecting those particular illnesses.

While purposive sampling was used, justify why this method was chosen over other sampling techniques. Discuss how it contributes to the study's validity and reliability.

The section on spiritual practices could benefit from specific examples of participant quotes for each practice mentioned (e.g., meditation, rituals).

Further analyze the role of different support systems. How do family support and peer support groups differ in their impact on coping mechanisms?

The discussion on personal spiritual beliefs should delve into potential differences based on the type of chronic illness. Are certain beliefs more prevalent among specific conditions?

When discussing the impact on daily life, provide more specific examples of how spirituality has led to lifestyle changes or improved emotional well-being.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.