

## Development and Validation of a Spiritual Intelligence Questionnaire Based on Quranic Teaching

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### Abstract

**Background and Objective:** Spiritual intelligence is a capacity that can enhance one's adaptability in life and give one a wider view of life and all the experiences and events enabling one to reframe and reinterpret these experiences and deepen one's understanding and knowledge of oneself. The purpose of this study was to develop a spiritual intelligence questionnaire based on Quranic teachings and to determine its psychometric properties.

**Methods:** This is a model-testing correlational study. The statistical population consisted of 276 students of Babol University of Medical Sciences, who were selected by convenience sampling method. The validity of this questionnaire was evaluated by content validity, face validity, convergent validity, and concurrent validity. Cronbach's alpha and test-retest reliability were used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire. In this study, all ethical considerations have been observed and no conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

**Results:** The results showed that the content and face validity of the Spiritual Intelligence Questionnaire Based on Quranic Teachings was acceptable. Using exploratory factor analysis, two hidden factors were found in the questionnaire and confirmatory factor analysis confirmed the structural validity. There was a significant correlation between the scores of this questionnaire and those of the spiritual intelligence questionnaire indicating concurrent validity and a significant correlation between the two subscales and the total score of the convergent narrative questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha and test-retest reliability were also acceptable.

**Conclusion:** According to the results from the validity and reliability analysis of the Qualitative Intelligence Questionnaire Based on Quranic Teachings, it can be stated that this questionnaire is a reliable and valid instrument for assessing spiritual intelligence based on the Quranic teachings and can be used in the Iranian society.

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### Summary

#### Background and Objective

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In defining the dimensions of human existence the World Health Organization refers to physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions and considers the spiritual dimension as the source of

growth and completion of human being (1). In this respect, the concepts related to spirituality including spiritual health, spiritual evolution and spiritual intelligence have increased during the past decades (2). Spiritual intelligence can facilitate or increase consciousness or the feeling of being connected to a superior power and a holy being (3). In fact, spiritual intelligence as a means for measuring meaning and direction in life includes a kind of adaptation and problem solving ability (4, 5). This type of intelligence enables an individual to reframe and reinterpret his/her experiences and deepen his/her knowledge and understanding (5-7). The results of studies indicate that spiritual intelligence is correlated with mental health, quality of life, feeling of happiness and satisfaction in life (8-12).

Spiritual intelligence, the holders of which have been referred to as the “men/women of wisdom” in the Quran, causes an individual to find out the essence of reality and pass through the veil of illusions (13). Basically, a person with spiritual intelligence has the ability to transcend him/herself and others to the superior realm (holy intuition) (14). God the Most High has been introduced as the source and origin of existence and all perfections and approaching Him is the main goal of the creation (15). Therefore, one of the ways of developing one’s spiritual intelligence is to remember God, as God considers His remembrance as the cause of certainty and peace in the hearts in the Quran (15).

There are a number of questionnaires for measuring spiritual intelligence. Among them are Wolman’s *PsychoMatrix Spirituality Inventory* (16), King’s spiritual intelligence self-report questionnaire (17), Nazel’s Spiritual Intelligence Scale (18), Amram’s criterion for measuring the comprehensive index of spiritual intelligence (19), Amram and Dryer’s *Integrated Spiritual Intelligence Scale* (20), and the Spiritual Intelligence Questionnaire of Abdollah Zadeh et al. (21). However, no scales have been developed based on the Quran and its teachings for measuring spiritual intelligence. On this basis, the present study attempted to develop and standardize a spiritual intelligence questionnaire based on the Quranic teachings.

## Methods

**Compliance with ethical guidelines:** In the present study, all the ethical principles including confidentiality of the questionnaire information, obtaining informed consent of the participants and leaving the participants free to leave the study were observed in the present study.

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The present study is applied in terms of purpose and correlational in terms of method. The initial form of the questionnaire included 90 items, which were developed based on the references and theoretical background of the study related to spiritual intelligence and also the Quranic teachings related to spiritual intelligence. First, face and content validity of the questionnaire was examined qualitatively and quantitatively using the views of experts in the field of psychology and Islamic teachings. The former was measured by content validity ratio (CVR) and the latter by convergent validity index (CVI). For determining the face validity of the questionnaire, the Item Impact method was used and for assessing the convergent validity, the coefficient of correlation between the subscales of the questionnaire was used. Concurrent validity was examined by examining the correlation of its scores with those of Abdollah Zadeh et al.’s Spiritual Intelligence questionnaire (21). Cronbachs’ alpha was also used for examining reliability. For examining test-retest reliability with a two-week interval, the questionnaire was re-administered and its correlation with the initial administration was calculated.

## Results

The results of the present study showed that the highest percentage of variance (71.41%) was explained by the first two factors. The first one was the insight-emotional subscale and the second factor was the behavioral subscale of spiritual intelligence based on the Islamic teachings. Varimax Rotation Method was used and the items with factor loading of 0.3 were selected. The results of factor analysis using this method showed that 32 items had the highest correlation with the first factor and 34 items had the highest correlation with the second one. Further, confirmatory factors analysis using *LISREL* statistical software was utilized for examining validity of the Spiritual Intelligence Questionnaire Based on the Quranic Teachings. The goodness of fit indices and NFI, NNFI, CFI, and IFI indices were all higher than 0.90, which is considered as acceptable for fitting of the model. Finally, RMSEA, which should be lower than 0.05, was found to be 0.073 in the present model, which is considered as acceptable. Examining the model fit indices shows that the model for confirmatory factor analysis of the insight/emotional subscale of spiritual intelligence in the target sample has an acceptable fit.

Another finding of the study pointed to the relative fit of the behavioral component model.

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DF/2 $\chi$ , NFI, NNFI, CFI, IFI, and RMSEA indices were all indicative of the acceptability of the model showing that the confirmatory factor analysis model of the behavioral subscale of spiritual intelligence had a good fit in the targeted sample. The correlation between the subscales of the questionnaire was calculated and confirmed for examining convergent validity. In addition, the results related to the reliability coefficient confirmed the internal consistency of the questionnaire.

### Conclusion

Taking the Quranic concepts as the criteria in the field of spirituality and spiritual intelligence and drawing on the existing scientific theories in this field, the present questionnaire tried to cover and measure the fundamental dimensions of human existence. With regard to the insight-emotional and behavioral components evaluated in the present study, we should refer to the existing theories in this regard. Vaughan considers spirituality as a field that involves the highest growth and development in different cognitive, moral, emotional and interpersonal areas (22). Santos uses spiritual intelligence in relation to the Creator of the world considering it as an equivalent to the ability to understand the principles of life and base one's life on these principles (23). On this basis, the questionnaire developed in the present study is a reliable and valid instrument for measuring spiritual intelligence. It was developed based on the existential dimensions of human being and the Quranic concepts and can be a more appropriate instrument for measuring spiritual intelligence in the Iranian community compared to the existing questionnaires in the literature. Therefore, it is suggested that the present questionnaire be used as an instrument based on the Quranic teachings along with other measures of spiritual intelligence and health to gain a better understanding of individuals' level of spiritual intelligence.

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### Ethical considerations

According to the authors, Babol University of Medical Sciences confirmed the present study with the ethics code of [IR.MUBABOL.REC.1399.355](https://www.sid.ir/IR/MUBABOL.REC.1399.355).

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### Conflict of interest

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### Authors' contribution

Presenting the initial idea, writing the article, and analyzing the data: first and second authors; method and providing scientific advice: third author; supervising over the project and revising the text: fourth and fifth authors.

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