

Letter to Editor: A Comprehensive Definition of Spiritual Health

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Mahnaz Solhi¹ , Esmail Fattahi^{1*} , Mahnaz Pouresmaeil¹ , Hadi Darvishigilan¹ , Sedighe Rastaghi² 

1 Department of Education and Health Promotion, School of Health, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

2 Department of Biostatistics, Faculty of Health, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran.

Spirituality is recognized globally as an important aspect to respond to many questions associated with health and happiness. The World Health Organization is also interested in pursuing the physical, psychological, and social dimensions of health (1).

There are several challenges regarding the definition of spiritual health and the advancement of research in this regard (2). In addition, due to the controversies, it is difficult to achieve a common definition of spirituality (3, 4).

However, it seems that the current definitions (5) on the concepts and indicators of spiritual health do not provide comprehensive coverage of all factors in societies; therefore, the results obtained from spiritual health research in one society are not generalizable to different societies.

Furthermore, due to the differences in people's attitudes towards religion and spirituality, it is difficult to evaluate these concepts independently or in combination. As we know, the cognition, actions, emotions, and personal effects of individuals are important indicators of spirituality.

Here, a new definition of spirituality is proposed which is more comprehensive and can resolve the disagreements to a certain extent. To this end, spiritual health is defined as satisfactions, as well as inner feelings and beliefs accompanied by constructive

relationships with self, others, a higher power, or God within the specific cultural framework of each society, which results in the meaningfulness of life and death.

Accordingly, this newly defined concept of spiritual health can be utilized in different cultures and societies since the term "culture" is added to this definition and the concept of spiritual health is studied in cultural contexts. Moreover, all aspects of culture and cultural indicators are considered in this proposed concept.

Therefore, more valuable results can be achieved by developing tools and standard questionnaires that incorporate cultural indicators into the future of spiritual health research.

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*Correspondence: Should be addressed to Dr. Esmail Fattahi. Email: Esmail.fattahi@yahoo.com

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