

The Relationship Between Caregiver Stress and Health Anxiety with the Mediation of Emotional Expression in Caregivers of Patients with Chronic Illnesses Admitted to Military Hospitals in Tehran

Neda. Salari Doroudi¹, Bita. Bahrami^{1*}

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Tehran Medical Sciences Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: Bahrami.clinicalpsych@gmail.com

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Hamid Reza Aghamohammadian Sharbaf ^{id} Professor of Psychology Department, Ferdowsi University, Mashhad, Iran aghamohammadian@um.ac.ir	Reviewer 1: Taher Tizdast ^{id} Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: taher.tizdast@toniau.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Abolghasem Khoshkanesh ^{id} Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran. Email: akhoshkonesh@sbu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction mentions several chronic diseases (e.g., diabetes, cancer) but lacks specific prevalence or impact statistics for Iran, which could strengthen the local relevance (paragraph 1).

The section cites high Cronbach's alpha values for tools but does not provide sufficient detail on whether these were retested for this study's population, especially in Persian translations (Measures).

Table 1 shows mean caregiver burden scores but lacks contextualization. For example, how do these scores compare to benchmarks or other studies on military hospital caregivers?

While correlations are reported in Table 3, the implications of negative correlations (e.g., between emotional expression and health anxiety) need more explicit discussion in the text.

The discussion mentions teaching emotional regulation skills but lacks details on feasible intervention methods tailored for military caregivers (Discussion, paragraph 5).

The limitation that participants were recruited from military hospitals in Tehran is noted, but the potential differences in civilian settings should be addressed more explicitly (Discussion, paragraph 6).

The discussion lacks a critical view of cultural influences on emotional expression, which is especially relevant for an Iranian context (Discussion, paragraph 7).

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the introduction highlights caregiver challenges, it does not adequately discuss existing research on caregiver emotional expression, which would clarify the novelty of this study (paragraph 3).

The statement, "Emotional expression can play an important role in reducing the negative effects of caregiver stress on mental health" (paragraph 4), should cite prior evidence to support this assertion.

Criteria such as "ability to describe caregiving experiences" (Methods, Study Design) are vague. How was this determined during recruitment?

Table 4 provides RMSEA and other indices, but the discussion does not explain why these specific indices were chosen or their relevance to this structural model.

The study discusses findings but does not position them strongly within broader theories of caregiver burden or health psychology. For instance, linking to Lazarus's Stress and Coping Theory could enhance the discussion (Discussion, paragraph 4).

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.