



Spiritual Intelligence and Its Relationship to Marital Satisfaction among Mothers of Children with Disabilities

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Abstract

The current study aims to reveal the level of both spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities, and also aims to explore the relationship between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities. The descriptive correlational approach was used because it is appropriate for the study objectives. The sample consisted of 85 mothers of children with disabilities from Irbid Governorate, selected through available sampling. The spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction scale was used. The findings showed that both spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction were at average levels. Additionally, a statistically significant positive correlation was found between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction, suggesting that higher spiritual intelligence is linked to greater marital satisfaction. These results highlight the potential role of spiritual intelligence in improving



the well-being of mothers caring for children with disabilities, emphasizing the need for emotional, psychological, and social support. The study also calls for future research focused on interventions to develop spiritual intelligence, which could enhance family dynamics and overall life satisfaction in similar contexts.

Keywords: Spiritual Intelligence, Marital Satisfaction, Mothers' Well-Being, Family Dynamics, Disabilities.

Introduction

Parents can face multiple pressures when caring for a child with disabilities, particularly due to health problems, financial obligations, time constraints, and barriers to social participation (Purdhani & Saxena, 2020). Moreover, the presence of a child with disabilities adversely impacts marital relations and mental health of the parents (Islam et al., 2022). Mothers who have children who have disabilities face an increased degree of psychological tension and discomfort than fathers because they devote more time to take care of their children, who possess emotional, social, and cognitive skills with special conditions, in addition to the other responsibilities of these mothers, those conditions can also have an impact on the mental health of these mothers (Cetinbakis et al., 2020). Having a child with disabilities can have an adverse impact on family members due to different elements, including the child's gender, disability type, available support, and adaptation strategies (Ritchotte & Zaghawan, 2019).

The problems that children with disabilities suffer from, and the lack of appropriate response to these requirements in the environment in which they live, due to the lack of adaptation to the environment, in addition to the costs imposed for care and education will have negative effects on the marital satisfaction of the parents (Long & Bullare, 2018).

According to some studies, having a child with disabilities could have an impact on the couple's marital satisfaction and their well-being, particularly mothers (Lu et al., 2018; Oosterhousw et al., 2020; Karimzadeh et al., 2020). The mother's mental health and marital satisfaction are adversely affected by having children with disabilities (Motamedi et al., 2016).

Marital Satisfaction

Marital satisfaction plays a crucial role in building a successful family life. A strong and fulfilling relationship between spouses is essential for achieving personal growth and positive family development. Several factors influence marital satisfaction, including a partner's personality, job nature, parenting responsibilities, sexual fulfillment, and communication patterns (Wang & Zhao,



2023). Additionally, marital satisfaction is a key determinant of the stability and longevity of a marriage (Nouei et al., 2018).

Marital satisfaction is defined as a state of contentment and pleasure that each member of a couple mutually has when all aspects of their life together are taken into account (Dong et al., 2022). Marital satisfaction as well is simply the degree of satisfaction with some aspects of the marital relationship and the relationship as a whole (Abreu-Afonso et al., 2022). Furthermore, marital satisfaction is the result of harmony and compatibility between the wife and husband in every part of life, which leads to supporting the health of the family and parents. Satisfaction ensures the balance of life and is necessary for the emotional state of the human being. (Mozas-Alonso et al., 2022).

Marital satisfaction serves as a crucial buffer against the challenges spouses face, such as raising a child with disabilities. It plays a vital role in fostering resilience by mitigating depression, reducing parental stress, and enhancing parental efficacy (Greenlee et al., 2022).

Perlowski & Wright (2022) found that parents of children with disabilities report lower marital satisfaction compared to parents without such caregiving responsibilities. Similarly, earlier research highlighted that these parents experience greater psychological distress than those raising typically developing children. Additionally, multiple studies have consistently demonstrated that marital satisfaction is significantly lower among couples parenting children with disabilities compared to those without (Greenlee et al., 2022; Mozas-Alonso et al., 2022).

Furthermore, marital satisfaction in families with children with disabilities is significantly impacted by the presence of a child with special needs. Parents often experience heightened feelings of anger, shame, and self-blame, as well as blaming others. They are also more likely to suffer from depression and severe stress (Farahini et al., 2021).

Theories explaining marital satisfaction

First: Social Learning Theory: Bandura (1977) explains marital satisfaction through the mechanisms of observation, modeling, reinforcement, and learning from social experiences. According to this theory, spouses' behaviors and interactions are greatly influenced by what they have learned from their social environment, whether from their families of origin, from the social models surrounding them, or even from the media.

Second: Adaptation or habituation theory: This theory believes that individuals of different ages and genders do not differ in their feelings of happiness and satisfaction, and they attribute the reason for satisfaction with marital life to adaptation, habituation, and acclimatization to new



events and situations. This theory attributes marital satisfaction to the degree of adaptation and habituation to marital life, and not all spouses adapt to the same extent, and this is due to the individual differences that exist between them, and to the circumstances surrounding them (Diner & Rahir, 2000).

Factors contributing to marital satisfaction:

- Competence in performing marital roles: This means the husband's ability to bear his marital and family responsibilities.
- Compatibility: This is the ability of the spouses to achieve a balance between their family and marital roles.
- Persuasion and persuasion: This includes the skills of persuasion and readiness to be convinced.
- Integration: Striving to fill the deficiencies of the other party.
- Management: This includes the presence of self-will in the wife
- The extent of communication and interaction between spouses (Nouei et al., 2018).

The impact of marital satisfaction can be significant when considering factors like personality traits, association style, relationship, communication, intimacy, couple's families, tolerance, sacrifice, religion, emotional intelligence, and spiritual intelligence (Tavakol et al., 2017).

Spiritual intelligence

In the late twentieth century, psychologists began to focus on the non-mental aspects of intelligence, with Gardens playing a prominent role in introducing the concept of spiritual intelligence. This concept has provided researchers with the opportunity to explore the foundations of spiritual intelligence, especially as interest in spirituality has become an integral component of human experience and development (Ma & Wang, 2022).

The definition of spiritual intelligence involves addressing our problems and giving them meaning and value. It is where we can place our actions and lives in a more encompassing and meaningful context (Ahmadi et al., 2021). Spiritual intelligence is categorized as intelligence due to its ability to predict performance and adaptation, and provide capabilities for problem-solving and goal-achieving (Aliabadi et al., 2021). Vaughan's study (Vaughan, 2002) describes spiritual intelligence as an interest in the inner life of the mind, soul and related matters. Spiritual intelligence is defined as the ability to deeply understand existentialism through questions and insights about multiple levels of consciousness. It also refers to humanity's ability to ask the ultimate questions about the



meaning of life, and to experience smooth communication at the same time between each of us and the world in which we live (Mehralian et al., 2023). Moreover, it represents the ability to understand the true meaning of different life issues in a self-directed context (Dev et al., 2018).

Additionally, spiritual intelligence is the ability to express and apply spiritual values in a way that enhances an individual's daily physical and mental well-being (Skrzypińska, 2021).

The importance of spiritual intelligence

Spiritual intelligence is recognized as a means of helping individuals navigate crises and psychological challenges by providing comfort and guidance. It reflects deep self-awareness, allowing individuals to better understand their inner selves. Spiritually intelligent people tend to exhibit positive traits such as forgiveness, generosity, humanity, compassion, and love. They maintain a constructive and responsible attitude toward themselves and their actions, as spirituality serves as a force that enhances adaptability and self-understanding. This, in turn, fosters personal growth and a more positive self-perception (Efendi et al., 2021).

Spiritual intelligence plays a crucial role in enhancing marital adaptation and mental health for mothers of children with disabilities (Karimi et al., 2016). It also helps individuals recognize and develop their potential by utilizing non-cognitive virtues, enabling them to approach daily life challenges creatively and constructively in changing social environments (Srivastava, 2016).

Dimensions of Spiritual Intelligence

Srivastava (2019) identified eleven dimensions of spiritual intelligence, which include: (1) Physical spirituality, (2) Intellectual spirituality, (3) Psychological spirituality, (4) Social spirituality, (5) Emotional spirituality, (6) Moral spirituality, (7) Aesthetic spirituality, (8) Religious spirituality, (9) Modern spirituality, (10) Divine and spiritual qualities, (11) Yoga and meditation.

While Anwar et al. (2020) identified four other dimensions of spiritual intelligence: transcendent awareness, meaning of life, tolerance, and patience.

Spiritual intelligence develops through three stages, which were indicated by Wibur (2001), as follows:

1- The beginning stage: In this stage, the individual's attention is focused on the self by turning to God and supplicating to Him, praying and thanking for reassurance and a sense of security during the crises that the individual goes through.



2- The solidarity stage: This stage refers to solidarity with religion, and the extension of the individual's interest in himself to his commitment to others.

3- Post-solidarity levels: This stage indicates the transition from mere commitment to religious and spiritual perceptions to a general orientation towards self-awareness, understanding the different ways and methods of perception, and experiencing reality and truth.

Previous studies

Researchers identified several studies relevant to the study variables. One such study by Mosadegh and Bonab (2013) examined the relationship between spiritual intelligence and psychological health among mothers of children with mental disabilities and those with typically developing children. The findings revealed a statistically significant correlation between spiritual intelligence and psychological health in both groups of mothers. Furthermore, the study indicated that spiritual intelligence could serve as a predictor of mothers' psychological health.

Kwok et al. (2014) conducted a study exploring the relationship between perceived stigma, caregiving burden, and marital satisfaction among Chinese mothers of children with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder in Hong Kong. The study, which included a sample of 160 mothers, found that marital satisfaction was at a moderate level. Additionally, perceived stigma and caregiving burden were identified as significant predictors of marital satisfaction, highlighting the substantial impact of emotional and practical caregiving challenges on marital well-being.

Refahi et al. (2017) conducted a study to examine the relationship between spiritual intelligence and the quality of life among mothers of children with disabilities in Iran. The study sample included 120 mothers, and the findings revealed a positive correlation between spiritual intelligence, its components, and overall quality of life.

Al-Shirawi (2018) conducted a study on the marital satisfaction of mothers in Bahrain who care for children with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. The results showed that 70% of the mothers reported high levels of marital satisfaction. Additionally, there were no statistically significant differences in marital satisfaction between the two groups. The study further indicated that factors such as income, child's birth order, gender, age, parents' ages, social support, and years of marriage did not significantly predict marital satisfaction.

Ardali et al. (2019) conducted a study to examine the relationship between spiritual intelligence, marital satisfaction, and the mental health of mothers of children with disabilities. The findings revealed a positive correlation between spiritual intelligence, marital satisfaction, and mental



health. Additionally, the study found that spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction together accounted for 46% of the variance in the mothers' psychological health.

Mousavi (2019) investigated the role of positive perception and parental stress in predicting marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities and those with typically developing children in Iran. The study, which included 161 mothers, found a statistically significant negative correlation between parental stress and marital satisfaction. In contrast, a statistically significant positive relationship was observed between positive perception and marital satisfaction, emphasizing the protective effect of positive perceptions in mitigating stress-related marital strain.

Molero et al. (2023) examined the relationship between stigma and marital satisfaction among parents of children with intellectual disabilities in Spain. With a sample of 197 fathers and mothers, the study found an inverse correlation between stigma and marital satisfaction. This result highlights the negative impact of social stigma on marital relationships, emphasizing the challenges parents face when raising children with intellectual disabilities.

Amarghan et al. (2023) conducted a study to predict stress coping strategies based on initial maladaptive schemas and spiritual intelligence among mothers of children with mental disabilities. The study included a sample of 246 mothers and found a positive relationship between spiritual intelligence and problem-oriented coping strategies. Conversely, a negative relationship was observed between spiritual intelligence and emotion-oriented coping strategies.

Masoumi (2023) conducted a study to examine the effectiveness of spiritual intelligence training in managing stress through problem-oriented, emotion-oriented, and avoidance coping strategies. The findings indicated that spiritual intelligence training significantly improved problem-solving abilities, positive emotions, relationships, meaning-making, and overall personal growth in the post-test compared to the pre-test.

Problem Statement

For parents, raising a child with a disability is often an unexpected and challenging experience. The stress associated with having a child with a developmental disability can be overwhelming for families. Regardless of whether a mother has a disability herself, she plays a vital role in raising children. Mothers of children with disabilities typically assume primary caregiving responsibilities, which can significantly influence their marital relationship, either positively or negatively (Yamaoka et al., 2016). Previous studies have shown that having a child with a disability can negatively impact marital relationships (Molero et al., 2023). However, spiritual intelligence has been identified as an effective tool for improving the mental health of these



mothers (Nada-Mosadegh & Ghobari-Bonab, 2013). Moreover, higher levels of spiritual intelligence contribute to greater marital happiness and adaptability (Ardali et al., 2019).

According to the researchers, there is a lack of international studies addressing the relationship between the two variables, spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction. Additionally, no Arabic studies have examined both variables together. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the connection between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities. The following questions can be posed to guide the focus of the study:

First Question: What is the level of spiritual intelligence in mothers of children with disabilities?

Second Question :What is the level of marital satisfaction of mothers of children with disabilities?

Third Question: Is there a statistically significant correlation at($\alpha =0.05$) between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction in mothers of children with disabilities?

Study objectives:

The study objectives are as follows:

1. Determine the level of spiritual intelligence among mothers of people with disabilities in light of some variables.
2. Determine the level of marital satisfaction among mothers of people with disabilities in light of some variables.
- 3- Discover the existence of a correlation between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of people with disabilities.

The Study Importance

The theoretical significance of the present study arises from its looking at the category of mothers of children with disabilities which requires the competent authorities to provide support and assistance in overcoming the consequences of the child's disability. The study also sheds light on two important variables: spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction. The study will present results for each level of the two variables. In addition, the study examines variables that have not previously been studied together in Arabic and foreign studies. According to the researcher, this will be the first study in Arabic to combine spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction on a separate sample of mothers of disabled children. However, Practical importance emerges in encouraging researchers to develop future treatment programs for this group to deal with and adapt to the stressors of a child with disabilities. This group has not received the attention of researchers.



This study as well contributes to providing the scientific research library with a tool that has psychometric properties (spiritual intelligence) which researchers may benefit from in their future studies.

Terminological and Procedural Definitions

Spiritual intelligence refers to the ability to grasp the true meaning of various life issues within a self-directed framework (Dev et al., 2018). It is procedurally defined as the score to which members of the sample received on the spiritual intelligence scale used in the study.

Marital satisfaction: is the result of harmony and compatibility between the wife and husband in all aspects of life, which in turn supports the health of the family and parents. Satisfaction protects the balance of life and is essential for the emotional state of a person. (Mozas-Alonso et al., 2022). It is procedurally defined as the score obtained by the sample members on the marital satisfaction scale used in this study.

Methodology

The present study employed a descriptive correlational approach, as it was deemed the most suitable method to fulfill the objectives of the research. This approach allows for examining relationships between variables without manipulating them, providing valuable insights into the connections between key factors.

Participants

The study community consisted of all mothers of children with disabilities in the city of Irbid who were registered in special education centers and associations that care for people with disabilities for the year (2024/2025). The study sample consisted of (85) mothers who have a child with a disability. They were obtained from (6) centers for people with disabilities and two associations. They were selected in the most convenient way possible. Therefore, to obtain the largest possible number of mothers of children with disabilities.

Table (1) Frequencies and Ppercentages according to Study Variables

	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Type of Disability	Physical	23	27%
	Sensory	18	21.2%



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	Autism Spectrum	18	21.2%
	Mental	26	30.6%
	the Total	85	100%
	High School	25	29.4%
Mother's educational level	Diploma	17	20.0%
	Bachelor's	31	36.5%
	Postgraduate Studies	12	14.1%
	the Total	85	100%
Family's Economic Level	High	16	18.8%
	Middle	43	50.6%
	Low	26	30.6%
	the Total	85	100%
Period of Diagnosing the Child with a Disability	Less Than 5 Years	43	50.6%
	More Than 5 Years	42	49.4%
	the Total	85	100.0%

Instruments

First: The Canel scale of marital satisfaction (Canel, 2013) was used. The researchers used the Canel scale (Canel, 2013) which is Arabized by Al-Qaisi and Al-Rufu' (2021). It consists of (49) provisions distributed over (6) dimensions, and the scale is according to the five-point Likert scale. The indicators of validity and reliability of the original scale were extracted through the validity of the scale according to the procedures of structural validity. The correlation coefficients ranged between (0.43-0.92), and the value of the reliability coefficient using Cronbach's alpha was (0.92).

Second: Spiritual Intelligence Scale: the researchers used King's scale (King, 2009). It consists of (24) provisions distributed over (4) dimensions, and the scale is according to the three-point Likert



scale. The indicators of validity and reliability of the original scale were extracted through the validity of the scale according to the procedures of structural validity. The correlation coefficients ranged between (0.43-0.92), and the value of the reliability coefficient using Cronbach's alpha was (0.92).

Validity and Reliability Implications of Study Tools

The validity of the content of marital satisfaction scale and the spiritual intelligence scale was verified by presenting them to a group of (10) arbitrators from the faculty members of the college of educational sciences who are specialists in (educational psychology, psychological counseling, measurement and evaluation) at the Arab University of Amman, Jadara University and the University of Jordan. These arbitrators were asked to express their opinions on the study criteria and the clarity and correctness of the linguistic formulation of the provisions of the scales. The criterion (80%) for the agreement of the arbitrators was adopted to modify the provisions of the scales.

Some of the linguistic formulations of the provisions in the scales were modified in light of the arbitrators' comments. To verify the validity and reliability of the scales, they were applied to a survey sample from within and outside the community, totaling (30) mothers of children with disabilities. The correlation coefficients were calculated between each provision and the dimension to which it belongs, on the one hand, and between the provision and the total score, on the other hand. The correlation coefficients of the domains with each other and with the total score for each scale were also calculated. Regarding the marital satisfaction scale, the correlation coefficients between the provision and the domain to which it belongs ranged from (0.42-0.92). The correlation coefficients between the provision and the total score ranged from (0.40-0.88), and the correlation coefficients of the domains with each other ranged between (0.71-0.86). The correlation coefficients between the domains and the total score ranged from (0.88-0.94).

As for the spiritual intelligence scale, the correlation coefficients between the provision and the domain to which it belongs ranged from (0.36-0.88). The correlation coefficients between the provision and the total score ranged from (0.53-0.81). The correlation coefficients of the domains with each other ranged between (0.58-0.74). The correlation coefficients between the domains and the total score ranged from (0.81-0.91).

The reliability coefficient values of the marital satisfaction scale using the Test-retest method reached (0.81-0.86) for the fields and (0.90) for the scale as a whole while the values of the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of reliability reached (0.71-0.83) for the domains and (0.86) for the scale as a whole. Regarding the reliability coefficient values of the spiritual intelligence scale using



the Test-Retest method, it reached (0.81-0.86) for the domains and (0.89) for the scale as a whole while the values of the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of reliability reached (0.75-0.81) for the domains and (0.86) for the scale as a whole.

Results and Discussion

First Question: What is the level of spiritual intelligence among mothers of children with disabilities?

The arithmetic means and standard deviations of the level of spiritual intelligence among mothers of children with disabilities were extracted to answer this question, and Table (2) shows these results.

Table (2) Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations

Rank	Number	Domain	M	SD	Level
1	4	Expansion of Conscious State	2.13	0.51	Middle
2	2	Production of Personal Meaning	2.07	0.40	Middle
2	3	Transcendental Awareness	2.07	0.48	Middle
4	1	Critical Existentialist Thinking	2.04	0.28	Middle
Scale of Spiritual Intelligence			2.07	0.33	Middle

Table (2) shows that the level of spiritual intelligence among mothers of children with disabilities was average with an arithmetic mean of (2.07) and a standard deviation of (0.33). The arithmetic means of all dimensions of spiritual intelligence were at average levels; these means ranged between (2.04-2.13). The dimension of expanding the conscious state came in first place with the highest arithmetic mean of (2.13) and a standard deviation of (0.51) while the dimension of critical



existential thinking came in last place with an arithmetic mean of (2.04) and a standard deviation of (0.28).

Second Question: What is the level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities?

The arithmetic means and standard deviations of the level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities were extracted to answer this question, and Table (3) shows these results.

Table (3) Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations

Rank	Number	Domain	M	SD	Level
1	1	Emotional	2.60	1.04	Middle
2	3	Economic	2.48	0.82	Middle
3	2	Sexual	2.40	0.87	Middle
3	4	Time Management	2.40	.0.91	Middle
5	5	Marital Disputes	2.35	0.74	Middle
Scale of Marital Satisfaction			2.45	0.81	Middle

Table (3) shows that the level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities was average, with an arithmetic mean of (2.45) and a standard deviation of (0.81), and the arithmetic means of all dimensions of marital satisfaction were at average levels. These means ranged between (2.35-2.60). The emotional dimension came in first place with the highest arithmetic mean of (2.60) and a standard deviation of (1.04), and marital disputes dimension came

Third Question: Is there a statistically significant correlation at the level ($\alpha = 0.05$) between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities?

Pearson correlation coefficients between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities were extracted to answer this question. Table (4) shows these results.



Table (4): Pearson's Correlation Coefficient

Marital Satisfaction	The Emotional Dimension	The Sexual Dimension	The Economic Dimension	Time Management Dimension	Marital Disputes Dimension	Total Score
Spiritual Intelligence						
Critical Existential Thinking	**0.47	**0.54	**0.57	**0.43	**0.51	**0.48
Production of Personal Meaning	**0.42	**0.50	**0.51	**0.47	**0.54	**0.59
Transcendental Consciousness	**0.53	**0.60	**0.49	**0.41	**0.43	**0.47
Expanding the Conscious State	**0.40	**0.58	**0.53	**0.45	**0.58	**0.42
Total Score	**0.48	**0.61	**0.54	**0.49	**0.57	**0.53

**Statistically Significant at the Significance Level (0.01)

Table (4) shows the existence of a statistically significant positive correlation between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities on the total score and in all areas. The correlation coefficient value ranged from (0.40 -0.61). This means that the higher the level of spiritual intelligence of mothers of people with disabilities, the higher the level of marital satisfaction. This is reflected in the lives of mothers with disabilities. The higher the level of intelligence, the lower the family problems of mothers with disabilities, which are represented in the emotional aspects, relationships, intimacy, and marital disputes.



Discussion

Q1: The results of the first question indicated that the level of spiritual intelligence among mothers of children with disabilities was average with an arithmetic mean of (2.07) and a standard deviation of (0.33).

Researchers explain this result by saying that raising a child with a disability requires great psychological and physical effort, which may cause continuous stress that may affect the development or effective practice of spiritual intelligence. In some cases, mothers may lack sources of spiritual support, whether from the family, society, or religious institutions, which leads to a lack of significant enhancement of spiritual intelligence. Some mothers may also be at different stages of adapting to the reality of raising a child with a disability, which makes spiritual intelligence develop gradually and not highly from the beginning. Feeling exhausted, worrying about the child's future, and additional responsibilities may limit the mother's ability to fully benefit from spiritual intelligence in her daily life. Because mothers are busy taking care of their children, they may not have enough time to practice activities that enhance spiritual intelligence, such as meditation, deep communication with oneself, and spiritual values.

In light of the outcome of this question, it becomes clear that the order of spiritual intelligence with its sub-dimensions such as “expanding the conscious state, producing personal meaning, transcendental awareness, and critical existential thinking” in order may seem predictable. This is because the presence of a disabled child in the family initially requires the family in general and mothers in particular to have awareness and tolerance, to exceed personal interests, and have gratitude and love for this disabled child. It also requires them to end with critical existential thinking and have the ability to think clearly and rationally as well as being free from negative thoughts towards the disabled child and to look at this matter as a gift from God and not an adversity. Moreover, this situation requires them to act wisely and sympathetically, to achieve inner and outer peace, and to have positive feelings towards their disabled child.

Spiritual intelligence is an essential element in the lives of mothers of children with disabilities, as it gives them inner strength and the ability to adapt to daily challenges. It helps them find a deeper meaning to their suffering, and enhances their sense of contentment and acceptance, which alleviates the psychological pressures they may face. Spiritual intelligence also contributes to developing patience and the ability to forgive, making them more capable of providing care and support to their children with love and dedication. In addition, it strengthens their connection to spiritual and faith values, giving them positive energy that helps them build a cohesive and supportive family environment (Amarghan et al., 2023).



This result is consistent with the results of the study Mosadegh & Bonab (2013) which indicated that there is a medium degree of spiritual intelligence among mothers of students with mild mental disability.

Q2: The results of the first question indicated that the level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities was average, with an arithmetic mean of (2.45) and a standard deviation of (0.81).

The result of this question might be taken as the presence of a disabled child, whether the disability is physical, sensory, mental, or even autism spectrum, in the family leads to a change in the daily family system, and a change in the roles of its members whether the relationship between the spouses is in a state of harmony, consent or incompatibility. In addition, the answer to this question might indicate that caring for a disabled child imposes great restrictions on the spouses. It may happen that each of them places the responsibility on the other, whether in caring for or not caring for the disabled child. The burden of caring for a disabled child is often placed on the mother, who needs the husband's help who tends to work and stay out of the home and considers that his role does not include direct care for the disabled child. All of this leads to consuming the mother's efforts which affects the satisfaction of the needs of the husband and the siblings of the disabled child and creates an imbalance which in turn affects the whole family.

The result of the marital satisfaction ranking can also be interpreted in its dimensions "emotional, economic, sexual, time management, and marital conflict," in that order, as predictable. In the beginning, in particular, when a new disabled child is born into a family, it is often accompanied by emotional feelings such as rejection, sadness, and anxiety along with feelings of anger, resentment, and dissatisfaction with what happened. The family also isolates itself from its social environment. Economically, the presence of a disabled child requires the family to place the child in a special care center, which imposes high financial costs on the family. Having a disabled child can also affect intimate and interpersonal relationships between spouses.

Marital satisfaction is an important factor in the stability of family life for mothers of children with disabilities, as it directly affects the quality of the marital relationship and their ability to adapt to daily challenges. Mothers who feel marital satisfaction enjoy greater emotional and social support from their husbands, which reduces the psychological pressures associated with caring for a child with a disability. Effective communication and understanding between spouses also enhances the feeling of security and harmony, which is positively reflected in raising the child and creating a stable family environment. Therefore, achieving marital satisfaction depends on supporting the



partner, distributing family roles fairly, and enhancing feelings of affection and mutual respect between spouses (Mousavi, 2019).

This result aligns with the findings of Kwok et al. (2014), which indicated a moderate level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities. However, it contrasts with the results of Al-Shirawi (2018), which found a high level of marital satisfaction among mothers of children with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

Q3: the existence of a statistically significant positive correlation between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities on the total score and in all areas.

This finding could be explained by the fact that mothers with a high level of spiritual intelligence have a better ability to deal with the challenges associated with raising a child with a disability, which reduces stress and enhances marital satisfaction. Spiritual intelligence helps mothers accept their reality with contentment and faith, which reduces feelings of frustration or self-blame, and makes the marital relationship more stable. Spiritual intelligence also enhances the skills of tolerance, patience, and effective communication, which helps mothers avoid marital conflicts caused by daily stresses. Deep faith and spiritual practices (such as prayer and meditation) provide mothers with internal sources of strength and patience, which helps them interact positively with their husbands.

This result can also be interpreted as the existence of a correlation between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction among mothers of children with disabilities, which may be due to the fact that children with disabilities in general need direct care from their parents at all times, starting from helping them with their food and hygiene, in addition to mobility and movement, whether to hospitals or to physical therapy centers. Caring for a disabled child requires continuous efforts over days and years especially since seeing the child not developing, not keeping up with his peers, and not playing with them, all of this burdens the parents who deal with their disabled child on a daily basis. These parents will not be able to help their disabled child or overcome the shock of their child's disability, or deal with the problem of their child's disability in a more realistic way, and face its difficulties and challenges, unless the parents in general, and the mother in particular, have spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction.

This was confirmed by Ardali et al., (2019) that spiritual intelligence is an important factor in achieving marital satisfaction, especially for mothers of children with disabilities, as it helps them adapt to daily challenges and enhance their patience and inner strength. Spiritual intelligence gives mothers a deeper perspective on life, making them more able to accept their reality with



contentment and serenity, and enhances their ability to find deeper meaning in their roles as mothers and wives. It also contributes to improving the quality of the marital relationship by promoting tolerance and mutual understanding with the partner, which reduces tensions resulting from daily pressures, and helps build a more supportive and stable family environment.

This result is consistent with the results of the study Ardali et al., (2019) which indicated a positive relationship between spiritual intelligence and marital satisfaction of mothers of people with disabilities.

Recommendations

- Designing guidance programs for mothers to deal with the stresses that arise from having a child with a disability in the family.
- Establishing free guidance centers inside hospitals and government centers to help mothers to learn how to deal with a child with disabilities.
- Conducting several studies on the category of mothers of children with disabilities by using other variables.

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