




Reliability and Validity of the Arabic Version of the Cancer Stigma Scale

Sahera Alawi Kazem¹, Shahad Ibraheem Mustafa Alsaleem², Jassim M. Hassan³, Fadhil Faez Sead⁵, Saad Ghazi Talib⁴, Muneam Hussein Ali⁵, Akram Ali Anber⁶

¹ Department of Quranic Studies, College of Islamic Sciences, Ahl Al Bayt University, Kerbala, Iraq

² College of Law, Al-Farahidi University, Iraq

³ Department of English, Al-Hadba University College, Iraq

⁴ Department of Law, Al-Mustaqbal University College, Babylon, Iraq

⁵ Al-Nisour University College, Baghdad, Iraq

⁶ Al-Esraa University College, Baghdad, Iraq

Corresponding Author: Sahera Alawi Kazem; *Department of Quranic Studies, College of Islamic Sciences, Ahl Al Bayt University, Kerbala, Iraq*

Email: sahrtsahrt0@gmail.com

Quantitative Study

Abstract

Background: Stigma is a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. Stigma can be attached to health-related problems or illnesses. That is, people with a certain disease might be stigmatized or devalued due to their illness. Most stigma studies focus on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), leprosy, and mental illnesses. The purpose of this study is to investigate the reliability and validity of the Arabic version of the Cancer Stigma Scale (CSS).

Methods: The present study is a validation study based on correlation and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The 25-item CSS was translated into Arabic by psychologists competent in both Arabic and English. Back translation was used to ensure transliteral equivalency. The scale was given to 262 Iraqi university students in Mosul University, Iraq, through convenience sampling. Item-total correlations, internal consistency reliability, and construct validity were examined. SPSS and AMOS software were used for data analysis.

Results: All the items had acceptable item-total correlations. They ranged from 0.49 to 0.72 (mean = 0.63) and all were significant at $P < 0.01$. The Cronbach's alpha reliability was 0.88. CFA was used to examine the fit of the 6-factor solution arrived by the scale developers. Goodness of fit indicators [comparative fit index (CFI) = 0.923, Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) = 0.919, chi-square/degree of freedom (χ^2/df) = 1.98, root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) = 0.064] showed that the original 6-factor model had a good fit for the data.

Conclusion: The Arabic version of the CSS was valid and reliable and can be used for measuring cancer stigma in the Arab-speaking general populations.

Keywords: Cancer Stigma Scale; Measure; Blame; Attitudes

Citation: Kazem SA, Alsaleem SEMA, Hassan JM, Sead FF, Talib SG, Ali MH, Anber AA. **Reliability and Validity of the Arabic Version of the Cancer Stigma Scale.** *Int J Body Mind Culture* 2022; 9(Special Issue): 54-62.

Received: 26 June 2022

Accepted: 05 July 2022

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