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## Analysis of the Challenges Faced by the Families of Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Qualitative Study

Rahim. GoliGarmkhani<sup>1</sup>, Hassan. Amiri<sup>2\*</sup>, Mohsen. GolMohammadian<sup>3</sup>


<sup>1</sup> PhD Student in Counseling, Department of Counseling, Faculty of Humanities, Educational Department of Psychology, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Kermanshah Branch, Islamic Azad University, Kermanshah, Iran



<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences, Razi University, Kermanshah, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: Hasan.amiri@iau.ac.ir

### Editor

Shahram Vahedi<sup>1</sup>  
Professor, Department of  
Educational Psychology, Faculty of  
Educational Sciences and  
Psychology, Tabriz University,  
Tabriz, Iran  
vahedi117@yahoo.com

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Parvaneh Mohammadkhani<sup>1</sup>  
Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Rehabilitation Sciences  
and Social Health, Tehran, Iran. Email: Pa.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Masoud Asadi<sup>1</sup>  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University,  
Arak, Iran.  
Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This sentence could benefit from updated epidemiological data on the prevalence of these conditions in veterans to provide a more current perspective.

This section discusses “family outcome challenges,” yet lacks specific data or examples to illustrate these outcomes. Could you add one or two examples from the interviews that describe the most significant family outcomes?

While the categories are well defined, there is no explanation of the relationships between them. Adding a diagram showing the relationships between causal conditions, intervening factors, and outcomes would make the theoretical model clearer.

“The researcher’s role as the interviewer could have influenced the interview process.” This is a significant limitation. Consider addressing how interviewer bias was mitigated during the study and whether alternative data collection methods could be used in future research.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The selection criteria for participants should be clarified, especially regarding the choice of the 42 families. Why was purposive sampling chosen, and how does this impact the generalizability of the findings?

“Data were analyzed using Strauss and Corbin’s method.” Please elaborate on the specifics of the grounded theory approach used. The coding process is mentioned briefly, but it would help readers understand how categories were developed. Including an example of a coding framework might be beneficial.

This section emphasizes family conflict but lacks depth in discussing potential resolution strategies. Consider including more details about adaptive coping strategies observed in some families that could inform interventions.

“Instability in decision-making, lack of willpower, and lack of empathy in the family environment were common issues.” These factors are significant but could benefit from references to related literature in psychology that discusses these phenomena in PTSD-affected families.

The comparison between this study and previous research is insightful but seems limited to a few studies. It would strengthen the discussion if you incorporated a broader range of sources to further support the findings.

“Quality of life problems are consistent with prior studies.” It would be helpful to expand on how these prior studies align with the current findings. What specific aspects of quality of life were most affected, and how do they compare to global data?

The conclusion highlights the importance of mental health support but doesn't provide concrete recommendations for policy or practice. Could you suggest more actionable recommendations for organizations or policymakers to address the issues faced by these families?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.