


The Effect of Hope and Happiness on the Spiritual Health of Adolescent Girls: A Correlational Study

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The definition of spiritual health is presented conceptually, but it would be helpful to clarify whether the study adopts a particular operational definition, especially since it relies on Paloutzian and Ellison's scale. Consider integrating this operational definition directly here.

The claim that 384 participants were selected is inconsistent with the 300 participants mentioned in the abstract. Please resolve this inconsistency and ensure it aligns throughout the manuscript.

The use of stepwise regression is presented without justification. Since stepwise methods can inflate Type I errors and suppress multicollinearity diagnostics, explain why this method was selected over hierarchical regression.

The sentence "The spiritual well-being of adolescent girls...is relatively high" is an interpretive claim. Please contextualize this with normative values or benchmarks from existing literature on spiritual well-being.

The assertion that "pathway thinking exhibited the strongest correlation" should be substantiated with the actual correlation coefficient from Table 2. A direct comparison would improve clarity.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “A relatively novel approach in this field is positive psychology...” oversimplifies the evolution of the field. Positive psychology is no longer a novel approach; it has been established for over two decades. Please rephrase for accuracy.

The sentence “Martin Seligman...categorized happiness into three core components...” should cite Seligman’s Authentic Happiness or Flourish with a publication year to support the theoretical framework used.

The study by Mokhles and Doorrikhteh (2023) is useful contextually, but its sample (female heads of households) differs greatly from adolescent girls. Please justify its inclusion or replace it with more age-relevant literature.

The research question is clearly stated, but no explicit hypothesis is presented. Given that the method includes inferential statistics, a formal hypothesis (e.g., H_0 and H_1) would strengthen the methodological rigor.

The inclusion of both “Hope” and its subcomponents (Agency and Pathway Thinking) in the same analysis should be clarified. Were they analyzed separately or as part of an aggregate score in the regression?

The table includes numerous subcomponents, but the text only briefly discusses them. A more detailed explanation of the strongest and weakest correlations with spiritual health would strengthen the findings section.

The interpretation of the R^2 values in the regression model is somewhat misleading. The second model (hope and happiness) should have a higher R^2 than the first (hope alone), but it is reported as lower (26%). Please clarify whether this is a reporting error.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.