

Vocational Identity Reconstruction in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury: A Narrative Approach


Ahmet. Kutsal¹, Mehmet. Özdemir^{2*}

¹ Necmettin Erbakan University, Seydisehir Vocational School, Konya, Türkiye



² Department of Psychology, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Türkiye

* Corresponding author email address: mehmet.ozdemir@istanbul.edu.tr

E d i t o r

Anela Hasanagic
Full Professor, Department of
Psychology, Faculty of Islamic
Education, University of Zenica,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
anela.hasanagic@unze.ba

R e v i e w e r s

Reviewer 1: Parvaneh Mohammadkhani
Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Rehabilitation Sciences
and Social Health, Tehran, Iran. Email: Pa.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Zahra Yousefi
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad
University, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: yousefi1393@khuif.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The discussion on cultural and national differences in vocational rehabilitation is rich, but it would be strengthened by integrating examples or data from Turkey, given the study's context.

The quote "When I stopped working, I didn't know who I was anymore..." is powerful. However, it's important to indicate the participant's age and occupation to better understand identity centrality in context.

Consider specifying the types of "assistive technologies" mentioned by participants to better illustrate vocational retraining challenges and adaptations.

The authors write, "Participants described wavering confidence and emotional fatigue..." It would be useful to compare this emotional trajectory with the time since injury, as earlier vs. later stages may differ significantly.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors write, “This study explores that process through a narrative lens...” This sentence is vague. Revise to specify the focus on spinal cord injury within the Turkish context and reiterate the narrative approach's advantages.

The sentence “The interview guide included open-ended questions...” could be enhanced by providing one or two examples of actual interview questions used.

The demographic profile is clearly described, but the phrase “urban and semi-urban regions” could be more informative if specific provinces or cities are identified to contextualize access to vocational services.

The narrative “It took years, but I finally stopped comparing myself to who I used to be” would benefit from deeper analysis. Was this turning point associated with therapy, employment, or peer support?

The concept of “quality of life” is mentioned but not operationalized. Clarify how participants defined or measured this in their own terms (e.g., independence, family involvement, contribution).

The sentence “Participants’ narratives of grief, hopelessness, and disconnection...” could be further substantiated by including the number of participants who experienced depressive episodes or sought psychological care.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.