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## Spiritual Intelligence In Cross Culture: A Systematic Literature Review And Research Agenda

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Received: June, 2023; Accepted: June, 2023; Published: August, 2023

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### Abstract

*The approach used in this study is a systematic literature review (SLR) using Vos Viewer which is related to spiritual intelligence as a reference in "Article Title, Abstract and Keywords" based on the Scopus database from 1964 to 2023. Data analysis was carried out on May 10, 2023 on the Scopus database with a total of 702 articles. The results of secondary data collection carried out on the Scopus database were then processed using VOSviewer to see the relationship between studies. This study offers an in-depth understanding of spiritual intelligence and future research suggestions that are useful for future researchers in building and developing research models related to spiritual intelligence.*

**Keywords:** Spiritual Intelligence, Cross Culture, Literature Review

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### INTRODUCTION

Cognitive, social, and emotional intelligence has been advocated as a necessary element for engagement in professional practice(Gardner, 2000). More recently, spiritual intelligence has been added to the skills required by professionals(George, 2006; San Juan, 1964; Vaughan, 2002; Wigglesworth, 2013). Spiritual intelligence has been described as an individual's ability to use transcendent capacities and spiritual resources in practical fields and situations(Gardner, 2000). Spiritual intelligence is the inner capacity to achieve a high level of self-awareness that gives a person the ability to distinguish right from wrong, deal with difficulties, and increase flexibility in different situations.(George, 2006). Spiritual intelligence is considered as an integrating intelligence that connects a person's emotional and rational intelligence and is therefore considered the highest intelligence(Hosseini et al., 2010; Rahman & Shah, 2015). Spiritual intelligence enables inner knowledge and access to a higher consciousness, connecting problem solutions with deep intuition and a sense of empowerment(Sisk, 2002). Likewise, spiritual intelligence is described as the ability to realize oneself, give meaning to life and express values, spiritual intelligence allows one to face crises, change situations and from where individuals can care.(Anwar & Osman-Gani, 2015; Sisk, 2008; Sisk, 2016). Spiritual

intelligence contains five elements, namely the ability to: use spiritual means to solve problems; to have awareness of a higher level of consciousness; to purify everyday experience; to transcend the physical and material; and the capacity to be right(Srivastava, 2016; Vaughan, 2002).

Spiritual intelligence refers to the ability to understand and deal with the deeper aspects of human existence, such as meaning, purpose, ethics, values, and relationships.(Ugwu et al., 2019). It involves awareness of one's inner life and the ability to connect to a larger reality outside oneself(Vasconcelos, 2020). Spiritual intelligence is important for personal growth, self-awareness and living a meaningful life. Spiritual intelligence as "the intelligence with which we deal with and solve problems of meaning and value, the intelligence with which we can place our actions and lives in a wider, richer, and never-ending context of meaning and purpose."(Kessi et al., 2022). This is a type of intelligence that goes beyond cognitive and emotional intelligence.

Spiritual intelligence is important because it helps individuals navigate the complexities of human experience(Salehi et al., 2023). Through spiritual intelligence, one can find purpose and meaning in life, develop a sense of inner peace and satisfaction, and foster empathy and compassion for others.(Fesharaki, 2019). It also helps individuals develop a sense of connection with all living things and nature, leading to a greater appreciation of the environment and a desire to protect it.(Feng et al., 2019).

There are several components that make up spiritual intelligence(Giannone & Kaplin, 2020). They include: 1) Self-awareness: The ability to understand one's own values, beliefs, and emotions. It involves recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses and understanding how they affect one's life. 2) Compassion: The ability to empathize with others and care about their welfare. This involves showing kindness, generosity, and concern for the needs of others. 3) Mindfulness: The ability to be present in the moment and be aware of one's surroundings. This involves paying attention to one's thoughts, feelings, and surroundings without judgment. 4) Integrity: Ability to act according to one's values and principles. It involves honesty, ethics and responsibility. 5) Transcendence: The ability to connect to something bigger than oneself.

Developing spiritual intelligence requires deliberate effort and practice(Arsang-Jang et al., 2020). Some ways to develop spiritual intelligence include meditation, mindfulness practices, keeping a journal, volunteering, spending time in nature, and exploring opportunities for personal growth and development.(Anwar et al., 2020; Giannone & Kaplin, 2020).

Spiritual intelligence links intelligence with spirituality as a new construction and as a result for the level of spiritual leadership(Bolghan-Abadi et al., 2014). While spirituality is a sense of higher consciousness and divine existence(Rani et al., 2013). Spiritual intelligence is related to the skills to use the divine aspect to enable the attainment of goals and problem solving(Hanefar et al., 2016). Spiritual intelligence is an internal ability, related to the mind and spirit and its relationship with the world(Bagheri et al., 2011). This internal capability affects external capabilities(Cowan, 2005; Kadkhoda & Jahani, 2012; Martin & Hafer, 2009).

Spiritual intelligence can help in solving complex problems(Akhtar et al., 2018; Atroszko et al., 2021; Mahasneh et al., 2015; Pinto & Pinto, 2020). Spiritual intelligence can develop constructive traits and enable a person to utilize his ability to deal with danger and anger(Charkhabi et al., 2014; Kaur et al., 2013; Mahmood et al., 2018; Pant & Srivastava, 2019; Ramachandaran et al., 2017). People with a high level of spiritual intelligence are more tolerant, honest and compassionate towards other people in their life(Hyde, 2004). Spiritual intelligence allows us to also gain knowledge from the wealth of the heart and the universe(Samul, 2020). Many authors have reported that spiritual intelligence is a kind of intelligence that allows a sense of contact with people, the whole, a sense of one's own fullness, sees the relationships between things and also understands the importance of relationships to support interconnections.(George, 2006; Rahman & Shah, 2015). Spiritual intelligence is the internal compass between what is internal and what is external, providing a sense of meaning and significance to the experiences we create together.(Hosseini et al., 2010). Spiritual intelligence is self-awareness that teaches how to go beyond the scope of the ego closest to us and reach the deeper layers of the potential hidden within us, for a better existence.(Bolghan-Abadi et al., 2014).

Research into this spiritual intelligence shows that it is one of several types of intelligence and can be developed relatively independently(Kwilecki, 2000). Spiritual intelligence requires many ways of knowing and for integration of the inner life of mind and spirit with the outer life of work in the world(Samul, 2020). Spiritual intelligence can be developed through search, investigation and practice(Gardner, 2000; George, 2006; Sisk, 2002). Spiritual experience can also contribute to its development, depending on the context and means of integration(Samul, 2020). Spiritual maturity is expressed through wisdom and compassionate action in the world(Hyde, 2004). Spiritual intelligence is necessary for discernment in making spiritual choices that contribute to psychological well-being and overall healthy human development(Skrzypinska, 2021).In the workplace spiritual intelligence contributes to professional practice and competence through improved performance, integrity and optimal flexibility in dealing with crises(Howard et al., 2009).Hence, spiritual intelligence has been widely considered in different occupations and in the last decades in enhancing the performance of employees in different cultures in various organizations.(Anwar & Osman-Gani, 2015; Green & Noble, 2010; Watts & Dorobantu, 2023).

This study aims to analyze the systematic literature review (SLR) of international scientific articles for the research themespiritual intelligence. Data search from the perspective of keywords, research locations and subjects, as well as the research methods used. This study provides insight into the spread of researchspiritual intelligencein the country, year, theme, method, and the interrelationships between the themes that have been developed. To provide insights and suggestions for future research onspiritual intelligence, it is important to understand previous research regarding research gaps and research scopespiritual intelligencein the existing literature. Therefore, the research questions of our study are as follows:

- RQ1. Is research related spiritual intelligence still relevant for future research?
- RQ2. How is the spread of related research spiritual intelligence At the moment?
- RQ3. How should the related research spiritual intelligence is carried out future?

Bibliometric analysis techniques were applied to all publications in the relevant Scopus databases spiritual intelligence to get a comprehensive picture of developments spiritual intelligence from year to year. Bibliometric analysis describes scientific communication quantitatively, creating research structures, central themes and correlations. Detailed analysis will contribute to the development of a careful assessment of the various scientific aspects of integrated digital marketing. It makes theoretical and practical contributions to scientific insights.

## **METHODS**

The approach in this study used a systematic literature review (SLR) with bibliometrics (Hosseini et al., 2010; Srivastava, 2016). The bibliometric approach supports transparent quantitative and qualitative analyzes carried out to develop knowledge (Gardner, 2000; Wigglesworth, 2013). A bibliometric approach was first introduced to identify and understand networks based on citations, keywords or based on authors (Srivastava, 2016; Vaughan, 2002).

The initial step in this analysis is carried out by selecting keywords. The selection of the right keywords determines the accuracy in conducting research data analysis. Research analysis was carried out using the Scopus database which has an excellent reputation in the publication of research results from researchers around the world. Based on the Scopus database, the number of scientific articles from previous research related to spiritual intelligence is 702 articles (analysis was carried out on May 10, 2023). Furthermore, the bibliometric approach will analyze the title, keywords and abstract of each source using bibliometric analysis that supports accurate studies with citations and citations, country of publication, and primary author for this research field. Finally, to get clearer results, researchers also use VOSviewer software. The last tool allows the researcher to assess the relationships between keywords, supporting the boundaries of the scientific topic being discussed by the researcher.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the mapping results on the Scopus database, there are 702 articles related to spiritual intelligence. Research related to spiritual intelligence first appeared in 1964. Studies conducted by (San Juan, 1964) with the title Matthew Arnold and the Poetics of Belief: Some Implications of Literature and Dogma. The development of the study of spiritual intelligence to date has attracted the attention of researchers to examine in more depth how the impact of spiritual intelligence has on employee performance, organizational performance, employee fugitives, mental

health and others. The following is the development of studies related to spiritual intelligence from 1964 to 2023.

Documents by year

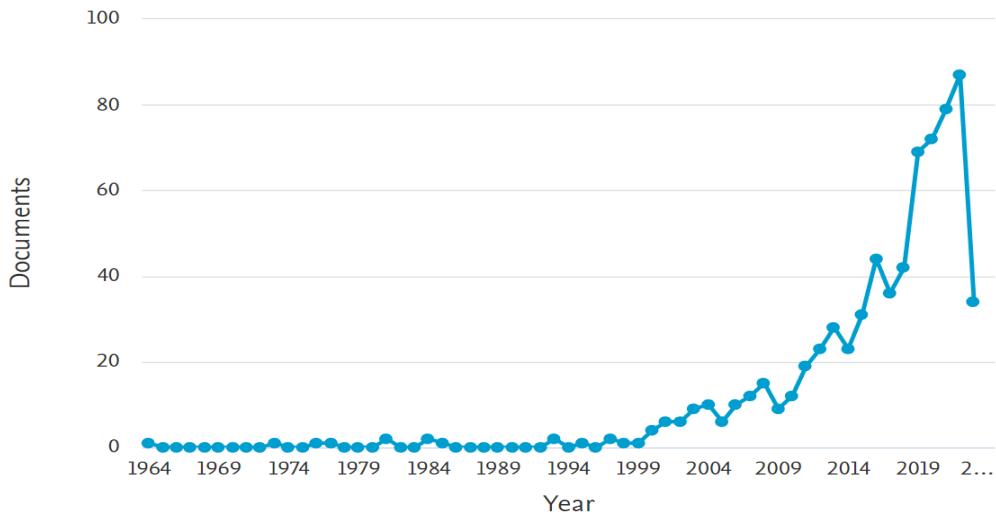


Figure 1. Number of Spiritual Intelligence Publications

Source: Scopus Database (2023)

The distribution of research based on affiliation shows that most studies related to spiritual intelligence are carried out in these 10 universities. The distribution of research related to spiritual intelligence based on affiliation is dominated by Islamic Azad University, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, University College London, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Payame Noor University, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, National University of Malaysia.

Documents by affiliation ⓘ

Compare the document counts for up to 15 affiliations.

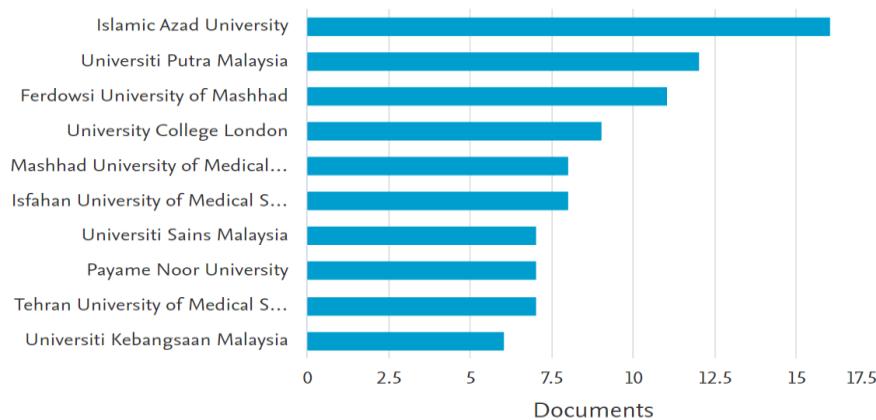


Figure 2. Number of Articles by Affiliations (Top 10 Institutions)

Source: Scopus Database (2023)

The distribution of research based on country/territory shows that most studies related to spiritual intelligence are carried out in these 10 countries. The distribution of research based on country/territory related to spiritual intelligence is dominated by Iran, United States, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Malaysia, India, China, Russian Federation, Canada, Australia. This finding also answers RQ2: how is the current distribution of research related to spiritual intelligence?

#### Documents by country or territory

Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.

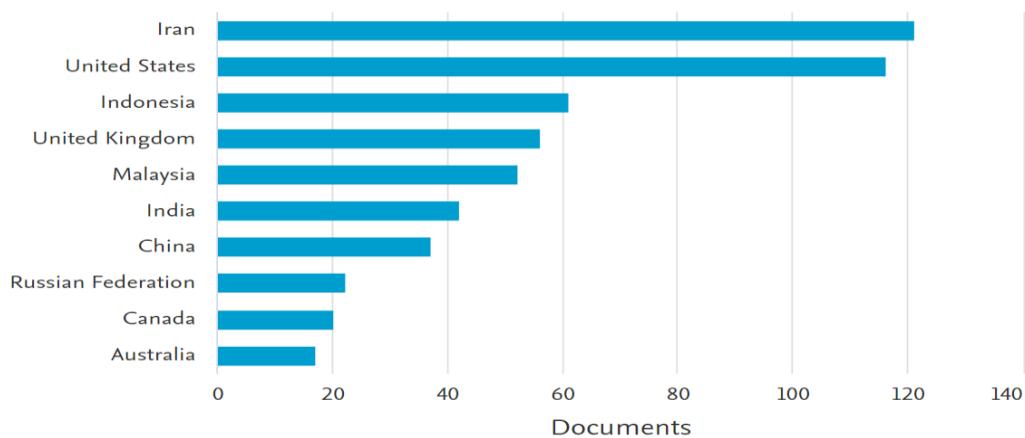


Figure 3. Number of Articles by Country/Territory (Top 10 Countries)  
 Source: Scopus Database (2023)

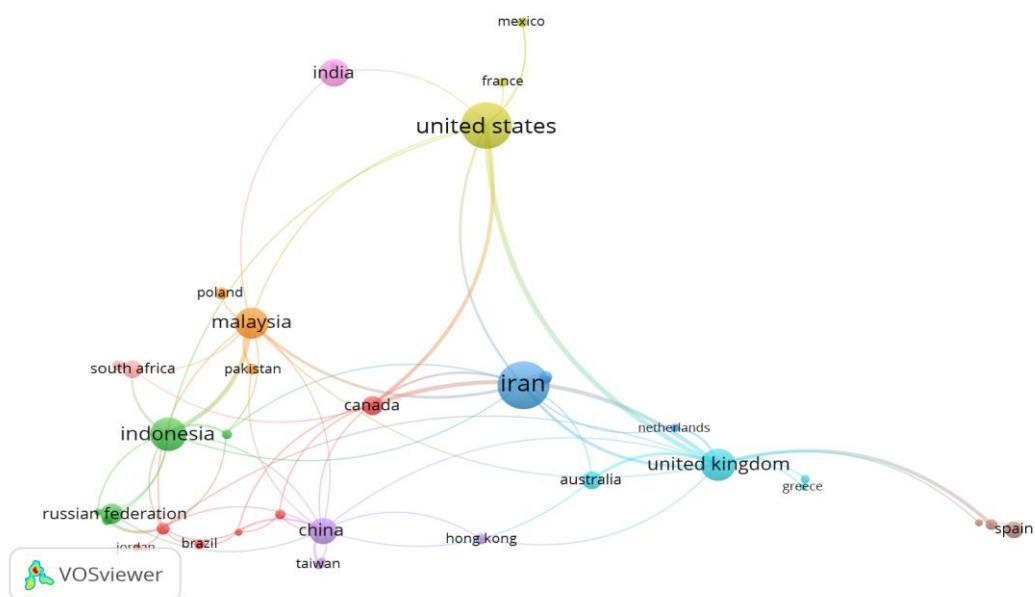


Figure 4. Distribution of Research by Country/Territory  
 Source: Based on VOSviewer software (2023)

The distribution of research based on Author shows that studies related to spiritual intelligence are mostly carried out by these 10 Authors. The distribution of research based on the Author regarding spiritual intelligence is dominated by Furnham, Arshad, Mahmood, Wiseman, Neto, Salehi, Yang, Ahmed, Akhtar, Faramarzi.

#### Documents by author

Compare the document counts for up to 15 authors.

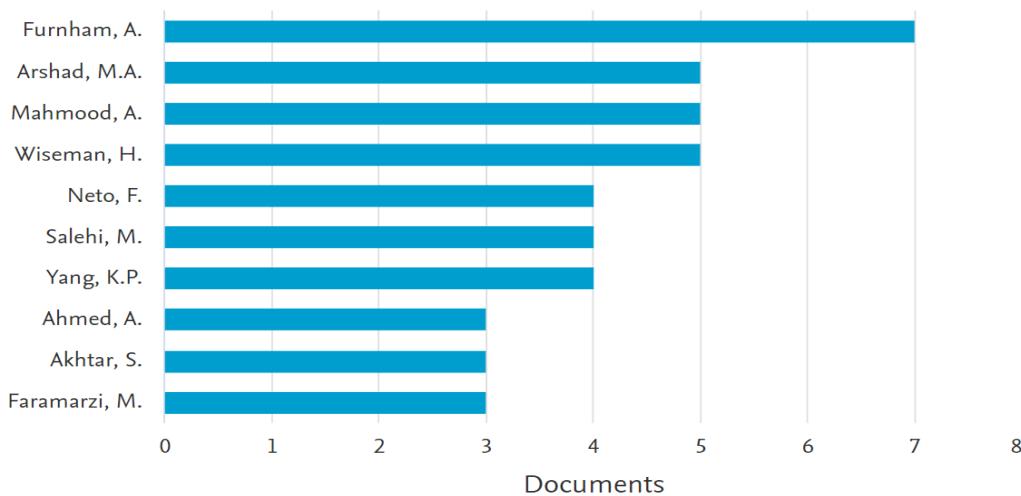


Figure 5. Number of Articles by Author (Top 10 Authors)  
 Source: Scopus Database (2023)

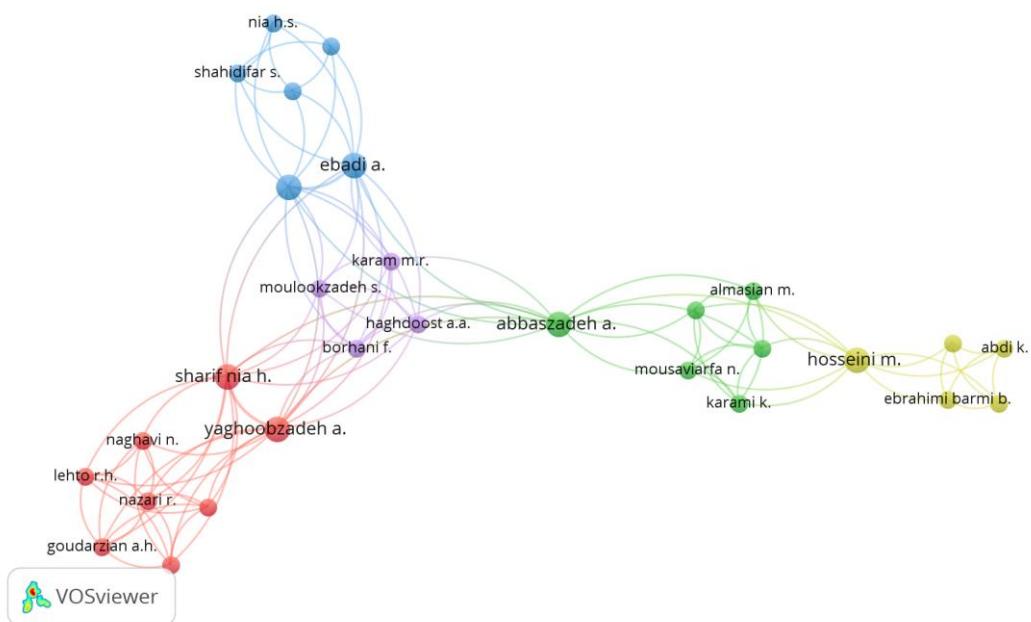


Figure 6. Distribution of Research by Author  
 Source: Based on VOSviewer software (2023)

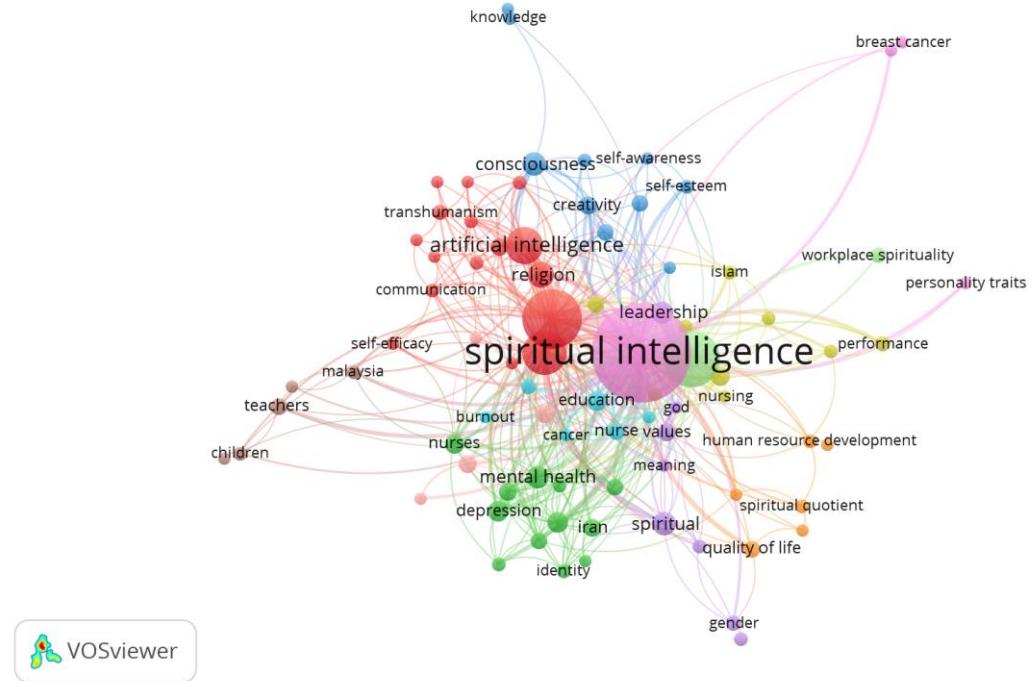


Figure 7. Co-occurrence Network and Visualization of Keywords  
 Source: Based on VOSviewer software (2023)

Based on descriptive and bibliometric analysis related to spiritual intelligence, the researcher's recommendations for future research are as follows:

**First**, Future research is expected to be able to explore more deeply related to spiritual intelligence which is associated with burnout, employee performance, artificial intelligence, self-efficacy, self-esteem and others which are still rarely researched by previous researchers, this is of course to develop future research to be more comprehensive in studying spiritual intelligence.

**Second**, future research should be carried out by including gender moderation variables in studying spiritual intelligence so that they can see how the difference between gender moderation is on spiritual intelligence which can later be useful for practitioners and academics in managing human resources both within the campus and within the organization.

## CONCLUSION

Spiritual intelligence is a form of intelligence with which individuals can deal with crises, change situations, solve problems, and achieve goals through a series of capacities and abilities. Having spiritual intelligence contributes to professional practice and competence in the workplace and has been shown to be beneficial for

nurses and nursing students. Nursing interventions to teach and increase understanding of spiritual intelligence have been explored in the literature, but the effectiveness of spiritual intelligence training for nurses and nursing students is still uncertain.

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