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Destigmatizing Mental Health Among Middle Eastern Males 50+

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Destigmatizing Mental Health Among Middle Eastern Males 50+

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Background

OMID Multicultural Institute for Development:

- A nonprofit organization founded in 2011
 - Provide myriad mental health services, education, outreach, and research
 - Offers services to adjust to a new life

Program:

- Destigmatizing mental health among Middle Eastern males 50+
 - Identifies barriers and limitations
 - Impacts on mental health and quality of life
 - Inform existence of current stigma and ways to overcome it
 - Informational and educational resources
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Literature Review

- American Community Survey indicated that Orange County is home to over 36,000 Iranian Americans
 - Irvine hosting more than 11,000 individuals
 - Second-largest Iranian population in Southern California

(Park, 2020; Taghva et al., 2017)

- Middle Eastern individuals have revealed that 4/5 individuals with mental health challenges face stigma within the community.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study found that nearly 20% of adults aged 18-64 in the United States live with a mental health challenge.

(National Institute of Mental Health, 2019)

• Depression and anxiety are the most common mental health challenges experienced within the Middle Eastern community member.

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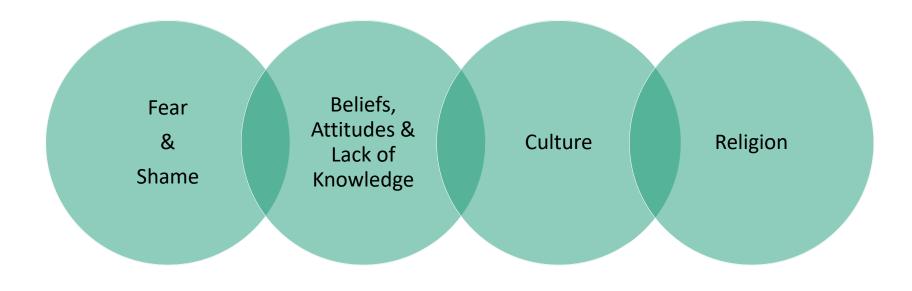
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(Mohammadzadeh et al., 2020)



Literature Review

Key themes identified within literature:





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Needs Assessment

SWOT analysis conducted via a semi-structured interview

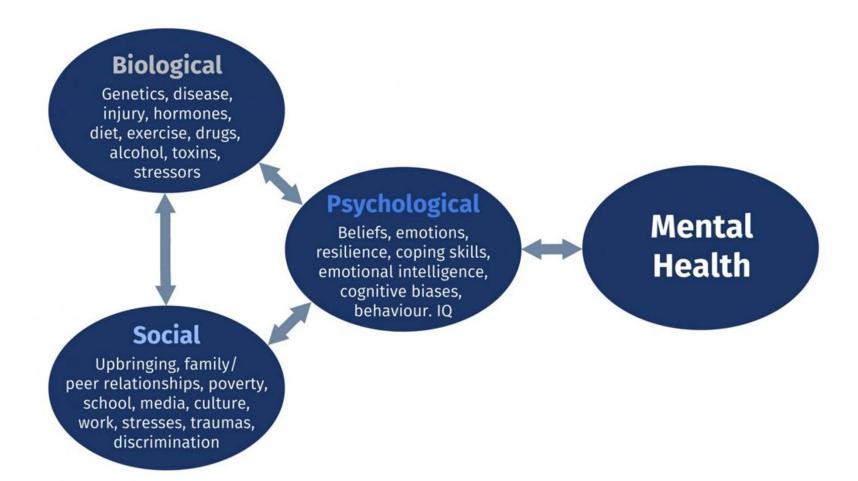
- S: Linguistically and culturally responsive mental health care
- W: Challenges in participating in sessions due to limited internet access
- **O:** To educate participants, establish good habits and routines, and assist in setting goals
- **T:** Funding
- Gap: Middle Eastern culture





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Guiding Theory



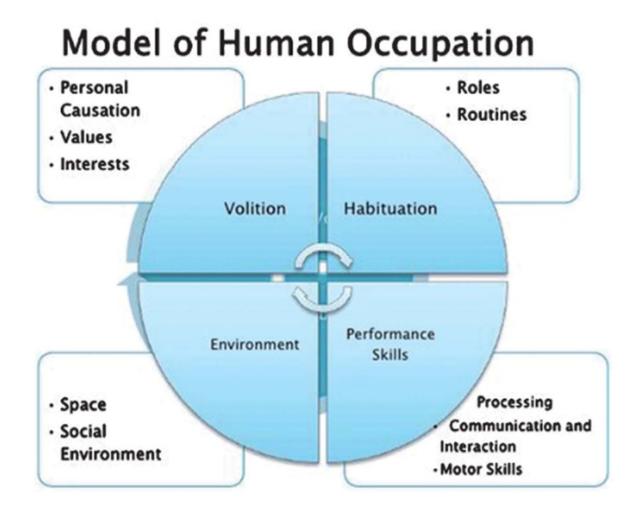
Biopsychosocial (BPS) model

(Christiansen et al., 2015)



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Guiding Theory



(Christiansen et al., 2015)



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Program Purpose

- Assess the presence of mental health stigma.
- Educate and inform the participants about the existence of mental health stigma and its impact
- Raise awareness about the consequence of the stigma and its potential barriers
- Create an informed, accepting, and supportive community
- Empower Middle Eastern men to continue participation
- Provide valuable resources and support mechanisms



Outcomes



Pamphlet for OMID clinic

تأثیر فرهنگ بر سلامت روان



OTD

 فرهنگ، شامل باورها، ارزشها، قوانین و رفتارها است که تأثیر زیادی بر تجربه و تفسیر ما از دنیا دارد، از جمله معنا که به سلامت روان میدهیم.
 فرهنگ تأثیرگذار است در نحوه مقابله مردم با مشکلات روزمره و اختلالات شدیدتر.

مطالعات اخیر درباره سلامت روان چه نتایجی نشان دادهاند

- ۱۰ بیماریهای روانی مانند افسردگی، استرس و اضطراب، یک شرایط سلامتی رایج میباشند تقریباً یک نفر از هر 5 نفر بالغ و یک نفر از هر 6 کودک در طول عمر خود با یک بیماری روانی قابل تشخیص روبرو خواهند شد.
- محدودیتهای سلامت روانی منجر به اختلالات ملایم تا شدید در تفکر، درک، خلق و/یا رفتار فرد میشود این اختلالات میتوانند بر توانایی فرد در مقابله با تقاضاها و روالهای زندگی تأثیر بگذارند.
- دو سوم افرادی که دچار یک حالت سلامت روانی قابل تشخیص هستند هرگز به دنبال کمک حرفهای نمیگردند این امر به دلیل عوامل متنوعی از جمله کمبود آگاهی یا دانش برای شناسایی ویژگیهای بیماری روانی، کمبود آگاهی درباره علائم بیماری روانی و نحوه دسترسی به خدمات بهداشت و درمان روانشناختی، تبعیض و خجالت از خود است
- بیماریهای روانی میتوانند بر سلامت جسمی و همچنین سلامت روانی تأثیر بگذارند.
 به عنوان مثال، افراد مبتلا به افسردگی دارای ۳۰٪ خطر بیشتری برای ابتلا به بیماریهای قلبی عروقی و متابولیک نسبت به جمعیت عمومی هستند.

نتایج تحقیقات درباره برخی از روشهای رایجی که فرهنگ ایرانی به نظر میرسد برای مقابله با سلامت روان

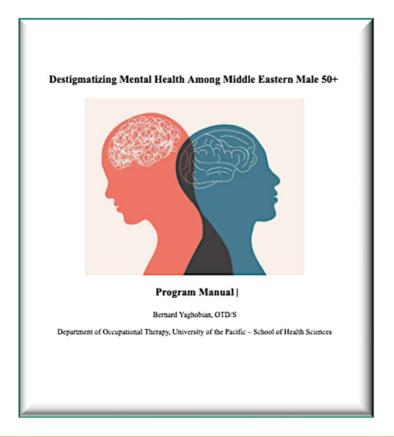
- ایرانیان بر اعتقادات دینی و رسومات روحانی خود تکیه میکنند دین نقش قابل توجهی در جامعه ایرانی دارد و بسیاری از افراد از طریق تمرینات و باورهای دینی خود آرامش و کمک مییابند شرکت در نماز، بازدید از اماکن مقدس و جستجوی راهنمایی از مقامات دینی میتواند احساس آرامش و امید را به ارمغان آورد.
- تعصب مرتبط با تشخیص روانپزشکی جدی یا رفتار یک عضو خانواده نیز میتواند منجر به شرمندگی واقع شود که در نتیجه ، باعث میشود که تمایل به ارتباط با دیگران کاهش یابد و همه چیز درونی شود.
- ایرانیان در هنگام رویدادهای تروماتیک زندگی خود به خانواده، دوستان و رهبران دینی مراجعه میکنند تا راهنمایی و حمایت دریافت کنند.

Program Handout

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- Strong recollection and understanding of information provided
- Feelings of comfort and willing to engage in discussion and share responses
- Raise awareness, fostering dialogue, and empowering participants
- Number of participants increased within each session:
 - 2 Men, 7 Women \rightarrow 10 Men , 22 Women
- Common feedback:
 - Increase number of sessions
 - Appreciated the unique structure of program
 - Expressed interest in additional resources
 - High levels of enjoyment and satisfaction
 - Mental health is as important as physical health



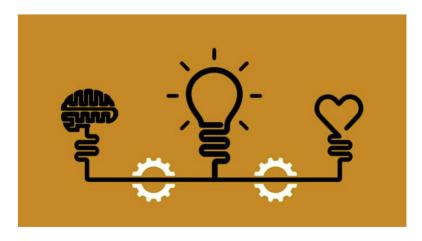


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Discussion

Recommendations for program improvement:

- In person sessions
- Additional case studies
- Increase duration of the program sessions
- Formal evaluation



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Role of Occupational Therapy:

- Education & Awareness
- Advocacy

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- Integrating mental health into practice
- Self-Care promotion
- Develop coping strategies



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Site Supervisor: Maryam Sayyedi, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist

Faculty Mentor : Natalie A. Perkins, PP-OTD, M.Ed., OTR/L, FIIE

Capstone Coordinator: Kathryn Wise, OTD, MHSc, OTR/L

Family and Friends

2023 OTD Cohort



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