

Comparison of the Effectiveness of the Premarital Preparation Program Based on Olson's Model and Premarital Education Using the Awareness and Choice Method on Attitudes Toward Marriage

Fereshteh. Vafaeinezhad¹, Amin. Koraei^{2*}, Reza. Pasha³


¹ PhD Student, Department of Counseling, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz, Iran

² Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, Tabriz, Iran


³ Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz, Iran


* Corresponding author email address: AminKoraei1402@gmail.com

Editor

Bahram Jowkar
Professor of Psychology
Department, Shiraz University, Iran
jowkar@shirazu.ac.ir

Reviewers

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: Abolghasem Khoshkonesh
Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran. Email: akhoshkonesh@sbu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Marriage is the most significant social norm and custom in all societies and cultures..." — Consider supporting this claim with more global or cross-cultural references, as it currently leans heavily on general statements without robust evidence.

"This study aims to compare the effectiveness of Olson's premarital preparation program and the awareness and choice method on students' attitudes toward marriage." — Consider specifying what gap in the literature this study addresses to highlight the novelty of your research.

"The Marital Attitudes and Expectations Scale..." — Clarify if cultural adaptation was validated for the Iranian context, and consider discussing the psychometric properties more comprehensively.

"The interaction between research stages and group membership is significant..." — It would strengthen the analysis to discuss potential implications of these findings and how they relate to prior studies.

"The results of pairwise comparisons in Table 7..." — Explain why specific differences between groups and stages matter for the broader interpretation of the intervention's impact.

"The impact of the awareness and choice method on attitudes..." — Deepen the comparison with past studies by addressing whether your effect sizes are consistent or significantly different from previous findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion about individual characteristics influencing attitudes toward marriage (e.g., "attitude toward marriage reflects an individual's feelings, biases...") could benefit from more in-depth analysis, specifically citing additional studies on how cultural values shape these attitudes.

"Several strategies have been implemented and validated for premarital education..." — It would be helpful to clarify whether Olson's and Van Epp's methods have comparable evidence supporting their efficacy and provide more specifics on previous research outcomes.

Sessions are well-described; however, it would be beneficial to explain how content was culturally adapted for Iranian students, if applicable.

"For the second experimental group..." — The interventions should include more information about the theoretical basis for the curriculum content and how these elements specifically address attitudes toward marriage.

The descriptive indices presented could be interpreted more clearly if accompanied by a brief narrative summarizing key trends in the text.

The discussion on Olson's approach highlights several strengths. Consider discussing any limitations, such as how the rigidity of structured sessions might affect diverse populations.

"The results revealed no significant differences between the premarital education groups..." — Discuss why the differences were insignificant at the pre-test stage and whether this was anticipated.

The assertion about Olson's approach's "therapeutic stability" over time requires more empirical support or a clearer link to how this stability manifests in real-world settings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.