





Article history:  
Received 20 January 2024  
Revised 07 March 2024  
Accepted 13 March 2024  
Published online 01 April 2024

## The Mediating Role of Dark Personality Traits in Explaining the Structural Relationships Between the Desire to Control Others and Women's Sense of Happiness

Mahdi. Mahdavi<sup>1</sup>, Seyed Abolghasem. Mehrinejad<sup>2\*</sup>, Abolfazl. Karami<sup>3</sup>, Rasoul. Roshan Chesli<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD student, Department of Psychology, Semnan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Semnan, Iran


<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Al-Zahra University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran



<sup>4</sup> Professor, Department of Psychology, Shahed University, Tehran, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: seyedabolghasemmehrinejad@gmail.com

### Editor

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

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Maryam Fatehizade  
Professor of Counseling Department, Faculty of Educational Sciences and  
Psychology, Isfahan University, Iran  
m.fatehizade@edu.ui.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Mohammad Masoud Dayarian  
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic  
Azad University.Komeinishar/Isfahan,Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract should succinctly summarize the study's background, methodology, results, and conclusion. Consider adding a sentence to clarify the specific dark personality traits studied (Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy) as they are central to your findings.

The introduction discusses various aspects of happiness and controlling behaviors but does not clearly connect these to the specific dark traits examined. Enhance this section by specifically linking how each dark trait could influence happiness within marital relationships, drawing on existing literature.

While the sample size is adequate, the selection of "purposive convenience sampling" is not thoroughly justified. Discuss how this method might limit the generalizability of the findings and consider describing any efforts made to mitigate sampling bias.

For the scales used (happiness, controlling behaviors, dark traits), include a brief discussion on their validation process, particularly how they are relevant and validated for the Iranian cultural context, if applicable.

Expand on the SEM analysis by providing more detailed interpretations of the path coefficients, specifically discussing the practical significance of these findings in addition to their statistical significance.

Intensify the discussion by comparing your findings with those of other regional studies to highlight any cultural nuances in dark traits and happiness in marital relationships. This will enrich the contextual understanding of the results.

The limitations are briefly mentioned; however, elaborate on how these limitations could affect the interpretations of the findings. For instance, discuss the implications of using self-report measures which may involve biases such as social desirability or self-selection.

Suggest specific future research directions that could address the limitations noted. For instance, propose longitudinal studies to examine the changes in dark personality traits and their impact on happiness over time.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Provide more details on the model fit indices used in SEM. Elaborate on why certain indices were prioritized and how each contributes to validating the model's adequacy.

Enhance transparency by detailing the procedures used to ensure anonymity and confidentiality in the online data collection process. This is crucial for ethical reassurance and methodological clarity.

Tie the results back to the theoretical framework introduced in the earlier sections. Discuss how the findings support or contradict existing theories about personality traits and happiness.

While the Helsinki Declaration is mentioned, specify which ethical considerations were most pertinent to this study, such as informed consent and the right to withdraw, especially given the sensitive nature of the subject matter.

Elaborate on the practical implications of your findings for marital counseling and mental health policy. Provide specific recommendations for practitioners on how to address dark personality traits in therapy settings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.