




Comparing the Effectiveness of Schema-Focused Couple Therapy and Emotion-Focused Couple Therapy on Marital Offense Forgiveness in Couples with Marital Discrepancies

Masoume. Seidyousefi¹, Fathola. Mohamadian^{2*}, Arash. Nademi³


¹ Ph.D, Student of Psychology, Department of Psychology, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran

² Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran



³ Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Ilam Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ilam, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: fmohamadianmaghale@yahoo.com

Editor

Maryam Fatehizade¹
Professor of Counseling
Department, Faculty of Educational
Sciences and Psychology, Isfahan
University, Iran
m.fatehizade@edu.ui.ac.ir

Reviewers

Reviewer 2: Mahdi Khanjani¹
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Allameh Tabataba'i University,
Tehran, Iran.
Email: khanjani_m@atu.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Abotaleb Saadati Shamir¹
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Sciences, University of Science and
Research, Tehran, Iran. Email: psychology@iau.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript states that convenience sampling was used, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. It is recommended to discuss the potential biases introduced by this sampling method and consider stratified random sampling in future studies to enhance representativeness.

While a control group was used, the manuscript lacks detail on any activities or interactions this group had during the study period that might affect the outcomes. Suggest incorporating a placebo or attention control condition to strengthen the study's internal validity.

The Cronbach's alpha values reported for the benevolence subscale (.35 for men and .10 for women) suggest unacceptable levels of reliability. Recommend re-evaluating the scale or possibly using a different instrument with higher reliability for these constructs.

The descriptions of the interventions are comprehensive, yet they lack specific examples of the therapeutic exercises or content. Providing detailed session activities would allow for better reproducibility of the study and clinical application.

There is no mention of subgroup analyses which might reveal differential effects of the therapy based on demographic variables such as age, length of marriage, or severity of marital discrepancies. Recommend including such analyses to provide deeper insights into the data.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The terms "marital discrepancies" and "marital offense forgiveness" are central to the study but are not clearly defined. Define these terms explicitly in the introduction to ensure clarity for all readers.

The manuscript would benefit from a more detailed discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of both schema-focused and emotion-focused therapies, particularly how these theories hypothesize changes in marital offense forgiveness.

The finding that there was no significant difference between the effectiveness of the two therapies should be discussed in more depth. Speculate on why this might be the case and how future research could further explore this outcome.

While some limitations are noted, discussing potential confounders, such as therapist effects or participant expectations, could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the study's constraints.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.