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The Mediating Role of Resilience and Self-Compassion in the Relationship Between Perceived Stress and Psychological Distress with Marital Adjustment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The review adequately cites relevant studies, but lacks recent research post-2021, which could provide updated insights into the pandemic's long-term effects on marital dynamics.

The convenience sampling method limits the generalizability of the findings. Future research should consider stratified or random sampling to enhance representativeness.

While the scales used are well-validated, the manuscript should discuss any cultural adaptations or validations that were necessary for the local context, especially considering the unique cultural setting of Isfahan.

The use of SEM is appropriate; however, the manuscript should provide a more detailed justification for the model choice, including comparisons to other potential models.

In addition to SEM, it would strengthen the study to apply a multi-level modeling approach to account for the nested nature of the data (individuals within couples).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The method for handling missing data is not mentioned. The authors should specify if any data were missing and describe the imputation techniques used.

The manuscript would benefit from a deeper discussion on the direction and magnitude of path coefficients, especially unexpected findings or non-significant paths.

The discussion on mediation is well-presented but should include alternative explanations or theories that might contradict or challenge the proposed mediation effects.

The study should discuss the statistical power of the analyses conducted, particularly whether the sample size was sufficient to detect the effects observed.

The manuscript reports significant p-values but lacks discussion on the effect sizes associated with the main findings, which are crucial for understanding the practical significance of the results.

Expand the discussion to compare findings with international studies, providing a global perspective on the impacts of COVID-19 on marital adjustment.

The limitations section should address the potential biases introduced by using self-report measures, including social desirability and self-selection bias.

Provide a more detailed analysis of the reliability and validity of the measurement instruments over the course of the study, especially if there were multiple assessment points.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.