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Model Fit Determination of Marital Satisfaction Based on Self-Differentiation, Critical Thinking, and Emotional Self-Regulation Mediated by the Feeling of Happiness in Married Women


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paper defines marital satisfaction but lacks an operational definition. Please include a more detailed operational definition of marital satisfaction to improve clarity.

You report the main fit indices (χ^2/df , RMSEA, CFI) but omit others, such as TLI or AIC, which would provide a fuller picture of model adequacy. Consider including these indices to enhance the robustness of your SEM analysis.

While the statistical significance of path coefficients is reported, effect sizes (such as R^2 for each endogenous variable) are not discussed in depth. Including effect sizes would provide a clearer understanding of the magnitude of each predictor's impact.

Although you explain the mediation effect of happiness, a clearer discussion of whether it is a full or partial mediation would be beneficial. Consider adding a Sobel test or bootstrapping analysis to confirm mediation strength.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the introduction provides a strong rationale for the study, it would benefit from more emphasis on existing gaps in the literature. Specifically, explain why the mediating role of happiness in the context of these specific predictors (self-differentiation, critical thinking, emotional regulation) has not been studied extensively.

The ENRICH Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire is widely used, but it would be helpful to briefly explain why this specific tool was chosen for your study and how its subscales align with your research objectives.

Although reliability coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) are reported, consider including validity data for the measurement instruments, particularly in the context of the Iranian population, to strengthen the credibility of your results.

The discussion effectively summarizes key findings but lacks depth in discussing the practical implications for counseling and therapy. Consider elaborating on how the findings can be used to develop intervention strategies for improving marital satisfaction.

There is a solid connection to Bowen's theory of self-differentiation. However, the discussion would benefit from integrating more theoretical perspectives, such as cognitive-behavioral frameworks, to explain the relationship between critical thinking and marital satisfaction.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.