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Development and Effectiveness of a Family Mediation Intervention Model on Self-Esteem, Negative Mood, and Social Anxiety in Children of Divorce

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Family mental health and its promotion are considered one of the prerequisites for achieving sustainable development in countries today" lacks specific evidence or citations to support the claim. Adding relevant sources or statistics can strengthen the argument.

The description of the Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (SCAS) is clear, but the rationale for choosing only the social anxiety subscale should be more explicit. Were other subscales considered less relevant to the study's aims, and if so, why?

When explaining the Children's Depression Inventory (CDI), you focus on its subscales. However, it is important to explain why the negative affect and self-esteem subscales were specifically chosen. Providing a clearer link between these subscales and the goals of the intervention would help.

The intervention package was validated using Lawshe's method. However, there is limited information on how the pilot study informed the package's development. What specific changes were made after the pilot, and how did the expert panel contribute to content adjustments?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

You mention, "Children are the primary victims of divorce" without adequately addressing the mechanisms or pathways through which this occurs. Expanding on psychological, emotional, and social pathways could provide a more nuanced understanding of the issue.

The statistical data regarding the rise in divorces should be accompanied by a more detailed discussion on how this increase specifically affects children, especially in Iranian cultural contexts. Are there unique cultural or societal factors contributing to the rise and their consequences on children?

You mention, "Self-esteem is the first and most fundamental aspect of children of divorce that is damaged." This statement is strong but should be supported with evidence from psychological studies that validate the primacy of self-esteem over other psychological factors.

The statement, "Co-parenting has been recognized as an effective intervention in this field," should be followed by examples of specific studies or evidence showing its effectiveness, ideally comparing it with other interventions to show why it is chosen in this context.

The session descriptions are clear but could benefit from including theoretical foundations or psychological frameworks that underlie each session's content. For instance, referencing communication theory or cognitive-behavioral strategies could strengthen the academic rigor.

While MANCOVA was used to analyze the data, more detail is needed on why this statistical method was chosen over others (e.g., repeated measures ANOVA). Additionally, a discussion of effect sizes for each variable (negative affect, self-esteem, and social anxiety) would provide more insight into the practical significance of the findings.

The table presents skewness and kurtosis values, but it would be helpful to briefly explain what these values imply for the assumptions of normality and how they affect the interpretation of the MANCOVA results.

In the results section, when discussing the MANCOVA findings, it would be beneficial to interpret the eta squared values more thoroughly. Specifically, discuss what these values indicate about the magnitude of the intervention's effect.

While you compare your findings to previous studies, more depth is needed in explaining how cultural or contextual factors might have influenced the similarities or differences in outcomes. How might Iran's unique social, familial, or judicial context have affected the intervention's success?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.