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Comparison of the Effectiveness of Schema Therapy, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, and Compassion-Focused Therapy on Components of Loving, Emotional Empathy, Marital Values, Coping Skills, and Willingness to Marry Among Single Women with Fear of Marriage

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph discussing Erikson's theory of intimacy, the reference to Erikson (1982) is helpful but could be expanded to include more recent studies to connect the historical framework with contemporary findings.

While Table 2 provides ANOVA results, the narrative text does not explain the significance of the effect sizes reported. Include a brief explanation of these effect sizes to help readers interpret their practical significance.

The results of the Bonferroni post hoc test in Table 4 are not sufficiently discussed. Please elaborate on the implications of these differences, particularly for the compassion-focused therapy group.

The recommendation for future research is vague. Be more specific by suggesting longitudinal studies to examine the sustainability of the observed effects over several years.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

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1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The section mentioning cultural values of marriage (Mokhtari et al., 2021) does not elaborate on specific cultural influences in Semirom. Expanding on these cultural factors could provide a richer context for the study.

The sentence, "Participants were randomly assigned to four groups," could be misleading as the sampling was non-random. Clarify whether randomization applied only to group assignment.

The description of the Coping Skills Questionnaire (Billings & Moos, 1981) lacks detail on its cultural adaptation. If not already done, please discuss the validation process for its use in the study population.

The discussion states that results align with prior research but does not critically assess why schema therapy and CBT performed better in follow-up stages than CFT. Include a more detailed comparison with studies like Mokhtari et al. (2021).

The section on CBT's impact mentions the restructuring of beliefs but could benefit from examples or hypothetical scenarios illustrating how participants' coping skills improved.

While limitations are mentioned briefly, they do not address potential confounding variables such as the participants' prior therapy exposure or socioeconomic background. Adding these points would strengthen the discussion.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted. Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

