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Pre-Marital Education Based on Eric Berne's Theory and Expert-Centered Pre-Marital Education on Emotional Experiences Related to Marriage

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Monika Szczygieł Department of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland monika.szczygiel@uj.edu.pl	**Reviewer 1:** Shahrokh Makvand Hoseini Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Semnan University, Iran. Email: shmakvand@semnan.ac.ir **Reviewer 2:** Davood Taghvaei Department of Psychology, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran. Email: d-taghvaeii@iau-arak.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The first paragraph of the introduction (e.g., "Marriage is one of the most significant...") needs clearer articulation of the problem statement. Consider restructuring to highlight why divorce rates necessitate new approaches to pre-marital education.

The claim, "Many new marriages in recent years have led to divorce," lacks statistical evidence. Please provide data to substantiate this assertion and strengthen the context for the study.

The study's hypothesis about the effectiveness of pre-marital education needs to be explicitly stated in the methods section. Consider adding a direct statement outlining your hypotheses.

The session content for the interventions, such as "Session 1: Understanding the Importance of Values," is described in general terms. Include specific examples or case studies from the sessions to illustrate how concepts were taught.

The reliability of the Emotional Experience towards Marriage Questionnaire (e.g., "Yousefi et al. (2023) reported Cronbach's alpha above 0.90...") is robust, but consider discussing any cultural adaptations made for your study population.

The significance of the findings, such as the eta squared values for the group differences (e.g., "For negative emotion, the eta squared..."), should be discussed in practical terms. How do these effect sizes translate to real-world significance?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the literature review section, the transition between the discussion of various counseling models (e.g., "Mokhtari et al. (2023) introduced a model...") needs to be more cohesive. Add a summary sentence that connects these studies and outlines the research gap this study addresses.

In the paragraph about Eric Berne's theory ("In this regard, one theory that seems adaptable..."), the explanation of transactional analysis is too dense. Simplify or use diagrams to make it more accessible, particularly focusing on its relevance to pre-marital education.

The results for positive and negative emotional experiences are not fully explored. Why did one intervention impact only negative emotions? Provide a more detailed discussion that integrates psychological theories.

In the discussion section, the statement, "This result aligns with other findings...," needs more specific comparisons. Cite particular studies that found similar or contrasting results and explain the implications.

The explanation for why the expert-centered method reduced negative emotions (e.g., "Increasing awareness and structuring pre-existing information...") lacks depth. Include more details about the psychological or emotional mechanisms driving this change.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2.   Revised

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