

Marital Satisfaction Based on Father Involvement in Parenting, Problem-Solving Skills, and Cognitive Emotion Regulation through Emotional Empathy in Mothers of Children with Cerebral Palsy

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the phrase "Cerebral palsy is a neurological disorder caused by damage to the developing brain of a fetus or infant" (line 2) could benefit from further clarification. It may be useful to briefly describe the typical mechanisms of brain injury in CP (e.g., prenatal vs. perinatal factors) to provide more specific context for readers unfamiliar with the condition.

In the statement, "The findings of the current study are consistent with the results of prior studies" (line 1), it would be beneficial to briefly summarize the specific aspects of previous studies that align with your findings. For instance, were certain variables or methods similar, or were there notable differences in findings?

When discussing the indirect relationship between father involvement and marital satisfaction through emotional empathy (lines 4-5), the mechanism of this relationship should be explored in more detail. How do you theorize that emotional empathy specifically mediates this relationship? This would deepen the theoretical contribution of your study.

In the section explaining the direct relationship between father involvement and marital satisfaction, the argument that "emotional support and reassurance mothers receive from father involvement" (lines 7-8) strengthens marital bonds is reasonable, but could be expanded. Are there specific types of emotional support (e.g., practical, emotional, or financial) that were particularly impactful for marital satisfaction?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The transition between describing the consequences of cerebral palsy and the focus on marital satisfaction feels abrupt. Consider providing a clearer connection between the health challenges of mothers and how those relate to the broader social dynamics, particularly marital satisfaction. This would help establish a stronger rationale for the study's focus.

In the sentence "A child's disability, as a family member, disrupts the family system's ability to perform its functions effectively" (lines 6-7), the term "disrupts" is somewhat vague. It may be helpful to be more specific about what "disrupts" means (e.g., emotional distress, social isolation) and how this affects family dynamics, particularly marital relationships.

The introduction cites a number of relevant studies, but it would be helpful to integrate more recent research on marital satisfaction specifically in families with children with cerebral palsy. Are there studies from the last 2-3 years that offer further evidence of the factors influencing marital satisfaction?

In discussing father involvement, the sentence "Over time, fathers have shown varying roles in child-rearing" (lines 15-16) is a bit generalized. Could you specify how these roles have evolved in recent studies or societal trends, particularly in relation to caregiving for children with disabilities?

The method section mentions the use of census and purposive sampling (lines 5-6), but it would be useful to explain why these sampling techniques were chosen. Were there specific characteristics of the target population that necessitated purposive sampling? Clarifying this would improve the transparency of your sampling process.

The phrase "The data collection instruments are described as follows" (line 7) is vague. Can you provide more specific details about the instruments used (e.g., validity, reliability, and scoring methods)? Were any instruments specifically developed for this population, or were they adapted from existing scales?

While structural equation modeling (SEM) is mentioned, there is no detail on how the data were prepared for SEM analysis. Did you check for multicollinearity or other assumptions required for SEM? Including these details would strengthen the methodological rigor.

The statement "If fathers assist mothers in caring for a child with cerebral palsy, mothers will be able to rest and attend to household chores and other children" (lines 9-10) may be overly simplistic. This implies a causal relationship without supporting evidence. A more nuanced approach would acknowledge that the role of father involvement is likely mediated by various contextual factors such as maternal mental health, socio-economic status, or available support systems.

In discussing cognitive emotion regulation and marital satisfaction, it would be valuable to explain how the cognitive emotion regulation strategies (e.g., reappraisal or positive refocusing) work in practice. Are there specific examples or studies demonstrating how these strategies improve marital satisfaction?

While the discussion largely emphasizes positive outcomes of father involvement and problem-solving, there is no mention of potential limitations or counterarguments. For instance, could over-involvement by fathers lead to conflict? Addressing such complexities would demonstrate a more balanced view.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.