

Examining the Relationship Between Psychological Abnormalities and Emotional Interactions with Emotional Divorce with the Mediating Role of Religious Beliefs in Couples with Marital Conflicts


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the paragraph stating, "The family is the first and most unique social institution..." provides a general background but does not specifically highlight gaps in the literature. It would be helpful to integrate a few references that show the lack of empirical research on religious beliefs as a mediating factor in emotional divorce.

The study uses multiple standardized scales, such as the Psychological Disorders Questionnaire and the Emotional Divorce Scale. However, some psychometric properties, such as test-retest reliability for each scale in the present study's sample, are missing. It would be helpful to report internal consistency values from this sample.

The study states, "The correlation coefficient between emotional divorce and psychological abnormalities was 0.252, indicating a positive relationship." However, this effect size is relatively weak. It would be helpful to comment on the practical significance of this correlation.

The goodness-of-fit indices are reported (e.g., RMSEA = 0.053), but the cut-off criteria for model fit (e.g., CFI > 0.90, RMSEA < 0.08) should be explicitly stated to support the claim of a well-fitting model.

The study does not discuss potential confounding variables, such as socioeconomic status or length of marriage, which may influence emotional divorce. Including a paragraph addressing potential confounders would enhance the rigor of the study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The study states, "Experts believe that the family is one of the first public and universal institutional systems essential for meeting human vital and emotional needs and for the survival of society (Azimi Rasta & Abedzad Noubrian, 2013)." While informative, it would be beneficial to clarify how the current research builds upon these previous studies.

The discussion on emotional divorce (e.g., "Emotional divorce is a situation in which the family structure is outwardly preserved but in reality, it is empty from within...") lacks integration with theoretical models. Including relevant theories such as Attachment Theory or Social Exchange Theory would strengthen the theoretical foundation.

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to test for normality, but it is not the most robust method for large samples. It would be beneficial to also report skewness and kurtosis values to confirm data normality.

The mean and standard deviation values in Table 1 are presented clearly, but effect sizes for correlations (such as Cohen's guidelines for small, medium, and large effects) should be provided for better interpretation.

The article discusses the mediating role of religious beliefs, stating, "The variance accounted for is 0.278, which is 27.8%." However, no confidence intervals for the indirect effect are reported. Using bootstrapping methods to confirm the mediation effect would strengthen the analysis.

The discussion states, "Religious beliefs played a mediating role between psychological abnormalities, emotional interactions, and emotional divorce." While this is a key finding, it should be explicitly connected to past research that has explored religious beliefs as a buffer against relationship distress.

The study uses a correlational design, yet the discussion sometimes implies causality. For instance, the statement, "Strengthening religious beliefs may help reduce emotional divorce," suggests a causal link that the study does not establish. Consider revising this to acknowledge the limitations of causation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.