




The Effect of Marital Relationships on the Tendency Toward Infidelity Based on Attachment Behavior in Married Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Extramarital affairs often result in severe emotional distress for both parties involved” cites PTSD-like symptoms. It would be useful to specify whether this claim is drawn from empirical studies or clinical case observations, and to ensure that references (Badanfiroz, 2025; Salehzadeh et al., 2024; Yousefpouri, 2024) directly support PTSD-like outcomes.

The authors state, “no study has specifically investigated the relationship between the tendency toward infidelity and attachment behavior in marital relationships”. However, several cited works (e.g., Rafiei et al., 2011; Estebarsari & Abolghasemi, 2024) explore related constructs. Please refine the novelty claim to avoid overstating originality.

The notation “***p<0.05, p<0.01” seems reversed. Typically, p<0.01 is denoted with **, and p<0.05 with *. Please verify and correct to avoid misinterpretation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors state, “Reports on the percentage of relationships that end due to extramarital affairs are inconsistent... 45% to 77%”. This wide range needs critical discussion. Please clarify whether cultural, methodological, or definitional differences explain such variability.

The sentence “Psychologists argue that attachment behavior in marital relationships reduces the likelihood of infidelity and divorce (Ahramian et al., 2021)” is important but too general. Consider elaborating on the mechanisms (e.g., emotional regulation, trust-building) to provide theoretical depth.

The authors state, “Based on the above evidence, the research hypothesis is confirmed”. This is overly simplistic. Please provide a more nuanced interpretation, including limitations of effect sizes, cultural specificity, and alternative explanations.

The text summarizes Aminiha et al. (2015) on coping strategies, but the link to the present study is not explicit. Please explain how coping strategies after infidelity relate to attachment behavior and the prevention of infidelity.

The statement “Based on the findings of this study, it is suggested that educational workshops be held to improve attachment behavior” is valuable, but it would be more compelling to ground this recommendation in the specific findings (e.g., secure attachment’s negative association with infidelity).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.