

Effectiveness of Positive Couple Therapy on Marital Intimacy and Relational Resilience in Couples Referring to Counseling Centers in Bushehr City

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “marital relationships constitute one of the most influential social systems...” would benefit from at least one quantitative citation reporting prevalence of marital distress or its mental-health burden to strengthen the argument.

The description of the eight sessions is rich but would benefit from a session-by-session table in an appendix for replication.

You report that assumptions were tested, but please provide exact p-values for Levene’s and Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests rather than simply stating $p > .05$.

The posttest means differ only modestly between groups (e.g., 160.42 vs. 156.37). Please explain why such differences yielded very large effect sizes in ANCOVA.

Please add adjusted posttest means and standard errors to Table 2 to allow readers to fully interpret the ANCOVA results.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph on relational resilience cites multiple sources but lacks a clear operational definition. Please explicitly define relational resilience in one sentence before discussing its components.

The sentence “Positive couple therapy... extends these principles to the marital context” would be strengthened by briefly distinguishing how this model differs technically from traditional CBT-based or emotion-focused couple therapies.

You claim a research gap regarding Middle Eastern contexts. Please add at least one concrete statistic or systematic review finding demonstrating the scarcity of such studies.

The inclusion criterion “low to moderate levels of marital intimacy and relational resilience” requires clarification. Please specify the cutoff scores used on both instruments.

The exclusion criterion referencing “severe psychological disorders” should describe how diagnosis was determined (clinical interview, medical records, self-report screening).

You state that “construct validity... was 0.80” and then mention item-total correlations in the current study. Please report the actual correlation range observed.

Similarly, please provide the range of item-total correlations obtained in this sample to improve psychometric transparency.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.