

## The Role of Psychological Capital and Trust in Predicting Marital Intimacy among Married Individuals in Pakistan

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction lacks a clear conceptual model explaining how PsyCap theoretically predicts intimacy (e.g., through emotion regulation or cognitive appraisal). Adding a schematic model or hypothesis diagram would strengthen theoretical coherence.

While this is accurate, the section should explicitly articulate why Pakistan's sociocultural context warrants investigation. Include relevant demographic or sociological data (e.g., collectivism indices, gender norms, or religious frameworks).

The gap statement could be refined. Cite specific Pakistani or South Asian studies that focused on either PsyCap or trust individually but not jointly, to demonstrate the precise novelty of the study.

Consider discussing the mechanisms through which trust impacts intimacy—e.g., through reduced attachment anxiety, improved emotional communication, or oxytocin-related bonding—as supported by empirical literature.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

*1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

It would improve rigor to clarify how randomization was operationalized—for example, whether random number generators or stratified lists were used, and from which sampling frame (e.g., urban vs. rural households).

The manuscript should report translation and cultural adaptation procedures, such as back-translation, pilot testing, or local reliability coefficients for the Pakistani context, to establish validity.

The authors could contextualize these beta values by referencing Cohen's (1988) benchmarks for effect sizes, thereby helping readers interpret the magnitude of effects.

While prior studies are well cited, the discussion could be strengthened by integrating the Broaden-and-Build theory of positive emotions or attachment theory to theoretically ground the findings.

This claim implies causality. Revise wording to reflect associational interpretation, as cross-sectional designs cannot establish directionality.

This argument is strong, but it would be beneficial to differentiate rural versus urban collectivism or discuss regional heterogeneity within Pakistan, as cultural norms are not homogeneous.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

**2. Revised**

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.