

Prediction of Loneliness Based on Decision-Making Styles in Couples with the Mediation of Social Support

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript could benefit from a clearer explanation of the mediation model, specifically the indirect effects and interactions between decision-making styles and social support. It would be helpful to include a detailed diagram of the mediation model to visually depict these relationships for better reader comprehension.

The description of decision-making styles in the manuscript is somewhat cursory. Expanding this section to include more about the theoretical underpinnings and previous empirical findings regarding these styles could enhance the depth of the research context.

The study's generalizability is limited by its sample, which is confined to couples from a specific district in Tehran. Future revisions might consider a discussion on how these findings might differ in other cultural or geographical contexts, or suggest replicating the study in diverse settings.

While the study employs stratified random sampling, there is no justification given for the choice of stratification criteria. Expanding on why these particular stratification variables were chosen (e.g., age, duration of marriage) would clarify the methodology.

While the study mentions adherence to ethical guidelines, more detailed information about ethical approval for the study, including any specific ethical considerations regarding the psychological assessment of loneliness, would be beneficial.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The manuscript should provide clearer definitions and operationalization for key constructs, particularly how 'social support' and 'loneliness' are measured. Detailing how each construct is operationalized will aid in understanding the results and their implications.

The discussion section could provide a deeper analysis of the limitations mentioned, particularly the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the results. Discussing how the pandemic might have affected the participants' decision-making styles and perceived social support would add depth.

While the conclusion offers some suggestions for future research, these could be expanded to include specific methodologies or theories that future studies might employ to explore unrecognized aspects of the relationships among decision-making styles, social support, and loneliness.

Some findings appear counterintuitive, such as the positive correlation between dependent decision-making styles and loneliness. The manuscript could benefit from a section that offers possible psychological or sociological explanations for these findings.

There are several instances of grammatical errors and awkward phrasing that hinder the readability of the paper. A thorough proofreading and technical editing pass would significantly improve the manuscript's clarity and professionalism.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.