



# Exploring the Formation of the Socio-Cultural Trauma of Fear of Marriage in Men Using the Grounded Theory Method

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Gholamreza Rajabi <sup>1</sup>  Professor of Counseling Department, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Iran rajabireza@scu.ac.ir	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Seyed Ali Darbani <sup>1</sup>  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. Email: Ali.darbani@iau.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Mohammad Hassan Ghanifar <sup>1</sup>  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Birjand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Birjand, Iran. Email: ghanifar@iaubir.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Industrialization, globalization, and digital communication have collectively reshaped interpersonal relationships...” could be strengthened by integrating recent 2024–2025 studies on digital culture and relational anxiety. The literature cited stops at 2024.

The section describes “purposive and snowball sampling,” yet does not state the criteria for inclusion. Specify what characteristics qualified individuals to participate (e.g., unmarried men experiencing marital anxiety).

The paragraph presents rich narrative data, but the transition from the quote to the analytical interpretation is missing. Insert a brief explanation linking this case to a broader subcategory (e.g., intergenerational instability or self-efficacy deficit).

The five strategies listed are valid but uneven in conceptual depth. Expand on “learning effective communication” by illustrating how participants developed this skill—through self-education, observation, or therapy.

The paper uses “social trauma” repeatedly but does not define it clearly in theoretical terms. Add a concise conceptual definition (e.g., drawing from sociological trauma theory or Noorouzi’s 2024 framework) early in the discussion.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph discussing anticipatory anxiety and attachment insecurity would benefit from clearer integration with grounded theory logic. For instance, explain how these constructs informed your interview coding and category formation.

Consider expanding this into a formal research problem statement and include the research question(s) to clarify the study's purpose for readers.

The text reports "17 male participants aged 20–49 years," but omits details about marital status and socioeconomic background. Include this information to enhance the credibility and transferability of findings.

The section identifies four consequences but does not show interrelations. Suggest constructing a conceptual diagram illustrating how each consequence connects back to causal and contextual factors.

The discussion begins descriptively. Introduce the theoretical model earlier, e.g., "According to the grounded theory paradigm model (Figure 1), the fear of marriage develops through...". This helps align empirical results with theoretical abstraction.

The statement "This mirrors findings from Niakani (2022)..." is valid, but it may overstate cross-cultural comparability. Clarify whether cultural differences (Iran vs. global contexts) influence the intensity or manifestation of marriage fear.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.