

The Mediating Role of Communication Skills in the Relationship Between Narcissistic Tendencies and Marital Satisfaction Among Married Individuals


Mohammad. Bigdeli¹, AmirHossein. Arab Hassan Abadi², Matin. Asadi Nikouyan^{2*}

¹ Master's Degree in Islamic Positivist Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Abhar Branch, Islamic Azad University, Abhar, Iran



² Bachelor's Degree in Student Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Shahed University, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: matin_asadi@yahoo.com

Editor

Trevor Archer
Professor Department of
Psychology University of
Gothenburg Sweden
trevorcsarcher49@gmail.com

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Mohammad Masoud Dayarian
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic Azad University. Komeinishar/Isfahan, Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Stephen C. L. Lau
Professor (Assistant) at Washington University in St. Louis, United States.
Email: lauc@wustl.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement, "the aim of this study is to address the question of how enhancing communication skills can reduce the impact of narcissistic tendencies on marital satisfaction" (p. 3), could benefit from further elaboration. Specify the unique contribution of this study compared to prior research on communication skills and marital satisfaction.

In the introduction, the authors cite multiple studies regarding narcissism and communication skills (e.g., Miller & Campbell, 2008; Brunell & Campbell, 2011), but there is limited explanation of how these gaps lead to the present study. Strengthen this section by explicitly stating which research gaps this work addresses.

The description, "200 couples residing in Tehran selected through random sampling" (p. 4), needs further detail. Were any inclusion or exclusion criteria applied (e.g., age, duration of marriage)? This information is crucial for understanding the representativeness of the sample.

The correlation matrix (Table 2) reveals significant relationships among variables, yet the discussion does not address potential confounding variables. Could factors such as socioeconomic status or duration of marriage influence these correlations?

The explanation of the Sobel test in the results section (p. 6) is somewhat formulaic. Provide more detail about why this test was chosen over alternative mediation analysis methods like bootstrapping.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While narcissism is discussed in terms of grandiose and vulnerable types, the introduction does not sufficiently clarify how these types will be operationalized in the study. Include a concise framework outlining how these concepts relate to the mediating role of communication skills.

While the Narcissistic Personality Inventory's validity and reliability are mentioned (p. 5), the process of adapting or validating these measures for the cultural context of Tehran is unclear. Provide details about the cultural adaptation process.

The reported Cronbach's alpha of 0.16 for the "communication barriers" dimension is notably low (p. 5). Discuss whether this measure was recalibrated or excluded from analyses, as this low reliability might compromise findings.

Table 1 lists the mean and standard deviation for variables, but there is no explicit discussion of how these distributions align with theoretical expectations or prior research. Include an interpretation of these statistics within the text.

The discussion references multiple theories, such as social exchange theory and self-control theory (p. 7), but these connections feel superficial. Expand on how these theories specifically explain the observed mediating role of communication skills.

The statement, "communication skills training should be considered a key factor in improving marital relationship quality" (p. 7), lacks specificity. Discuss how such training could be practically implemented, perhaps using examples from similar interventions.

The authors acknowledge limitations such as the single-city sample (p. 8). However, there is no mention of potential biases introduced by self-report measures. Add a discussion on how self-report biases might influence the results.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.