





# Effectiveness of Schema Therapy on Components of Love and Emotional Empathy in Single Women with Fear of Marriage

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction provides statistical trends regarding marriage delay but does not sufficiently define or justify why "fear of marriage" is a psychological construct worth investigating. Adding citations discussing its clinical relevance or prevalence would strengthen the argument.

The results show significant p-values (e.g.,  $p < 0.001$ ), but the manuscript does not interpret the practical significance of the effect sizes ( $\eta^2 = 0.751$  for components of love). Consider discussing whether these effect sizes indicate a small, moderate, or large impact.

The discussion states, "Although no prior studies have specifically investigated the effects of schema therapy on love and empathy," but it does not explore related literature in-depth. Have similar studies examined schema therapy's impact on relationships or fear of intimacy? Adding such comparisons would contextualize the findings.

Since participants volunteered for the study, there may be inherent differences between those who participated and those who did not. Acknowledging this as a limitation and discussing how it might affect generalizability would strengthen the study's credibility.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence, "Globally, many men and women avoid marriage due to fear of its responsibilities, opting to remain single," is broad. Consider specifying cultural or socioeconomic factors influencing this trend and citing relevant studies.

While both love and emotional empathy are key constructs in the study, they are introduced in separate sections without a clear connection. Adding a transitional paragraph explaining how these constructs interact in romantic decision-making would improve coherence.

The intervention sessions provide an overview of techniques, but details regarding how therapist fidelity was ensured or whether therapists were trained/certified in schema therapy are missing. Including these aspects would improve methodological rigor.

The manuscript states, "Schema therapy appears to improve attitudes toward intimacy, passion, and commitment." However, the study measured components of love and empathy, not attitudes. Revising this sentence to reflect the actual measured constructs would improve precision.

While the follow-up results show maintained effects, no mention is made of potential long-term efficacy beyond the follow-up period. Adding a brief discussion on whether schema therapy effects are sustained over months or years would be beneficial.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.