

Effectiveness of Dialectical Behavior Therapy on Emotional Control, Communication Patterns, and Marital Intimacy in Women with Marital Infidelity Experience

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introductory paragraph mentions that "marital infidelity is one of the most damaging factors for couples and families." This statement could benefit from more recent citations, ideally from studies published within the last five years, to support this claim.

The standard deviations for some of the post-test scores (e.g., Emotional Control) appear quite low. Discuss whether this might indicate a ceiling effect or limited variability in responses, and how this could affect the generalizability of the findings.

The use of repeated measures ANOVA is appropriate, but there should be a discussion on the assumptions of this analysis, such as sphericity. It's mentioned briefly, but it would be helpful to elaborate on how any violations were addressed.

The claim that DBT was more effective due to its specific focus on emotional control could be strengthened by providing a more detailed comparison with other therapeutic approaches that were not found as effective, particularly Emotion-Focused Therapy (EFT).

The discussion on the effectiveness of DBT on marital intimacy would benefit from including more specific examples from the therapy sessions that illustrate how intimacy was improved.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sampling method is described as convenience sampling. Please provide a justification for choosing this non-random method and discuss any potential biases this might introduce to the study's findings.

The description of the Emotion Regulation Scale by Williams et al. (1997) lacks detail on how the scale's psychometric properties were validated in the context of this study. Consider including a brief discussion on the reliability and validity of this scale within the current sample.

While the structure of the DBT intervention is described, the rationale for selecting the specific eight-session format should be provided. Is this based on previous research, and if so, please cite those studies?

The study acknowledges that the results may not generalize to men or to women in different cultural contexts. It would be beneficial to discuss the specific cultural factors in Iran that might influence the study's outcomes.

The limitation regarding the same therapist and researcher potentially influencing the results is significant. It would be advisable to discuss how this potential bias was mitigated or how it might be addressed in future studies.

The description of the Marital Intimacy Questionnaire is comprehensive, but it lacks information on why this particular tool was selected over others. Please provide a rationale for this choice.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.