



Predicting Marital Conflicts through the Dark Triad of Personality with the Mediation of Ego Strength in Women Seeking Divorce


Nina. Shahinnia¹, Amir Mohsen. Rahnejat^{2*}

¹ Master's Degree, Department of Psychology, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran



² Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, AJA University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: arahnejat@yahoo.com

Editor

Firouzeh Sepehrianazar¹
Professor of Psychology
Department, Urmia University, Iran
f.sepehrianazar@urmia.ac.ir

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Ali Khodaei¹
Department of Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Payam
Noor University, Tehran, Iran. Email: alikhodaei@pnu.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Farideh Dokanehi Fard¹
Associate Professor, Counseling Department, Roudehen Branch, Islamic Azad
University, Roudehen, Iran. Email: f.dokaneifard@riau.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “Women, due to social expectations and norms in patriarchal systems, experience more emotional distress than men” is a generalized claim. Consider providing specific empirical studies to substantiate this claim and further explore the variation across different cultural contexts.

The skewness and kurtosis values for "Decreased Sexual Relations" (kurtosis = 3.162) indicate non-normality. Please justify the decision to use parametric statistical tests despite this deviation from normality or explain any data transformation conducted.

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test results suggest normal distribution; however, these tests are often sensitive to sample size. It would be beneficial to report additional goodness-of-fit measures (e.g., Q-Q plots or Shapiro-Wilk tests) to ensure normality in such a large sample.

The lack of a significant relationship between psychopathy and marital conflict ($p = 0.316$) is unexpected, given psychopathy's association with impulsive and antisocial behavior. Consider discussing potential reasons for this nonsignificant result, such as the sample composition or the nature of psychopathy in women.

While Machiavellianism is found to indirectly influence marital conflict through ego strength, the theoretical justification for this mediation is somewhat weak. Please expand on the theoretical basis for why manipulative tendencies would reduce ego strength and thus increase conflict.

The discussion of Machiavellianism's impact on marital conflict could be enhanced by referencing real-world examples or case studies where manipulative behaviors have led to relational breakdowns, especially in divorce scenarios.

The limitation regarding the sample being from Tehran is acknowledged. However, the discussion would benefit from a deeper analysis of cultural differences. How might these findings translate to more egalitarian societies, where gender roles in marital conflict may differ?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion of the Dark Triad should include a more in-depth review of the unique roles each of the traits—narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism—play in interpersonal dynamics. It may be helpful to provide more contemporary studies that have directly linked these traits to marital conflicts.

The reliability of the Marital Conflict Questionnaire is based on data from 1996. Given that social dynamics around marriage have changed significantly, consider discussing whether the instrument has been updated or validated for use in contemporary populations.

You mention the Cronbach's alpha for the Short Dark Triad as 0.81. However, this value seems high for a 12-item measure. It would be helpful to break down the alpha for each subscale and include any tests of construct validity.

In Table 3, the correlations between the Dark Triad traits and marital conflict are significant but not particularly strong (ranging from 0.167 to 0.540). Consider discussing why the correlations are moderate and what this implies about the strength of the Dark Triad in predicting marital conflict.

The finding that narcissism has a direct positive effect on marital conflict is interesting but not surprising. It would strengthen the paper to explore mechanisms, such as how narcissistic behaviors (e.g., entitlement or lack of empathy) manifest in conflict scenarios.

The claim that enhancing ego strength may reduce marital conflict is intriguing. Consider discussing whether existing marital therapy programs already target ego strength and if so, what interventions have proven effective.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.