

Effectiveness of Group Training Based on Choice Theory on Family Functioning and Responsibility in Married Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “women often occupy a pivotal regulatory role...” is important conceptually, but the authors should justify focusing on married women in this role with stronger theoretical or contextual grounding.

The claim regarding “recent sociocultural transformations” would be strengthened by specifying concrete stressors (economic pressure, caregiving load, role conflict) rather than remaining purely abstract.

The phrase “48 individuals were purposively selected” requires clarification regarding selection thresholds and the risk of selection bias created by this procedure.

No information is provided regarding treatment fidelity, facilitator training, or adherence monitoring. These elements should be reported.

The interpretation of Bartlett’s test as evidence of “sufficient correlation” is conceptually inaccurate and should be revised.

The extremely large effect size for total family functioning requires cautious interpretation and discussion of potential inflation due to design and sample size.

The conclusion that outcomes were “maintained” at follow-up would be strengthened by reporting confidence intervals or effect stability indices.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement “three participants from the experimental group withdrew” requires a description of how attrition was handled statistically and whether an intention-to-treat strategy was considered.

The cut-off points (responsibility < 84; family functioning > 120) should be justified psychometrically or clinically.

The authors describe the long development history of the instrument but should clarify why only the 42-item responsibility scale was selected instead of the full instrument.

The reported reliability coefficient of .38 for the communication subscale is critically low and must be addressed explicitly as a methodological limitation.

The phrase “robust empirical support” should be moderated given the quasi-experimental design and modest sample.

The discussion of long-term effects should explicitly propose mechanisms of change rather than assuming skill internalization.

The authors should discuss the limits of generalizing these findings beyond Iranian urban married women aged 40–55.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.