

Effectiveness of Schema Therapy on Agreeableness and Sense of Coherence in Women with Marital Conflicts


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “marital conflict represents a significant psychosocial stressor” lacks operational precision. Please clarify how marital conflict is conceptualized in this study (frequency, intensity, emotional disengagement, communication dysfunction, or clinical threshold) and explicitly connect this definition to the Kansas Marital Conflict Scale used later.

The paragraph discussing agreeableness appropriately highlights interpersonal relevance, yet the manuscript does not explain why agreeableness—rather than neuroticism or emotional stability—was selected as the primary personality outcome. Please strengthen theoretical justification for selecting agreeableness as the focal trait.

With only 30 participants, statistical power is a concern. The authors should report a priori power analysis or effect size justification demonstrating that the sample size was sufficient for ANCOVA analyses.

The inclusion criterion “willingness to participate” is insufficiently rigorous. Please clarify whether participants met a standardized marital conflict threshold based on KMCS scores prior to enrollment.

The therapy consisted of six 45-minute sessions, which is relatively brief for schema therapy. Please justify theoretically and empirically how such a short protocol can produce measurable personality change, or discuss it as a limitation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Although both constructs are reviewed separately, their theoretical integration remains implicit. After the sentence “Sense of coherence refers to individuals’ perception that life experiences are comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful”, please explicitly explain the expected psychological pathway linking schema modification → coherence → interpersonal personality change.

Several paragraphs reiterate schema therapy effectiveness using similar wording (e.g., improvements in intimacy, adjustment, and emotional functioning). Consider synthesizing these studies analytically rather than descriptively to avoid repetition and enhance conceptual progression.

The claim “research examining its simultaneous effects on personality traits and psychological constructs remains limited” is important but underdeveloped. Please specify exactly what is unknown: mechanism of change, personality plasticity, cultural validation, or intervention duration effects.

The manuscript states that purposive sampling was used and participants were then randomly assigned. Please clarify whether true random allocation occurred and describe the randomization procedure (random number table, software generation, sealed envelopes, etc.) to strengthen internal validity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.