




# Modeling Marital Satisfaction Based on Differentiation of Self and Perceived Social Support: The Mediating Role of Psychological Well-Being

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning with “In Iran, significant changes have occurred in indicators of family stability...”, the authors cite the increase in the divorce-to-marriage ratio from 7% to 39%, yet no detailed contextual analysis is provided regarding how these societal changes specifically affect female teachers. The manuscript would benefit from a more nuanced sociocultural interpretation of the Iranian educational and familial context, particularly explaining why female teachers constitute a psychologically vulnerable group in relation to marital satisfaction outcomes.

The statement “Among employed women, especially female teachers, the combination of occupational and family roles... may lead to additional psychological strain” is conceptually important but empirically underdeveloped. The authors should support this argument with more occupation-specific literature on teacher burnout, work–family conflict, and emotional labor in educational settings, especially within collectivist or Middle Eastern cultural environments. This would strengthen the rationale for focusing exclusively on female teachers.

The demographic description of participants lacks several important variables that may confound marital satisfaction outcomes, such as years of teaching experience, socioeconomic status, spouse employment status, number of children, and type of school (public/private). Since marital satisfaction is strongly associated with contextual variables, omission of these characteristics weakens the interpretability of the findings. The authors should either report these variables or explain why they were excluded.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph discussing Bowen's Family Systems Theory presents differentiation of self primarily in descriptive terms; however, the operational relevance of the four DSI dimensions (emotional reactivity, I-position, emotional cutoff, and fusion with others) to marital satisfaction is insufficiently elaborated. The manuscript would be strengthened if the authors explained which dimensions are expected to exert the strongest influence on psychological well-being and marital satisfaction and whether cultural adaptations of Bowenian constructs are necessary in the Iranian context.

The literature review section on perceived social support cites several recent studies but does not sufficiently distinguish between sources of support (family, spouse, friends, colleagues). Since the MSPSS measures three separate domains, the manuscript should theoretically justify whether some support sources are more predictive of marital satisfaction among married female teachers than others. Without this clarification, the conceptual specificity of the model remains somewhat limited.

The sentence "One of the most important of these constructs is psychological well-being" introduces the mediator rather abruptly. The transition from direct associations to mediation modeling requires stronger theoretical justification. The authors should explicitly explain why psychological well-being is conceptualized as a mediator rather than a parallel outcome or moderator, ideally drawing upon stress-buffering or self-regulation frameworks.

The final paragraph of the introduction states that "most previous studies have focused on bivariate relationships and regression-based methods," but this claim is not sufficiently substantiated through a critical literature review. The manuscript would benefit from a more systematic identification of methodological gaps in prior SEM/path analysis studies, including what specifically remains unexplored regarding married female teachers or the simultaneous integration of these variables.

In the Method section, the use of convenience sampling raises concerns regarding external validity and sampling bias. Although the authors justify the sample size using SEM recommendations, they do not discuss the implications of nonprobability sampling for representativeness. The manuscript should acknowledge how convenience sampling may limit the generalizability of the findings and whether any attempts were made to recruit participants from diverse socioeconomic or school contexts within Shiraz.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.