




## Analyzing Mental Constructs of Communication in Iranian Couples




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Monika Szczygieł  Department of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland monika.szczygiel@uj.edu.pl	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Kamdin. Parsakia  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: kamdinarsakia@kmanresce.ca

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "Emotional intimacy is considered a fundamental factor..." would benefit from greater theoretical elaboration. Define "emotional intimacy" in operational or psychological terms and clarify how it differs from general intimacy.

The citation of Kulick & Kitachik, 2014 is dated and lacks context. How does this definition of intimacy relate to more contemporary models or empirical evidence? Incorporating newer sources could enrich the conceptual basis.

The sentence "Understanding and mutual comprehension, empathy, intimacy..." is descriptive but would be stronger with theoretical integration. Suggest explicitly aligning these outcomes with specific psychological or family systems frameworks (e.g., Bowen Theory, attachment theory).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

#### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Dysfunctional relationship beliefs... lead to spousal isolation...” needs clearer linkage to the core topic of mental constructs. Consider integrating this into the broader framework of how mental schemas are internalized and activated in marital contexts.

The sentence “This study aims to explore the mental constructs...” would benefit from clearly specifying the definition of “mental constructs”. Are these based on cognitive schemas, cultural scripts, or belief systems?

The use of “critical/interpretive paradigm” is appropriate, but the philosophical assumptions (ontology, epistemology) should be more explicitly defined. Explain how these assumptions shaped data interpretation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## **2. Revised**

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.