







## Structural Equation Modeling of Marital Conflicts Based on Early Maladaptive Schemas, Gender Stereotypes, and Emotional Needs with the Mediation of Coping Styles

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Bahram Jowkar  Professor of Psychology Department, Shiraz University, Iran jowkar@shirazu.ac.ir	<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> Masoud Asadi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University, Arak, Iran. Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “As maladaptive schemas are activated, individuals often revert to ineffective coping styles—commonly avoidance, surrender, or overcompensation...” lacks specificity regarding how these coping styles interact with specific EMSs. It may be helpful to discuss the specific coping styles linked to particular schemas (e.g., avoidance with disconnection schemas), as this could provide a clearer understanding for readers.

The descriptive statistics are clearly presented, but the choice of scales could be discussed further. Specifically, it would be useful to comment on the meaning of the "moderate conflict" score and the implications of having a sample with predominantly moderate marital conflict. This could inform the practical significance of your results.

The results for early maladaptive schemas show that "disconnection and rejection" has the highest mean score. This finding could be elaborated on by discussing why this schema may be more prevalent in the study sample, especially in relation to the cultural context of marriage in Iran.

While the correlations between variables are presented well, the table could benefit from more explanation, especially regarding the interpretation of the negative correlations (e.g., between femininity and overcompensation coping). Clarifying

the theoretical implications of these negative relationships could help readers understand the complexities of coping strategies in marital conflict.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The connection between gender stereotypes and marital conflict could be expanded. While the introduction mentions that traditional gender role expectations can restrict authentic expression, more detailed examples from recent studies could strengthen this argument. Discuss how these stereotypes might uniquely manifest in different cultures or in diverse marital contexts.

The literature review briefly mentions the role of emotional needs in schema formation. This section could be improved by elaborating on how unmet emotional needs are directly linked to specific coping mechanisms in marital conflict, drawing from schema therapy literature. A clearer connection to marital dynamics would enhance the narrative.

The psychometric properties of the measurement tools are well-presented. However, consider providing a brief comparison of these tools' psychometric properties in other cultures or populations to show their generalizability beyond the Iranian context. This would strengthen the external validity of your findings.

The mediation analysis results suggest several indirect effects, but the explanation of why certain pathways (e.g., neutral gender stereotypes to marital conflict via overcompensation) were rejected is not clear. A more thorough discussion of these non-significant paths could help contextualize the findings and their implications for theory.

The discussion on the "disconnection and rejection" schema as the strongest predictor of marital conflict is well-grounded, but it could benefit from a deeper discussion of how this schema might evolve throughout a marriage, especially in the context of changing life events. This would provide a more dynamic view of schema activation in marital relationships.

The role of coping strategies (avoidance and overcompensation) in mediating the effects of early maladaptive schemas is well supported, but further integration with previous literature on coping strategies in marital contexts is needed. Specifically, contrasting your findings with studies that explore adaptive coping strategies in marital satisfaction could provide a more balanced view.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.