




Designing a Structural Model of Marital Satisfaction Based on the Components of Systemic–Spiritual Couple Therapy with the Mediating Role of Power Structure in the Family




Sepideh. Yavari¹, Masoud. Janbozorgi^{2*}, Jafar. Houshyari³

¹ Department of Counseling, Qo.C., Islamic Azad University, Qom, Iran

² Professor, Department of Psychology, Institute of Religious Studies and University, Qom, Iran

³ Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Islamic Humanities Higher Education Complex, Al-Mustafa Al-Alamiyah University, Qom, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: Psychjan@gmail.com

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Manijeh Daneshpour  Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America mdaneshpour@alliant.edu	Reviewer 1: Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Seyed Ali Darbani  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. Email: Ali.darbani@iau.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “understanding the underlying mechanisms of marital satisfaction becomes increasingly essential” would benefit from elaboration on which societal shifts (e.g., divorce rates, gender roles) are driving this necessity.

The concluding sentence is broad: “This approach... intervenes at the level of structural dynamics that often go unexamined...”. Consider briefly stating how this study fills the gap left by previous research.

While beta values are reported, the confidence intervals for regression coefficients are absent. Including 95% CIs would enhance statistical transparency and interpretability.

While path coefficients are explained, goodness-of-fit indices (e.g., RMSEA, CFI, SRMR) are not reported in-text or in a table. These indices are critical to justify model fit and should be included explicitly.

While the paragraph summarizes implications well, it introduces new constructs like “structural transformation” and “shared spiritual practices” that were not operationalized or measured in the study. Consider aligning this with your measured variables.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The definition of SSCT as blending “cognitive-behavioral, narrative, and spiritually informed interventions” lacks citation or theoretical origin. Consider referencing a foundational source or elaborating on how these models are integrated.

In the sentence “Power dynamics influence decision-making, emotional safety, and autonomy...”, it would be useful to specify which aspect of power (e.g., coercive vs. collaborative) most affects marital satisfaction based on the cited literature.

The sentence “These findings collectively affirm that the interplay between emotional, cognitive, and spiritual resources...” would be strengthened by including a theoretical framework or model supporting this integrative view (e.g., biopsychosocial-spiritual model).

The sentence “therapy’s success...depends not only on surface-level behavioral changes...” is compelling but overly general. Specify which “deep emotional and spiritual alignments” were measured or reflected in the instruments used.

The phrase “therapy that promotes egalitarian roles...” is theoretically interesting but lacks empirical support from the current data. Consider tempering the claim or referring back to the study’s actual results.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.