

## Exploring the Role of Humor as a Coping Component in Marital Satisfaction

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| E d i t o r  | R e v i e w e r s  |
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| Shahram Vahedi <sup>id</sup><br>Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran<br><a href="mailto:vahedi117@yahoo.com">vahedi117@yahoo.com</a> | <b>Reviewer 1:</b> Kamdin. Parsakia <sup>id</sup><br>Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: <a href="mailto:kamdinarsakia@kmanresce.ca">kamdinarsakia@kmanresce.ca</a><br><b>Reviewer 2:</b> Abotaleb Saadati Shamir <sup>id</sup><br>Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Sciences, University of Science and Research, Tehran, Iran. Email: <a href="mailto:psychology@iau.ac.ir">psychology@iau.ac.ir</a> |

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Yet, the role of humor in marital satisfaction remains complex, shaped by individual styles, cultural contexts, and interpersonal dynamics” would benefit from citing more recent cultural-contextual studies beyond Chuang et al. (2021). Consider broadening with European or specifically Slovenian literature if available.

The sentence “Humor thus appears to be an enduring resource that adapts with relational stages and life transitions” would be strengthened with reference to longitudinal studies in European contexts rather than mostly US-based literature.

The authors write “Couples mentioned the use of humorous digital communication such as memes, emojis, and inside jokes”. Please elaborate on generational differences here: were younger couples more likely to use digital humor compared to older ones?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

*1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

In “Applied to couples, this suggests that humor not only serves the dyad but also creates a relational climate in which vulnerability and openness can flourish”, the concept of psychological safety is introduced but not defined. Please provide a concise definition or citation here.

The section on meme-sharing (“Brody and colleagues found that humor shared through digital platforms influences relationship closeness”) introduces digital humor. Please explain why this is particularly relevant for Slovenian couples, given cultural or technological adoption.

“Ultimately, the goal of this study is to illuminate the ways in which humor contributes to the maintenance of marital satisfaction, resilience, and intimacy in contemporary relationships.” – Please make the research questions explicit in this paragraph (e.g., “This study specifically asked: How do couples use humor to cope with stress? How does humor influence intimacy and resilience?”).

“Humor allowed couples to reframe problems and cultivate optimism” – please clarify whether this reframing effect was more common in certain age groups or marital durations, since demographic diversity was highlighted in methods.

The sentence “Humor not only facilitated self-expression but also provided couples with a flexible tool to communicate difficult truths without causing defensiveness” would be strengthened by linking explicitly to the theme of psychological safety mentioned earlier.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

**2. Revised**

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.