

## Spousal Support and Marital Satisfaction: The Mediating Role of Gratitude Expression


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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

“marital satisfaction—the subjective evaluation that one’s marital relationship is rewarding...” is well-stated, but it would be strengthened by referencing more recent meta-analyses on marital satisfaction predictors. Consider citing global trends to situate your study more broadly.

“Spousal support is among the most robust predictors of marital satisfaction across cultures and life stages...”. This claim is accurate but broad. Please specify which dimensions of support (emotional, instrumental, informational) are most consistently predictive across studies.

“A parallel line of inquiry positions gratitude...”. While gratitude is well-discussed, the transition to its mediating role is abrupt. Consider explicitly stating why gratitude expression—as opposed to trait gratitude—was chosen as the focus of this study.

You note that “the Armenian sample provides a new cultural lens.” This is important, but underdeveloped. Please discuss whether Armenia’s collectivistic or post-Soviet cultural values might shape how gratitude is expressed in marriage.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

“These insights resonate with a broader relationship science narrative...”. The text integrates diverse findings (attachment, financial values, phubbing). However, the narrative risks appearing scattered. A clearer thematic thread (e.g., “all of these studies highlight communication as a mediating mechanism”) would improve cohesion.

The sentence “Our approach also responds to emerging calls to examine interpersonal accuracy and signal reception.” This is an important contribution. However, you should cite specific authors or recent reviews calling for this research direction.

It is commendable that direct, indirect, and total effects are presented. However, please clarify in the text whether bootstrapping procedures were used to confirm the significance of indirect effects, as this is the recommended standard for mediation.

“In addition to confirming the value of spousal support...”. You conclude that gratitude expression predicts marital satisfaction. However, this is based on cross-sectional data. Please temper causal language (e.g., “predicts”) and instead use “is associated with” or “is linked to.”

“The most novel contribution of this study...”. This claim of novelty should be toned down slightly, since similar mediations of gratitude have been published. It may be better to position your study as “extending prior work to an Armenian sample” rather than “most novel.”

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.