




Identifying Factors of Marital Commitment During Economic Stress: A Qualitative Study

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the first paragraph of the Introduction (“Studies show that marital commitment is not static but emerges from a dynamic interplay...”), the study would benefit from stating a guiding conceptual model (e.g., family stress model, dyadic coping theory) to frame the qualitative exploration.

In “Importantly, contemporary research shows that marital decision-making is being reshaped by digital and social transformations...”, consider clarifying whether Hungarian couples in your sample reported similar digital influences (e.g., budgeting apps, online support forums). This would bridge global literature to local context.

The paragraph “Despite these insights, there remains a gap in understanding...” clearly identifies a gap but could end with a more explicit research question or purpose statement to strengthen focus (e.g., “Therefore, this study asks: How do Hungarian couples sustain marital commitment when facing significant economic strain?”).

In “At a theoretical level, this suggests that models of marital endurance must integrate socioeconomic adaptation theory with cultural meaning systems...” specify what model(s) your study extends (e.g., family stress model, relational resilience framework) and how.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “Despite the well-documented vulnerabilities of marriage during economic instability...” consider explaining why Hungary is a critical case study beyond economic transition — for instance, how hybrid Catholic/Protestant traditions and post-socialist norms make it theoretically interesting.

In the paragraph starting “Marriage as a cultural and moral contract has been conceptualized differently...”, there is strong global coverage (China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan), but the link to Hungary is not explicit. Suggest adding references or explanation about Central/Eastern European marital trends to contextualize the gap.

In Table 1, the four main themes and subthemes are well presented. However, the conceptual labels (e.g., “Value and Commitment Anchors”) could be briefly justified in-text (why “anchors” and not “drivers” or “reinforcers”?).

In “Interestingly, despite increasing individualization in Hungarian society (Salvati, 2019)...”, expand the discussion by connecting your findings to current Hungarian economic indicators or family policy trends for stronger contextualization.

The Discussion briefly notes “digital exposure indirectly appeared” but does not explore implications. Consider elaborating how digital literacy might shape marital resilience and whether it is an emerging protective factor worth further study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.