

The Effect of Avoidant Attachment Style on Marital Satisfaction with the Mediating Role of Fear of Intimacy

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In paragraph 2, the sentence “This fear may lead to emotional distancing, reduced disclosure, and conflict avoidance...” could be strengthened by briefly distinguishing between fear of intimacy and attachment anxiety to avoid conceptual overlap.

In the last paragraph of the introduction, the authors state: “...in collectivist cultures such as Iran...” It would benefit the reader to cite specific sociocultural research or national statistics supporting how emotional expressiveness is culturally discouraged in Iran.

The paragraph beginning “A particularly novel contribution of the present study...” could be expanded with greater discussion of Iranian-specific cultural or religious dynamics that affect intimacy norms.

The authors suggest ACT and EFT as promising interventions. Consider elaborating on which ACT components (e.g., cognitive defusion, values clarification) may be most relevant for intimacy fear.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction lacks a clear statement of the specific empirical gap this study addresses. After “...Given these considerations...” consider adding a sentence identifying why a mediational study on this topic in Iran fills a novel gap.

In Table 1, the average avoidant attachment score is relatively high ($M = 4.92$, $SD = 1.13$ on a 7-point scale). Consider discussing this observation in relation to cultural norms or stressors affecting attachment in the Iranian context.

In the first paragraph of the Discussion, the statement “These findings provide empirical support for the theoretical assumption...” should be qualified to specify that causality cannot be inferred due to the cross-sectional design.

The Discussion mostly reiterates findings from the literature but would benefit from a more critical synthesis. For example, how might gender roles in Iran uniquely shape the interplay between fear of intimacy and marital satisfaction?

Most citations stem from Western samples. Integrating more regional or culturally analogous studies would strengthen contextual relevance (especially in the paragraphs referencing Finzi-Dottan, Proctor, etc.).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.