Identification of the Direct Effect of Self-Differentiation on Marital Satisfaction in Married Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence: "Approximately 55% of first marriages in the United States, and 40-45% in Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Switzerland, end in divorce" could benefit from a recent source or updated statistics for accuracy.

The statement: "Structural equations using LISREL software were employed to test the research hypotheses" could be expanded by justifying the choice of LISREL over other software like AMOS or MPLUS.

In the demographic findings, include more nuanced analysis or comparison of marital satisfaction across the age groups presented (e.g., 20-30 vs. 41-50 years).

The skewness and kurtosis values indicate normal distribution, but it would be helpful to explicitly state the implications of these findings for the statistical methods used.

The correlation matrix (Table 2) reveals significant relationships. Highlight which specific variables have the strongest influence on marital satisfaction in the discussion.

The sentence: "The regression weight for Emotional Reactivity ($\beta = 0.207$)" is unclear. Discuss whether this value indicates a weak, moderate, or strong relationship and its relevance to the study.

The path coefficient for the direct effect (Table 5) is significant but small ($\beta = 0.217$). Include a discussion on whether this effect size is practically significant.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The theoretical basis for self-differentiation needs more depth. Expand on Bowen's theory with examples or recent citations to connect it to marital satisfaction more explicitly.

The sentence: "A sample of 330 participants was selected using convenience sampling" raises concerns about generalizability. Discuss the limitations of convenience sampling and its potential bias in more detail.

The ENRICH Marital Satisfaction Scale description is thorough, but the use of the scale could benefit from additional context on cultural adaptation for Iranian women.

The description of the Self-Differentiation Scale repeats information about its reliability and subscales unnecessarily. Condense this section while retaining key details.

Expand on the practical applications of self-differentiation workshops. For example, specify target audiences or measurable outcomes of such interventions.

The comparison of findings with other studies is limited. Discuss how this study uniquely contributes to the literature on marital satisfaction in Iran.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.