

# The Mediating Role of Forgiveness and Marital Self-Regulation in the Relationship Between Experiential Avoidance and Marital Burnout in Married Women




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Silvia Helena Koller  Faculty member, Universidade Federal do Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil silvia.koller@pq.cnpq.br	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Ali Akbar Soleymanian  Associate Professor of Counseling Department, Bojnord University, Iran. Email: Soleymanian@ub.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Ali Khodaei  Department of Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran. Email: alikhodaei@pnu.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “marriage is increasingly threatened by relational stressors, communication problems, and psychological vulnerabilities” is too broad. Please provide recent statistics or empirical evidence (post-2020, preferably Iranian context) to substantiate this claim.

The text says “skewness and kurtosis values were within  $\pm 2$ ”. It would be better to report exact ranges across all variables instead of repeating the cut-off criteria, to enhance transparency.

The caption is misleading—“Assessment of Normality and Multicollinearity Assumptions”—but the actual Table 3 reports model fit indices, not normality/multicollinearity. Please correct the labeling for accuracy.

The results report indirect paths as positive and significant, but the theoretical framework implies forgiveness and self-regulation reduce burnout. Please carefully explain this apparent inconsistency (positive coefficients for indirect paths vs. negative protective roles).

The figure is referenced but not described. Please provide a detailed interpretation of standardized coefficients in Figure 1 (e.g., strongest paths, weakest paths) to strengthen readers' understanding.

The claim "over half of the variance in marital burnout was explained" is strong. Please compare this explained variance to similar studies in Iran or internationally, to contextualize the significance.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "Forgiveness is not only a psychological coping strategy but also a moral and social act" could be expanded by linking it more explicitly to theoretical frameworks (e.g., Enright's forgiveness model or Worthington's REACH model) to provide stronger conceptual grounding.

Some correlation coefficients are marked as significant ( $p < .05$  or  $p < .01$ ), but the legend at the bottom does not specify whether a Bonferroni correction was applied given the large number of tests. Please clarify.

The sentence "experiential avoidance was associated with higher levels of emotional, psychological, and physical exhaustion" should be qualified with "indirectly, through forgiveness and self-regulation" to remain consistent with the SEM results.

Please elaborate on the cultural context of forgiveness in Iranian marriages, since you highlighted collectivist societies in the introduction. This would better situate the findings within local marital practices.

The discussion emphasizes the protective role of self-regulation but does not address the practical overlap with emotion regulation or self-compassion. Clarifying these conceptual distinctions would enhance theoretical contribution.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.