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Predicting Marital Infidelity based on Romantic Jealousy and Violence against Intimate Partner with a moderating role of Gender

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Extended Abstract

Aim

In recent years, marital infidelity has become increasingly prevalent worldwide. Although infidelity is one of the most distressing issues among couples, it is a common phenomenon occurring daily in society (Van Hooff, 2017). Statistics indicate that at least 20% of men and 10% of women have been unfaithful at least once during their marriage (Rokach & Philbert-Lejuez, 2015). From Drigotas and Barta's perspective (2001), violating the rules of marital relationships by engaging emotionally or sexually with others outside the marriage is defined as infidelity (Blau & Hartnett, 2005). Recent research has overlooked the role of romantic jealousy and spousal violence in interpersonal relationships, especially in Iran, with no prior investigations on this issue. Additionally, gender's role in previous studies on spousal violence and romantic jealousy has not been adequately addressed. Hence, this study aims to predict marital infidelity based on romantic jealousy and spousal violence, considering gender as a moderating factor. The study hypothesizes that there is a relationship between marital infidelity and a history of spousal violence while considering gender, and similarly, a relationship exists between marital infidelity and romantic jealousy while considering gender.

Methodology

This research adopts an exploratory purpose, fundamental data collection, and a correlational research design utilizing regression analysis. The statistical population comprises all married individuals in Shiraz in 2021, with a purposive sample of 197 participants, including 108 men and 89 women. Participants completed the Multidimensional Jealousy Scale (MJS), Questionnaire to Measure Wife Abuse (QMWA), and the Infidelity Scale (IS). Data analysis utilized SPSS software version 26, employing Pearson correlation coefficient for variable correlation due to normal distribution, and multiple regression analysis using the simultaneous method.

Findings

The examination of assumptions for multiple regression analysis using the simultaneous method revealed adherence to normality, independence of errors, and absence of multicollinearity. Results indicate that both spousal violence ($p=0.001$) and romantic jealousy ($p<0.001$) significantly predict marital infidelity positively, explaining approximately 30% of its variance. Gender moderation analysis revealed significant prediction of marital infidelity by spousal violence in women ($p=0.039$) and men ($p=0.044$). Moreover, romantic jealousy significantly predicts marital infidelity in both women ($p<0.001$) and men ($p<0.001$). Men explain more variance in marital infidelity compared to women, suggesting lower resistance to infidelity. Gender's moderating role is confirmed.

Conclusion

Romantic jealousy adversely affects marital stability, and gender moderates the relationship between marital infidelity, spousal violence, and romantic jealousy. The study emphasizes the predictive strength of romantic jealousy and spousal violence on marital infidelity, with men demonstrating less resistance to infidelity. The study's limitations include its correlational design, precluding causal

inferences, and reliance on self-reported measures. Future research should employ comprehensive tools and investigate various jealousy types in marital infidelity. Additionally, family counselors are urged to address romantic jealousy in marital counseling sessions, particularly in addressing spousal violence causes.

Keywords: Gender, Marital Infidelity, Romantic Jealousy, Violence Against Intimate Partner.

Ethical Considerations

Throughout all stages of this research, ethical considerations have been paramount, ensuring confidentiality, anonymity, protection of collected information, and appropriate data usage.

Financial Support

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Conflict of Interest

The authors assure no conflict of interest exists between them and other researchers.

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