



The Structural Model of Predicting Social Interest based on Interpersonal Relationships, and Satisfaction of the Relationship with the Mediating Role of Love in Couples

Akram. Esfahani¹
Hassan. Heidari^{2*}
Zabih. Pirani³
Hosein. Davodi⁴

1. Ph.D student, Consulting Department, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran
2. *Corresponding author: Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Faculty of Humanities, Khomeyn Branch, Islamic Azad University, Khomeyn, Iran
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran
4. Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Faculty of Humanities, Khomeyn Branch, Islamic Azad University, Khomeyn, Iran

Email: heidarihassan@yahoo.com | Received: 14.11.2022 | Acceptance: 03.05.2023

Journal of Applied Family Therapy
eISSN: 2717-2430
<http://Aftj.ir>
Vol. 4, No. 4, Pp: 17-34
Fall 2023

Original research article

How to Cite This Article:

Esfahani, A., Heidari, H., Pirzani, Z., & Davodi, H. (2023). The Structural Model of Predicting Social Interest based on Interpersonal Relationships, and Satisfaction of the Relationship with the Mediating Role of Love in Couples. *ajfj*. 4(4), 17-34.



© 2023 by the authors. Licensee Iranian Association of Women's Studies, Tehran, Iran. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0 license) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

Abstract

Aim: This research was conducted with the aim of providing a structural model for predicting social interest based on interpersonal relationships and marital satisfaction with the mediating role of love of couples. **Method:** The cross-sectional research method is correlational. The statistical population of the current study was made up of all the women who referred to Sarai Mahalat in Tehran in 2021-2022, and among them, 305 people were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling method. In this research, the tools of social interest (Crandall, 1975), interpersonal relationships (Hurwitz et al., 1988), relationship satisfaction (Burns and Cyrus, 1988) and love (Stenberg, 1989) were used, all of which had acceptable validity and reliability. In order to analyze the data, SPSS-V23 and Lisrel-V7.8 software were used. In order to respond to the research hypotheses, structural equation modeling was used. **Results:** The findings of the research showed that the model has a good fit. The results showed that interpersonal relationships have a direct effect on social interest in couples. Marital satisfaction has a direct effect on social interest in couples. Interpersonal relationships have an indirect effect on social interest in couples with the mediating role of love. Marital satisfaction has an indirect effect on social interest in couples with the mediator role of love. **Conclusion:** Therefore, paying attention to the mentioned variables helps researchers and therapists in prevention and designing more suitable treatments.

Keywords: social interest, interpersonal relationships, marital satisfaction, love.

Introduction

In recent years, investigating the effect of social interest in couples on the emergence of compromised behaviors in life is one of the new fields of research. Social interest is one of the concepts mentioned by Adler and the central concept of his personality theory (Newman, 2020). In the description of this concept, many definitions have been expressed and each of them has considered it from a specific aspect. According to Adler, social interest is the main indicator of mental health, and people with social interest direct their efforts towards activities beneficial to society (Domis et al., 2016). Social interest includes an external feeling towards all human beings. The essence of social interest is valuing something outside of oneself without ulterior motives and the absence of real self-centeredness, selfishness, and narcissism. Social interest is based on a person's similarity with others and excellence as well as self-interest, which leads to authentic communication with humans and the tendency to fight for the welfare of society (Grad & Zeligman, 2017). Adler believed that social interest is manifested in the current affairs of life such as friendship, love, and work, and that a person's mental health requires successful adaptation and coping with these main and ongoing challenges in life. According to Adler, social interest has important consequences for the adjustment of the individual and at the same time contributes to the health of the society. Social interest is the basis of mental health, and the tracking and tracing of many intra-personal and interpersonal problems ends in the absence of collective and social feeling or interest (Açıköz & Toker, 2019).

Therefore, according to the confirmation of the relationship between interpersonal relationships and relationship satisfaction with social interest in couples in previous studies and current researches, they should identify the mediating mechanisms of communication. Many of today's marriages begin with love and emphasis on romantic relationships, but they do not last. True love requires commitment and social interest, and in fact, this commitment during marriage is the basis of a romantic relationship. Therefore, one of the most important relationships that people create throughout their lives and expect to satisfy their spiritual need, to love and be loved, is "love". It is in the nature of a person to love and be loved, to fall in love and have a lover (Mand et al., 2019).

One of the most important and interesting theories that explain the components and types of love is the love triangle theory, which was invented by Sternberg and is known by his own name (Sternberg, 1986). He has described the concept of love in three general components that can be the sides of a triangle: the intimacy component, which includes the feeling of closeness, mutual communication and attachment in the relationship; The part of passion which is based on sexual motivation and physical attraction and the part of commitment and decision which manifests in the short term in the form of a decision to establish a relationship and in the long term in the form of a commitment and sense of responsibility to maintain and continue that relationship. These three components, combined with each other, create 8 different types of love, each of which has its own characteristics, disadvantages and merits; So that some types of love are correlated with higher levels of satisfaction in the relationship (Masbah, 2019). It seems that according to the few theories that have been proposed about love in psychology, love is formed from an inner unconscious force and our childhood experiences, and

our romantic choices are influenced by these childhood patterns, and sometimes people expect love to give meaning to their lives, they imagine the person they are married to as a divine ideal, and they believe that this person can fill their lives with happiness (Jorgensen, 2020).

Considering the importance of social interest, which according to Adler's opinion is considered as the main indicator of mental health in childhood and adulthood, and high social interest leads a person to perform useful activities for the society, it is highly necessary to investigate the factors related to this variable. In addition, due to the fact that social interest is an effort by individuals to improve society and a better future for future generations, and it is largely influenced by the emotional atmosphere, the values governing the family and the relationships between its members. The availability of the grounds and prerequisites for the development of social interest will lead to the preference of social interests compared to individual competitiveness from childhood and choosing it as one of the prominent aspects of the lifestyle, which is also one of Adler's key concepts. Therefore, in this research, considering the role of interpersonal relationships, marital satisfaction and love as the most key factors in the occurrence of individual and family behaviors, as the most important place for the formation of social thoughts, the present research will seek to answer the question: Is the model of social interest based on interpersonal relationships and marital satisfaction compatible with the mediating role of love in couples?

Method

The cross-sectional research method is correlational. The statistical population of the current study was made up of all the women who referred to Sarai Mahalat in Tehran in 2021-2022, and among them, 305 people were selected by multi-stage cluster sampling method. In this research, the tools of social interest (Crandall, 1975), interpersonal relationships (Hurwitz et al., 1988), relationship satisfaction (Burns and Cyrus, 1988) and love (Stenberg, 1989) were used, all of which had acceptable validity and reliability. In order to analyze the data, SPSS-V23 and Lisrel-V7.8 software were used. In order to respond to the research hypotheses, structural equation modeling was used.

Results

According to the values of skewness and kurtosis which are in the range of (+1.96, -1.96), the assumption of the normality of the data is strengthened, therefore, the assumption of the normality of the data can be raised and accepted.

There is a significant relationship between research variables. In this section, in order to investigate the relationships between the variables of the research hypothesis, the confirmatory structural equation model is used. For this purpose, after drawing the structure, adding model constraints and choosing the maximum likelihood method, the model was executed

According to the chi-square and RMSEA criteria, this model provides a good fit to the data.

All indicators have statistical adequacy. Therefore, it can be confidently concluded that the researcher has achieved a relatively perfect fit regarding these indicators.

Path coefficients are given along with t values for the above hypothesis. As it turns out, the tested paths are accepted.

Therefore, it can be concluded that interpersonal relationships have an indirect effect on social interest in couples with the mediating role of love. In order to check the direct and indirect effect of independent variables on the dependent variable, it is necessary to present the total, direct and indirect effects for the endogenous variable of the model.

Therefore, it can be concluded that marital satisfaction has an indirect effect on social interest in couples with the mediating role of love. In order to check the direct and indirect effect of independent variables on the dependent variable, it is necessary to present the total, direct and indirect effects for the endogenous variable of the model.

The effect of marital satisfaction indirectly through love on social interest is 0.70.

Conclusion

The present study was conducted with the aim of presenting a structural model of predicting social interest based on interpersonal relationships and marital satisfaction with the mediating role of couple's love. The results showed that interpersonal relationships have an indirect effect on social interest in couples with the mediating role of love. The effect of interpersonal relationships indirectly through love on social interest is 0.99.

References

- Açıkgöz, Y., & Toker, Y. (2019). Integrating occupational complexity levels to interest assessments in social and enterprising areas: Development of the Vertical Social Interest Scale. *Journal of Career Assessment, 27*(1), 61-77.
- Besharat, M. A. (2010). Emotional dyslexia and interpersonal problems. *Journal of Educational and Psychology Studies, 10* (1), 129-145.
- Choi, H., Nam, B., Kim, S., & Park, C. (2019). Contact with Parents and Parents-in-Law, Gender, and Marital Satisfaction in Korea. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 81*(5), 1192-1205.
- Crandall, J. E (1991). A scale for social interest. *Journal of Individual Psychology, 1*(47): 13-20.
- Dehghanifar, F., & Khosropour, F. (2020). Structural Modeling of Object Relations Mediated by Cognitive Emotion Regulation to Predict the Love Trauma Syndrome in Female Students. *Preventive Care in Nursing & Midwifery Journal, 10*(2), 1-8.
- Dumais, K. M., Alonso, A. G., Bredewold, R., & Veenema, A. H. (2016). Role of the oxytocin system in amygdala subregions in the regulation of social interest in male and female rats. *Neuroscience, 330*, 138-149.
- Dunlop, W. L., Karan, A., Wilkinson, D., & Harake, N. (2020). Love in the first degree: Individual differences in first-person pronoun use and adult romantic attachment styles. *Social Psychological and Personality Science, 11*(2), 254-265.
- Farahbakhsh, K., & Shafiabadi, A. (2006). Dimensions of making love based on the three-dimensional theory of love in four groups of couples in the stages of

- engagement, engagement, marriage and having children. *Journal of knowledge and research in applied psychology*, 8 (30), 1-20.
- French, J. E., Altgelt, E. E., & Meltzer, A. L. (2019). The implications of sociosexuality for marital satisfaction and dissolution. *Psychological science*, 30(10), 1460-1472.
- Ghadamali, Z. (2011). Investigating the relationship between social interest and religious attitude in male and female technical and humanities students of Tehran universities in the academic year of 2013-2014. Master's thesis. Allameh Tabatabaie University.
- Gheisari, S., & Karimian, N. (2013). Investigating the causal model of sexual satisfaction based on the variables of marital quality, relationship satisfaction, sexual relationship anxiety, sexual entitlement and intercourse frequency in married female students of Bandar Abbas. *Quarterly Journal of Counseling and Psychotherapy Culture*, 4(16), 85-106.
- Grad, R. I., & Zeligman, M. (2017). Predictors of post-traumatic growth: The role of social interest and meaning in life. *The Journal of Individual Psychology*, 73(3), 190-207.
- Haghshenas, S., & Babakhani, M. (2017). Predicting marital satisfaction based on stress coping skills and time perspective. *Family Research Quarterly*, 52(11), 569-584.
- Horowitz, L. M., Rosenberg, S. E., Baer, B. A., Ureño, G., & Villaseñor, V. S. (1988). Inventory of interpersonal problems: psychometric properties and clinical applications. *Journal of consulting and clinical psychology*, 56(6), 885.
- Hosseini, F., & Alavi Langroudi, S. K. (2017). The role of attachment styles and sexual satisfaction in marital satisfaction with the mediation of love. *Women's Social-Psychological Studies Quarterly*, 15(3), 115-98.
- Jorgensen, J. N. (Ed.). (2020). *Love ya hate ya: the sociolinguistic study of youth language and youth identities*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Juwita, R., & Kilis, G. (2017). The Relationship between Love and Marital Satisfaction among Individuals in the Early Stage of Marriage. *Recent Developments in Sociology and Social Work*, 121.
- Klausová, T. (2018). *Triangle Theory of Love, Love Styles and Satisfaction in Romantic Relationships among University Students* (Doctoral dissertation, Empire State College).
- Knobloch-Fedders, L. M., & Wilson, S. J. (2018). Interpersonal behavior in couple therapy: Concurrent and prospective associations with depressive symptoms and relationship distress. *Psychotherapy Research*, 1-12.
- Lewis, K. C., Meehan, K. B., Cain, N. M., Wong, P. S., Clemence, A. J., Stevens, J., & Tillman, J. G. (2016). Impairments in object relations and chronicity of suicidal behavior in individuals with borderline personality disorder. *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 30(1), 19-34.
- Maleki, B., & Jadidian, A. A. (2020). The relationship between marital satisfaction of married women and elements of love making styles. *Journal of Applied Studies in Social Sciences and Sociology*, 2 (11), 1-15.
- Markey, P., Markey, C., Nave, C., & August, K. (2014). Interpersonal problems and relationship quality: An examination of gay and lesbian romantic couples. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 51, 1-8.
- Mende, M., Scott, M. L., Garvey, A. M., & Bolton, L. E. (2019). The marketing of love: how attachment styles affect romantic consumption journeys. *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, 47(2), 255-273.

- Mesbah, I. (2019). The relationship between love components (intimacy, passion, commitment) and marital satisfaction in female students and married people. *Journal of Roish Psychology*, 1 (34), 21-30.
- Misri, S. K. (2018). Marital Discord and Childbirth: Increasing Conflicts in New Parents. In *Paternal Postnatal Psychiatric Illnesses* (pp. 101-118). Springer, Cham.
- Nyunt, N. N., & Myint, K. W. (2020). The Relationship between Self-Compassion, Social Interest and Depression of Postgraduate Students.
- Park, H., & Park, J. S. (2018). The relationship between impulsivity and internet gaming disorder in young adults: Mediating effects of interpersonal relationships and depression. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 15(3), 458.
- Pickard, J. A., Caputi, P., & Grenyer, B. F. (2016). Mindfulness and emotional regulation as sequential mediators in the relationship between attachment security and depression. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 99, 179-183.
- Quinlan, E., Deane, F. P., Crowe, T., & Caputi, P. (2018). Do attachment anxiety and hostility mediate the relationship between experiential avoidance and interpersonal problems in mental health carers?. *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*, 7, 63-71.
- Rafieipour, A., & Sakani, Z. (2018). Prediction of love components based on Myers-Briggs personality traits. *Social Psychology Research Quarterly*, 32 (11), 108-99.
- Sina, F., Najarpourian, S., & Samavi, S. A. (2018). The Prediction of Marital Satisfaction Through Attachment Styles and Love Story. *Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*, 12(4).
- Snir, S., & Wiseman, H. (2016). Couples' joint drawing patterns: Associations with self-report measures of interpersonal patterns and attachment styles. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 48, 28-37.
- Sternberg, R. J. (1986). A triangular theory of love. *Psychological review*, 93(2), 119.
- Williamson, H. C., & Lavner, J. A. (2020). Trajectories of marital satisfaction in diverse newlywed couples. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 11(5), 597-604.