



# Prediction of attitude towards infidelity based on the role of dark dimensions of personality, self-differentiation and sexual attitude in women divorce applicants

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Email: bahrami@iautmu.ac.ir | Received: 29.01.2023 | Acceptance: 29.12.2023

*Journal of Applied Family Therapy*

eISSN: 2717-2430  
http://Aftj.ir

Vol. 4, No. 5, Pp: 334-352  
Winter 2023

### Original research article

#### How to Cite This Article:

Yousef Pouri, M., & Bahrami, B. (2023). Prediction of attitude towards infidelity based on the role of dark dimensions of personality, self-differentiation and sexual attitude in women divorce applicants. *aftj*. 4(5), 334-352.



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#### Abstract

**Aim:** The main purpose of the present research is to predict the attitude towards infidelity based on the role of dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitudes in individuals seeking divorce. **Method:** This research is descriptive-survey and correlational in nature. The statistical population included women seeking divorce who visited welfare centers in District 6 of Tehran in the autumn 2022. A total of 230 individuals were selected through convenient sampling. Data were collected using the Whatley Marital Infidelity Attitude Scale (2006), the Johnson and Webster Dark Triad Personality Trait Questionnaire (2010), the Skowron and Smith Self-Differentiation Questionnaire (2003), and the Khoshabi and Valaie Sexual Attitude Questionnaire (2018). Data analysis was performed in two sections, descriptive and inferential, using Pearson correlation and multivariate regression analysis. **Results:** The results showed that dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitudes have a significant impact on the attitude towards infidelity. **Conclusion:** It can be concluded that dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitudes are influential factors in the attitude towards infidelity.

**Keywords:** Attitude toward infidelity, dark dimensions of personality, differentiation of self, sexual attitude, divorce.

## **Introduction**

This study aims to focus on romantic relationships or marriages where men are significantly older than their emotional partners, examining factors that might influence individuals, especially women, to engage in such relationships. Among these factors, the study compares the impact of early maladaptive schemas and attachment styles between two groups of couples with an age gap: those with a 10-year or smaller age difference (where the man is older) and those with a 15-year or greater age gap (also with the man being older). Therefore, the current study raises the question: Is there a difference between the early maladaptive schemas and attachment styles of women involved in romantic relationships with a 10-year or smaller age gap and those with a 15-year or greater age gap (where the man is older)?

## **Method**

This research is descriptive-survey and correlational in nature. The statistical population included women seeking divorce who visited welfare centers in District 6 of Tehran in the autumn 2022. A total of 230 individuals were selected through convenient sampling. Data were collected using the Whatley Marital Infidelity Attitude Scale (2006), the Johnson and Webster Dark Triad Personality Trait Questionnaire (2010), the Skowron and Smith Self-Differentiation Questionnaire (2003), and the Khoshabi and Valaie Sexual Attitude Questionnaire (2018). Data analysis was performed in two sections, descriptive and inferential, using Pearson correlation and multivariate regression analysis.

## **Results**

The results showed that dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitudes have a significant impact on the attitude towards infidelity.

## **Conclusion**

The present research aimed primarily to predict attitudes towards infidelity based on the role of dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitude in individuals seeking divorce. The results showed that dark personality traits, including Machiavellianism and narcissism, are capable of predicting attitudes towards infidelity, while the antisocial aspect is not predictive of attitudes towards infidelity.

This study faced the following limitations: It was conducted only among women seeking divorce who visited welfare counseling centers in Tehran, and its generalization to other women should be done with caution. The study was carried out on a small sample of women seeking divorce, and generalization to other communities should be done cautiously. Convenience sampling was used in this study, which may limit the generalizability of the results. The primary tool used in this research was a questionnaire. The lack of utilization of other tools is another limitation of this research. Generalizability of the results necessitates further research in this area. Therefore, it is recommended that the prediction of attitudes towards infidelity based on the role of dark personality traits, self-differentiation, and sexual attitude in men seeking divorce be examined. The same study should be conducted using other sampling methods. Parents should educate their children about sexual matters at the age of marriage and clarify that sexual relations are appropriate only with their spouses, and relations with non-spouses are contrary to humanity. In universities and schools, laws of marriage and sexual relations should be correctly stated in textbooks. Both men and women should seek counseling if they observe suspicious cases in marital relationships.

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