

Understanding Family Functioning: The Influence of Cultural Marginalization and Social Competence

Zeynolabedin. Jafari¹  Mohammadbagher. Jafari^{2,3*} 


¹ Department of Sociology, Faculty of economics, Management and Social Sciences, University of Shiraz, Shiraz, Iran

² Department of Sociology of Culture, Istanbul, Türkiye



³. Department of Social Sciences, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

* Corresponding author email address: mbjafari@kmanresce.ca

Editor

Salami Mutiu Olagoke 
Associate Professor, Head of
Counseling Psychology and
Guidance Department, Ibn Haldun
University, Turkey
salami@fpm.upsi.edu.my

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Zahra Yousefi 
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad
University, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: yousefi1393@khuisf.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Mehdi Rostami 
Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond
Hill, Ontario, Canada.
Email: dr.mrostami@kmanresce.ca

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Data were collected using the Family Assessment Device (FAD) for family functioning the Cultural Marginalization Scale (CMS) for cultural marginalization and the Social Skills Inventory (SSI) for social competence." - Mention the validity and reliability metrics for these instruments to strengthen the credibility of the methodology.

"Social competence involves the ability to interact effectively with others forming and maintaining positive relationships and navigating social environments (Chen & French 2008)." - This section would benefit from including a theoretical model or framework that explains the development of social competence.

"This study employed a cross-sectional design to investigate the relationship between family functioning cultural marginalization and social competence." - Clarify why a cross-sectional design was chosen over other possible designs, such as longitudinal or experimental.

"A sample of 350 participants was determined based on the Morgan and Krejcie table for sample size estimation." - Provide more details about the stratified random sampling method and how it ensured a representative sample.

"The FAD consists of 60 items rated on a 4-point Likert scale where higher scores indicate poorer family functioning." - It would be useful to mention the internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) for the FAD in this study's sample.

"The CMS has been extensively validated with numerous studies affirming its reliability and effectiveness in capturing the nuanced experiences of marginalized individuals across diverse cultural backgrounds (Wang et al. 2022)." - Include the specific reliability and validity metrics observed in this study for the CMS.

"The SSI's validity and reliability have been confirmed through extensive research making it a dependable tool for assessing social skills in varied populations and settings (Chen & French 2008; Hocking et al. 2014; Horevitz et al. 2013; Okano et al. 2019; Taylor et al. 2015; Williams et al. 2020; Zand et al. 2014)." - Specify any modifications made to the SSI for this study and how those changes were validated.

"Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to examine the relationships between the dependent variable (family functioning) and each of the independent variables (cultural marginalization and social competence)." - Consider including additional statistical analyses, such as mediation or moderation analyses, to explore the potential indirect effects of cultural marginalization and social competence on family functioning.

"Descriptive statistics for family functioning cultural marginalization and social competence." - Provide a more detailed breakdown of the demographic variables and their potential influence on the main variables of interest.

"The results indicate a significant negative correlation between cultural marginalization and family functioning ($r = -0.52$ $p < 0.001$) and a significant positive correlation between social competence and family functioning ($r = 0.46$ $p < 0.001$)." - Discuss the practical significance of these correlations, considering the size and context of the effect.

"The regression analysis indicated that the model significantly predicted family functioning ($F(2, 347) = 45.67$ $p < 0.001$)." - Provide a more detailed interpretation of the R^2 value, explaining what it implies about the model's explanatory power.

"The regression analysis further elucidates these relationships by demonstrating that both cultural marginalization and social competence are significant predictors of family functioning." - Discuss how these findings compare to previous research, highlighting any novel contributions.

"The cross-sectional design limits the ability to draw causal inferences between the variables." - Suggest specific strategies for addressing these limitations in future research, such as using experimental or longitudinal designs.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"The objective of this study was to investigate the relationships between family functioning cultural marginalization and social competence." - The objective statement would benefit from clarity regarding the hypothesized direction of relationships between these variables. Specify whether the study aims to explore positive, negative, or bidirectional relationships.

"Understanding the factors that affect family functioning can provide insights into improving family dynamics and supporting positive outcomes for family members." - This paragraph could be enhanced by including specific examples of how improved family dynamics benefit individual development.

"The integrative model for the study of developmental competencies in minority children proposed by Coll et al. (1996) provides a useful framework for this study." - A brief description of how this model specifically applies to the current study's context would help readers unfamiliar with it.

"Cultural marginalization refers to the experience of being excluded or alienated from the dominant cultural group which can negatively impact an individual's sense of identity and belonging (Safdar et al. 2003)." - The concept of cultural marginalization could be expanded by discussing specific examples or case studies to illustrate its impact.

"Researchers should also investigate the mechanisms through which cultural marginalization affects family functioning such as examining the roles of stress identity conflict and access to resources (Coll et al. 1996)." - Propose specific research questions or hypotheses for future studies based on the findings of this study.

"Practitioners should adopt a holistic approach that considers both individual and systemic factors affecting family functioning." - Offer concrete examples of intervention programs or policies that could be implemented to address the issues identified in the study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.