Journal of Psychosociological Research in Family and Culture

Family Dynamics: The Role of Emotional Expressiveness and Social Connectedness in Problem-Solving

Roodi. Hooshmandi[1] , Neda. Atapour[1*]

[1] Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

* Corresponding author email address: nedaatapour@kmanresce.ca

1.   Round 1

1.1.   Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The description of the data collection instruments ("Family Assessment Device, Family Expressiveness Questionnaire, and Social Connectedness Scale") could benefit from brief descriptions of their reliability and validity. This would provide readers with more confidence in the measures used.

The Family Expressiveness Questionnaire (FEQ) is well-described, but it would be helpful to include information on how responses are scored and interpreted, particularly for each of the four subscales.

The description of the Social Connectedness Scale (SCS) is thorough but lacks information on its cultural sensitivity. Discussing how this measure has been validated across different cultures could address potential biases.

The explanation of the statistical tests used is clear, but the rationale for choosing these specific tests (e.g., why linear regression was chosen over other possible analyses) could be elaborated on to justify the methodology.

Table 1 presents descriptive statistics but does not include confidence intervals. Adding these would provide more information about the precision of the estimates.

The positive correlations between variables are highlighted. However, discussing potential issues with multicollinearity (despite the VIF values being low) and how they were addressed would be beneficial.

The regression model's R^2 value is presented, but the practical significance of explaining 49% of the variance in Family Problem-Solving should be discussed. How does this compare to previous research?

The discussion reiterates the findings but could be improved by comparing the results more explicitly to previous studies. This would contextualize the study within the broader literature.

The authors mention the importance of social connectedness but do not discuss potential mediators or moderators in this relationship. Addressing these could provide a deeper understanding of the underlying mechanisms.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The abstract mentions mean scores and standard deviations but does not provide context for interpreting these values. Adding a brief explanation of what these scores indicate about the sample's problem-solving abilities, emotional expressiveness, and social connectedness would enhance clarity.

The statement, "Effective problem-solving within families can reduce conflicts, foster understanding, and enhance relational satisfaction" would benefit from additional citations to support these claims, ensuring that readers can reference foundational research.

The introduction mentions studies on emotional expressiveness and social connectedness but lacks specificity regarding the demographics and contexts of these studies. Including this information could clarify the generalizability of the findings to the current study's context.

The theoretical framework based on family systems theory is briefly mentioned. Expanding this section to detail how this theory specifically relates to emotional expressiveness and social connectedness in family problem-solving would strengthen the theoretical underpinnings.

The sampling method is described generally. Specifying whether a convenience sampling or a random sampling method was used would clarify the representativeness of the sample.

The description of the Family Assessment Device (FAD) could be enhanced by providing specific examples of the items used in the Problem Solving subscale. This would give readers a clearer idea of how problem-solving was assessed.

The limitations section acknowledges the cross-sectional design but does not suggest specific longitudinal designs or methodologies for future research. Providing concrete suggestions would be more helpful.

The authors suggest practical applications for practitioners but could enhance this section by detailing specific interventions or programs that have been shown to improve emotional expressiveness and social connectedness.

The role of cultural factors is briefly mentioned. Expanding this discussion to consider how cultural differences might impact the generalizability of the findings would be valuable.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.