

What Happens in Pre-Marriage Counseling Rooms? Examining the Process of Pre-Marriage Counseling from the Perspective of Its Recipients in Isfahan City

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The article offers a novel exploration of the pre-marriage counseling process, shedding light on an area that is crucial yet under-researched. The identification of distinct phases within the counseling sessions provides a structured framework that could guide future practices and research in the field.

Employing thematic analysis to interpret interview data from counseling recipients allows for a rich, nuanced understanding of the counseling experience. However, the study could enhance its methodological section by detailing the selection criteria for participants and the steps taken to ensure the reliability and validity of the thematic analysis.

The breakdown into assessment, education, advice, and conclusion phases is insightful. Yet, the article could benefit from a deeper examination of each phase, possibly including the specific techniques used by counselors, the challenges encountered, and strategies for overcoming these challenges.

The article hints at practical implications for pre-marriage counseling but stops short of fully exploring these. Expanding on how counselors can apply the findings to enhance their practice, possibly through the development of new counseling models or training programs, would significantly increase the article's impact.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

While the article provides valuable insights from the recipients' perspectives, it could further delve into the perceived effectiveness of the counseling received. This might include how participants applied the advice in their relationships, any noticeable changes in their relationship dynamics, and suggestions for improving counseling services.

The study's focus on Isfahan City offers important cultural insights. However, discussing how these findings might translate to different cultural or geographical contexts could widen the article's appeal and usefulness. Future research directions could include comparative studies across cultures to explore universal and culture-specific aspects of pre-marriage counseling.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. **Revised**

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.