

Review of: "Developing and Evaluating the Marriage Education Program: The Example of the Turkish Cypriot Community"

Fredi Giesler¹

¹ Idaho State University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I think I experienced some language translation barriers to fully understanding the text. The introduction was unclear in places and applied a passive voice which made it difficult to follow.

I wondered how the authors thought that couples, individuals and families developed the value of lifelong learning, as this would impact how the education programs would be delivered. This was not really addressed in the discussion. A report of the findings of the needs assessment would be helpful to know if the education program matched what was found in that study. The long list of prior studies could be consolidated into one paragraph that briefly reports the methods and the findings. This section was repetitive. The marriage and divorce statistics could be presented in a table.

The description of the intervention was too limited. What were the dynamics of the class. Based on the description provided it could not be replicated. The description of the measurement tools is too vague. The meaning of the scales was not clear. What is an average score; what do the scores mean? It was clear that the difference (pre-post) was statistically significant, but was it functionally different? It seemed that the identified problem was a high divorce rate, but the participants were not asked about divorce or how this figured into their attitudes. It would have been helpful to have a list of the qualitative data questions. This could have been provided in the appendix. The results of the qualitative aspect of the study was very unclear. What do the diagrams mean? What does the word "child" signify in each diagram.

The discussion is a list of studies that seem to support the findings of this evaluation. The nuances are not discussed. Who is most likely to divorce and how could such an educational program be directed at this group? This study does not apply to a representative sample, consequently the results have limited generalizability. It seems that there is a significant need to support healthy family structures for the sake of children, but it's not clear that this particular intervention accomplishes that goal.