The mediating role of emotion regulation strategies in the relationship between borderline personality and conjugal violence

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Abstract
Aim: The purpose of this study was to determine the mediation role of maladaptive emotion regulation strategies in the relationship between borderline personality and conjugal violence. Method: This study utilized a descriptive correlational design. The statistical population of this study consisted of all the students of the Islamic Azad University of Karaj, N=28000 in the academic year 2014-15. Of these, only married students who were eligible to enter the study were selected via multistage sampling. Thus, 311 students were selected. Research tools were as follows: the Conflict Tactics Scale (Straus, Hambly, Boney-Mccoy, & Sugarman, 1996); the Borderline Symptom List (Bohus, Limberger, Frank, Chapman, Kühler, 2007); the Ruminative Response Scale (Nolen-Hoeksema & Morrow, 1991) and the White Bear Suppression Inventory (Wegner & Zanakos, 1994). After removal of five outlier respondants, structural equation modeling was used to analyze the data. Results: Results showed that rumination and thought suppression emotion regulation strategies mediate the relationship between borderline personality and conjugal violence. Conclusion: To avoid negative affect and maladaptive emotion regulation strategies, borderline personalities perpetrate to acting out violence towards their partners. Therefore, it is suggested that biological and psychological factors in borderline personality disorder should be considered when designing treatment programs.

Keywords: borderline personality, conjugal violence, emotion regulation, strategies