

STROBE Statement—Checklist for Cross-Sectional Study

Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
Title and abstract			
1(a)	Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Abstract (p.1)	"Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted among 813 married, full-time employed women..."
1(b)	Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Abstract (p.1)	Abstract structured with Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusion; reports key findings (β coefficients, p-values, model fit)
Introduction			
2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Introduction (pp.1-2)	Global fertility decline context; Iran's rapid transition; WFC definition; gaps in mediators research in Middle East
3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Introduction (p.2)	"H1: Work–family conflict negatively predicts fertility intention... H5: Age, education level, and economic status are controlled..."
Methods			
4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Methods §1 (p.3)	"This research was a cross-sectional, descriptive-analytical study conducted on 813 married and employed women..."
5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Methods §3 (pp.3-4)	"selected health centers affiliated with Ahvaz University of Medical Sciences... between January 2024 and March 2025"
6(a)	Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants (cross-sectional)	Methods §3-4 (p.4)	Inclusion: married, employed, 18-45y, one child, Ahvaz resident, $\geq$ diploma. Sampling: two-stage stratified random + systematic

6(b)	For matched studies: give matching criteria (N/A for this study)	N/A	Not applicable (unmatched cross-sectional design)
7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers	Methods §6 (pp.4-6)	Outcomes: FI (single item); Exposures: WFC, RDAS, GAD; Confounders: age, education, economic status; all instruments defined with scoring
8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment	Methods §6 (pp.4-6)	All 5 instruments described: source, items, response scale, validity/reliability (Persian validation cited), Cronbach's α for current sample
9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Methods §3,6,7; Discussion (pp.4,6,10)	Trained assistants; private rooms; self-administered questionnaires; FIML for missing data; limitations of self-report acknowledged
10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Methods §5 (p.4)	"calculated according to Cohen and Westland... 14 observed variables, 3 latent variables, effect size 0.13, $\alpha=0.05$, power 80% → minimum n=734; final n=813"
11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses	Methods §6-7 (pp.5-6)	Likert scales treated as continuous in SEM; covariates entered as exogenous predictors; no categorization of continuous variables
12(a)	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Methods §7 (p.6)	"SPSS v25 for descriptive; STATA v17 for SEM with ML estimation; covariates (age, education, economic status) regressed on all endogenous variables"
12(b)	Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Methods §7 (p.6)	No subgroup/interaction analyses performed (consistent with study aims)
12(c)	Explain how missing data were addressed	Methods §3 (p.4)	"Questionnaires with >20% missing excluded (n=17); item-level missingness averaged 1.2%; handled using FIML estimation in STATA"

12(d)	For cross-sectional: describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	Methods §3 (p.3-4)	"two-stage stratified random sampling... systematic random sampling with k=N/n... proportional allocation based on catchment population"
12(e)	Describe any sensitivity analyses	Supplementary File S2 description (p.6)	"Covariate-adjusted model: sensitivity check confirmed robustness of primary findings"
Results			
13(a)*	Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study	Methods §3 (p.4)	"850 approached → 830 consented (97.6%) → 813 analyzed (95.6% of consented)"
13(b)*	Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Methods §3 (p.4)	"20 declined consent; 17 excluded for >20% missing items"
13(c)*	Consider use of a flow diagram	Methods §3 (p.4)	"The detailed distribution... is provided in Supplementary Table S1 and visually illustrated in Supplementary Figure S1"
14(a)*	Give characteristics of study participants and information on exposures/potential confounders	Results, Table 1 (p.6-7)	Table 1: age, spouse age, education, employment, economic status (n=813)
14(b)*	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Methods §3 (p.4)	"item-level missingness averaged 1.2% (range: 0.3%–3.1% per variable)"
14(c)*	For cross-sectional: Summarise follow-up time	N/A	Not applicable (cross-sectional design)
15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Results, Tables 2,4,5 (pp.7-9)	Table 2: means/SDs of all scales; Tables 4-5: SEM path coefficients, direct/indirect/total effects
16(a)	Give unadjusted and confounder-adjusted estimates with precision (e.g., 95% CI)	Results, Table 4 (p.8)	Table 4: B (S.E.), z, p-value, 95% CI, standardized β for all paths; covariates controlled in model
16(b)	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	N/A	No continuous variables were categorized

16(c)	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk	N/A	SEM path coefficients reported (not risk ratios); not applicable
17	Report other analyses done (subgroups, interactions, sensitivity)	Results, Table 5; Methods §6 (pp.6,9)	Table 5: direct/indirect/total effects; Section 6: Cronbach's α for all scales in current sample
Discussion			
18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion (p.9)	Opening paragraph: ""marital quality emerged as strongest positive predictor... WFC modest negative effect... GAD did not significantly mediate""
19	Discuss limitations, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision	Discussion "Strengths and Limitations" (p.10)	Cross-sectional design (no causal inference); self-report bias; sample restricted to employed women with one child in Ahvaz
20	Give cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, similar studies, other evidence	Discussion (pp.9-10)	Interpretation in Iranian cultural context; comparison with Li et al. 2024, Zhao et al. 2024; acknowledgment of methodological differences
21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Discussion "Strengths and Limitations" (p.10)	"External validity is limited by the sample's restriction to employed women with one child in Ahvaz... reducing generalizability"
Other information			
22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders	Declarations (p.11)	"This research was supported by Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (2024)."