



# Investigating the Mediating Role of Mentalization in the Relationship Between Emotional Maltreatment and Emotional Disorders

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 01 March 2023

Reviewer:

The abstract states, "Difficulties in emotional regulation are a primary feature in all personality disorders." It would be beneficial to specify which personality disorders are being referred to, as this statement is quite broad and could be misleading.

The introduction would benefit from a clear specification of the hypotheses. For instance, "The current study hypothesizes that mentalization mediates the relationship between emotional maltreatment and emotional disorders in adolescents."

In the Methods section, the sample size was justified using Kline's formula. It would strengthen the manuscript to include a brief justification for the choice of this specific formula and a comparison with other possible sample size determination methods.

The Methods section mentions the use of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) and Reflective Functioning Questionnaire for Youths (RFQ-Y). Providing more details on the validation and reliability of these instruments in previous studies would enhance the rigor of the methodology.

The study used convenience sampling. It would be important to discuss the potential biases introduced by this sampling method and how they might impact the generalizability of the findings.

While the skewness and kurtosis indices suggest normality, it would be useful to include histograms or Q-Q plots to visually confirm the normality of the data distribution.

The author uploaded the revised document.

## 1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 06 March 2023

Reviewer:

The sentence "Mentalization is the capacity that allows us to understand our own and others' behaviors based on mental states and cognitive processing in the domains of thoughts, feelings, desires, and wishes" (Introduction, Paragraph 1) could be enhanced by providing a more detailed operational definition of mentalization for clarity.

The literature review briefly mentions studies by Smith et al. (2022), Ahmadi et al. (1399), and others. It would improve the manuscript to include a more thorough discussion of these studies, highlighting their methodologies and how their findings support the current research.

The model fit indices are reported ( $\chi^2/df = 3.627$ , CFI = 0.983, RMSEA = 0.070). Including a brief explanation of what these indices represent and their acceptable thresholds would aid in the reader's understanding of the model's adequacy.

In Table 1, the descriptive statistics are provided. It would be informative to include a discussion on any notable trends or patterns observed in these statistics and their implications for the study.

The Results section mentions direct effects with mentalization as a mediator. Clarifying the theoretical or practical significance of these direct effects would add depth to the interpretation of findings.

In Table 5, the indirect effects are presented. It would be beneficial to provide a narrative explanation of these indirect effects and their implications for understanding the mediation model.

The discussion mentions "emotional regulation" multiple times. Providing a more detailed theoretical framework for emotional regulation and its developmental aspects would strengthen this section.

While the discussion references several studies, integrating the findings more cohesively with the current literature would enhance the manuscript. For instance, compare the current study's findings with those of Hazelgrove (2020) and Zhang (2021) in more detail.

The author uploaded the revised document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.