The Mediating Role of Health-Promoting Behaviors in the Relationship between Generalized Anxiety Disorder Symptoms and Health-Related Quality of Life among University Students

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This claim would benefit from empirical support. Consider citing foundational or widely recognized sources to reinforce the statement on the significance of the university period in psychological development.

This sentence is overly long and dense. Break it into two sentences to enhance readability and clarity regarding the domains influencing HRQoL.

This study is used to support multiple mediating models. Clarify how closely its context aligns with the student population of the present study to justify its applicability.

You later report that the final sample size was 497. Please clarify if 3 students were excluded and on what grounds, as consistency is essential.

While the psychometric properties are well reported, the phrase "fit indices were acceptable" is vague. Please provide context on the CFA model specification used for these indices.

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You cite Montazeri et al. (2009) for the Persian version. Specify whether the same scoring method (norm-based scoring or raw scores) was applied in your analysis.

You refer to "Stokret (2000)" as the source for the short form, but this name appears to be a misspelling. Verify the author's name and correct it accordingly.

Consider reformatting Table 1 for better readability. Present each demographic category (e.g., gender, marital status) in a separate, clearly labeled sub-table, especially since this table includes two columns with repeated headers.

While skewness and kurtosis values are provided, mention the acceptable thresholds used (e.g., skewness ± 1.0 , kurtosis ± 2.0) for transparency.

Ensure the figure includes standardized path coefficients (β values) and significance levels (e.g., p < .05). Currently, the figure is referenced but not visually presented in the document file.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Please cite at least two empirical sources supporting the stated prevalence range of GAD among university students to ensure accuracy and reproducibility.

Consider adding a transition sentence here to clearly connect GAD to HPBs as a theoretical mediator, to improve narrative coherence.

Although accurate, this definition closely resembles that of the WHO. Be sure to paraphrase appropriately and include a direct citation to avoid potential issues of close textual overlap.

This claim about the novelty of the study is strong. To support it, consider clarifying the scope of your review (e.g., time period or database) or slightly softening the assertion (e.g., "To the best of our knowledge...").

The paragraph is heavily citation-based. While this demonstrates thoroughness, please summarize the implications of these findings more clearly in your own voice at the end of the paragraph.

This sentence is overly long and combines multiple ideas. Consider breaking it into two or more sentences for improved clarity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.

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