




Parental Anxiety and Parental Criticism as Predictors of Child Internalizing Symptoms

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Monika Szczygiel  Department of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland monika.szczygiel@uj.edu.pl	Reviewer 1: Shahrokh Makvand Hoseini  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Semnan University, Iran. Email: shmakvand@semnan.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Davood Taghvaei  Department of Psychology, Arak Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran. Email: d-taghvaei@iau-arak.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "parental anxiety is not merely a background risk factor..." is compelling but could be further substantiated with examples of specific emotional attunement failures or dyadic interactions observed in empirical studies.

The description of criticism as "frequent expression of disapproval" lacks operational specificity. Consider referencing validated behavioral coding schemes or observational studies that define critical parenting behaviors more precisely.

The use of the Perceived Criticism Measure (PCM), a single-item scale, raises concerns about construct validity and reliability. Suggest discussing this limitation more explicitly and justifying its inclusion despite its brevity.

The reported means for child internalizing symptoms (64.28) and parental anxiety (25.64) suggest moderate elevations. Consider commenting on whether these scores surpass clinical cut-off thresholds and what implications that might have.

The R^2 value of .44 is substantial. However, consider discussing possible omitted variables that could explain the remaining 56% of variance. Could co-parenting, parental warmth, or child temperament contribute?

"Though not directly measured in the present study..." — consider moving this acknowledgment earlier in the paragraph to more clearly delimit what conclusions can and cannot be drawn from the current dataset.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "The intergenerational transmission of risk..." presents an important theme but does not distinguish between genetic and environmental pathways. Suggest including references or clarifications on gene-environment interplay.

"The current study addresses these gaps..." — this transition could be improved by clearly specifying which methodological or theoretical gaps are being filled. For instance, is the novelty in the simultaneous testing of both predictors, or the South African context?

The beta for parental criticism (.33) appears strong despite the PCM's single-item format. Recommend a cautionary note in the discussion acknowledging the potential inflation or imprecision of this predictor.

The sentence "These results underscore the dual role..." would benefit from referencing integrative frameworks such as the bioecological model or emotional security theory to provide theoretical grounding for dual-risk interactions.

The sentence "It is also noteworthy that this study was conducted in a South African context..." could be enhanced by specifying the unique parenting practices or stressors in this setting based on local literature.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.