




Family Economic Hardship and Adolescent Risk-Taking: The Mediating Role of Family Cohesion

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Shahram Vahedi ^{id} Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran vahedi117@yahoo.com	Reviewer 1: Masoud Hoseinchari ^{id} Associate Professor, Department of Educational Sciences, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. Email: hchhari@shirazu.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mohammad Hassan Ghanifar ^{id} Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Birjand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Birjand, Iran. Email: ghanifar@iaubir.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “adolescence is a developmental period characterized by profound physical, psychological, and social changes” is somewhat generic. Consider grounding this statement with a recent source (2022–2024) for contemporary relevance.

The sample description mentions “a minimum of 520 participants”. Please clarify the exact total recruited and whether any cases were excluded due to missing data.

For the Economic Hardship Questionnaire, the citation to Conger and Elder (1992) is correct, but the paper should mention whether the scale was translated, validated, or adapted for the Indian context.

The statement “Our results confirm that economic hardship undermines family cohesion, which then contributes to higher adolescent risk-taking” is accurate, but needs a stronger link back to the Family Stress Model to demonstrate theoretical alignment.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors state “Economic stress theories suggest that financial strain in families disrupts parenting, communication, and cohesion...”. This is accurate, but the Family Stress Model should be explicitly named earlier to strengthen the theoretical framing.

The discussion of Buist et al. (2020) reads “family negativity predicted delinquent behaviors in adolescents”. Consider linking this directly to cohesion as a contrastive point to highlight the protective nature of cohesion more clearly.

The statement “Parental monitoring, involvement, and communication remain central mechanisms” is well-placed, but a more explicit conceptual link to the mediating model tested in this study would improve coherence.

The sentence “This focus addresses important gaps in the literature, particularly in underrepresented cultural settings...” should be expanded to justify why India specifically provides a meaningful context.

In describing FACES IV, the authors state “higher cohesion scores reflecting stronger emotional bonding”. Report Cronbach’s alpha for this sample to establish reliability, not just literature-based values.

The statement “ χ^2/df ratio of 2.17, which is within the acceptable range” should cite a methodological source (e.g., Hu & Bentler) for clarity.

The authors write “family cohesion was shown to partially mediate the relationship...”. Clarify the proportion of variance explained (R^2) to highlight the strength of the mediation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.