




Online Gaming Engagement and Adolescent Social Withdrawal: The Mediating Role of Family Cohesion

Dimitra Kalogeropoulos¹, Eleni Papadopoulou^{2*}, Nikos Antoniou³


¹ Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece

² Department of Health Psychology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece



³ Department of Clinical Psychology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

* Corresponding author email address: epapadopoulou@psych.uoa.gr

Editor

Monika Szczygiel
Department of Psychology,
Jagiellonian University, Krakow,
Poland
monika.szczygiel@uj.edu.pl

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Abolghasem Khoshkanesh
Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran,
Iran.
Email: akhoshkonesh@sbu.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Thseen Nazir
Professor of Psychology and Counseling Department, Ibn Haldun University,
Istanbul, Turkey.
Email: thseen.nazir@ihu.edu.tr

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Adolescents’ vulnerability to excessive gaming is also shaped by their family environment” could be expanded with theoretical frameworks (e.g., Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory or family systems theory) to anchor the discussion.

The description of the Children’s Social Withdrawal Scale should include an example item (e.g., “I prefer to be alone rather than with peers”) to give readers a better sense of content validity.

In describing FACES IV, the sentence “Higher scores indicate greater family cohesion” is clear, but it would help to specify whether the Greek version was validated or if the English version was directly used.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the passage “Emerging research highlights that gaming-related behaviors are not only influenced by environmental and familial conditions but also by biological predispositions”, you cite dopamine receptor gene studies. Consider clarifying how such findings complement family cohesion as a mediator, since biological predispositions are not directly tested here.

The statement “little research has examined these interactions specifically within European contexts such as Greece” is important. Strengthen this by referencing whether European Union statistics or reports identify gaming addiction as a public health concern.

The description “Participants were selected through a stratified random sampling method to represent both genders and diverse socioeconomic backgrounds” requires elaboration on the stratification variables (e.g., school type, region, urban/rural).

The text states, “These findings suggest that cohesive family environments are associated with lower levels of withdrawal and reduced excessive gaming.” It would strengthen the discussion to report effect size conventions (e.g., $r = .42$ is a moderate to strong correlation).

The sentence “Collectively, these indices validate the structural model as appropriate” could be improved by comparing to alternative model specifications (e.g., direct-only model, or gaming → withdrawal without family cohesion).

The passage “Such families likely compensate for the social deficits that arise from excessive gaming” is insightful. Strengthen by connecting to resilience theory or attachment theory for a stronger conceptual framing.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.