

Predicting Childhood Trauma Based on the Unconscious with the Mediating Role of Alexithymia in Adults with Social Anxiety Attending Counseling Centers in Tehran

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction effectively contextualizes social anxiety but lacks a critical gap analysis. Highlight why previous studies on childhood trauma and alexithymia fail to address the study's unique question.

It is unclear how self-reported psychiatric drug use was verified. Consider specifying if a secondary confirmation was sought from medical records.

The model fit indices are impressive, but the significance level (p-value) in the Chi-Square test could be better justified, given it is marginally significant ($p = 0.001$).

Clarify why no confidence intervals are provided for direct effects. Including them could enhance the robustness of the findings.

The explanation regarding childhood trauma and emotional regulation mechanisms is insightful but could include more recent references post-2020 to ensure currency.

The argument that alexithymia impairs emotional expression is strong. However, consider citing additional cross-cultural studies to confirm its universal applicability.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The inclusion of Jung's theories is a strength. However, the transition from Jung to Freud lacks flow. Consider connecting them by discussing their differing but complementary perspectives on the unconscious.

The criteria for selecting 240 participants are well-documented, but the justification for using District 2 of Tehran as the sampling area should be included. Was it chosen for diversity, accessibility, or another reason?

While reliability and validity metrics are provided, discuss potential cultural biases in the Persian adaptations of the Alexithymia and Unconscious scales.

Expand on the practical implications of the $\beta = 0.24$ mediation effect. Does this value suggest a moderate or weak mediating role?

While the discussion effectively integrates the findings with existing literature, the connection to the unconscious remains somewhat abstract. Provide specific examples from the data to substantiate this link.

While the implications for mental health professionals are discussed, include specific recommendations for designing educational programs targeting social anxiety.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.