



Helplessness Beliefs and Social Withdrawal: The Mediating Role of Avoidant Coping


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening sentence defining social withdrawal is strong but lacks a citation. Please provide a source for “a conscious or unconscious retreat from social interactions...”

The statement “These strategies, while initially providing psychological relief...” would benefit from a more specific reference to longitudinal consequences or meta-analytic evidence, perhaps citing a systematic review if available.

The sentence “Avoidant coping also had a strong positive correlation with social withdrawal...” would benefit from a mention of effect size interpretation (e.g., “moderate” or “strong” per Cohen’s guidelines).

The goodness-of-fit indices are appropriate, but the model degrees of freedom (df = 61) suggest a relatively complex model. Please include a figure or explain the number of estimated paths.

You discuss “personality configurations such as high neuroticism...” but did not measure personality. Consider acknowledging this as a theoretical implication rather than a conclusion drawn from your data.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Parenting style, family functioning, and interpersonal interactions...” would be more persuasive if the cited studies (e.g., Wilson & Sia, 2022) were elaborated on with their key findings.

You mention, “fewer have tested them within a comprehensive structural model...” Consider clarifying what specific gaps this study addresses—e.g., cultural context, age range, or measurement model novelty.

You mention, “includes 6 items across three relevant subscales...” but don’t report Cronbach’s alpha for your specific sample. Please add internal consistency values for this study.

While the indirect effect is reported, consider testing and reporting the significance using bootstrapped confidence intervals for more robust mediation analysis.

The sentence “These findings suggest that individuals who perceive themselves as helpless...” is insightful but would be enriched by discussing possible reverse causality due to the cross-sectional design.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.