




Self-Stigma and Low Mental Health Literacy as Predictors of Help-Seeking Avoidance




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This claim would benefit from a stronger theoretical foundation. Consider referencing a psychological model (e.g., Theory of Planned Behavior or Health Belief Model) to conceptually anchor the relevance of these predictors.

The authors should clarify whether self-stigma is treated as a stable personality disposition or a modifiable cognitive bias. This distinction has implications for intervention design.

The authors mention Cronbach's alpha but do not report the alpha obtained from their current sample. Reporting actual internal consistency would strengthen psychometric credibility.

The description of MHLS items lacks clarity. Clarify which domains (e.g., symptom recognition, knowledge of treatment efficacy) are weighted most heavily in the scoring.

Consider discussing how you addressed potential Type I errors given multiple tests. Was any correction applied (e.g., Bonferroni)?

The demographic table is not included. Including a tabular summary of gender, age, and education would increase readability and allow for clearer replication.

These variables were not mentioned in your methods section. Please clarify whether this content is erroneously copied from another study and correct accordingly.

Include confidence intervals for the regression coefficients to enhance interpretability and statistical transparency.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The research gap is not explicitly articulated. State clearly how this study advances prior findings or fills a unique gap, especially in the Moroccan context.

The authors mention random sampling but provide no detail about the population frame or recruitment strategy. Clarify how randomization was achieved and whether stratification was used across regions or demographics.

This exclusion criterion may bias the sample toward less severe cases and reduce the generalizability of findings. Consider acknowledging this limitation in the discussion.

This claim about cultural stigma in Morocco lacks citation. Please provide a region-specific reference to substantiate sociocultural claims.

Consider citing empirical support for this mediation/moderation dynamic. Has this interaction been formally tested in your model?

This paragraph generalizes findings across disparate contexts. Consider adding a cautionary note about cultural and structural differences between countries.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.