




# Psychological and Cultural Factors Influencing Career Indecision in First-Generation Students

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Izet Pehlić  Full professor for Educational sciences, Islamic pedagogical faculty of the University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina izet.pehlic@unze.ba	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Masoud Asadi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University, Arak, Iran. Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Stephen C. L. Lau  Professor (Assistant) at Washington University in St. Louis, United States. Email: lauc@wustl.edu

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “In one recent study, it was found that pessimism and avoidant coping strategies...” should explicitly cite Duru (2024) here, rather than generalize as “in one recent study,” for clarity and attribution.

The phrase “can introduce a host of cultural barriers” is somewhat general. Consider specifying at least one key barrier with a brief example to improve concreteness.

The sentence “Reflexivity was maintained throughout the research process...” would benefit from a concrete example of how reflexivity was enacted (e.g., journaling, peer debriefing).

While Table 1 is comprehensive, the categories and subthemes could be better linked to the theoretical framework mentioned earlier (e.g., CIP). Consider adding a sentence that clarifies this theoretical alignment.

The quote “I keep thinking I’m not smart enough...” is impactful. However, the analysis following it would benefit from discussing the concept of “academic self-concept” more directly, which is relevant in career decision literature.

In the sentence “My parents didn’t have that luxury...,” consider expanding on how this sense of indebtedness aligns with concepts like filial piety or collectivist duty from cultural psychology.

The sentence “No one really checks on us...” would benefit from triangulation with institutional data or documentation of available services to avoid anecdotal over-reliance.

This powerful theme could be better contextualized by referencing Bourdieu’s theory of cultural capital or shame-based identity in social class literature.

The phrase “emotional barriers such as anxiety and stress were not simply co-occurring factors” is insightful but could be supported with a citation to emotional-affective models of decision-making (e.g., Lee et al., 2021).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the sentence “These psychosocial processes can create a cyclical effect...,” the notion of feedback loops in psychological behavior could be expanded briefly, perhaps with reference to existing models in career counseling literature.

The paragraph introducing the research gap ends abruptly. Add a transitional sentence that more clearly outlines why Argentina was selected as the context of inquiry, given that earlier literature is based on diverse global contexts.

The paragraph mentions that the interview guide was “based on a review of the literature and expert input.” Please clarify who the experts were and their qualifications or roles to validate methodological rigor.

While the quote “not just mine” is moving, it would be stronger if interpreted using an established framework of intergenerational obligation, perhaps comparing Western and collectivist contexts.

The reference to “digital divide” is timely. However, it would be useful to include a specific statistic or global figure on how this issue affects first-gen or low-income students.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.