





Smartphone Overuse and Relationship Dissatisfaction: The Mediating Role of Fear of Missing Out (FoMO)

Parichehr. Mehdiabadi¹, Roodi. Hooshmandi², Jiantang. Yang^{3*}, Mehmet. Karakus⁴

¹ M.A, School of Psychology, University of East London, UK


² Liva Healthcare, Research and Innovation, 1434 Copenhagen, Denmark

³ Rehabilitation Department, York Rehab Clinic, Toronto, Canada


⁴ Assistant Professor, Research Centre for Global Learning, Coventry University, Coventry, UK


* Corresponding author email address: jian.yang@sheffield.ac.uk

Editor

Shokouh Navabinejad
Department of Psychology and
Counseling, KMAN Research
Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario,
Canada
sh.navabinejad@kmanresce.ca

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Taher Tizdast
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad
University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: taher.tizdast@toniau.ac.ir

Reviewer 2: Meysam Sadeghi
Assistant Professor of Department of Cognitive Psychology, Higher Education
Institute of Cognitive Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Email: m.sadeghi@icss.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This opening is strong but too general. It would benefit from including concrete statistics on smartphone penetration in the UK to contextualize the local relevance of the study.

While the definition is clear, the paragraph could be improved by distinguishing between clinical smartphone addiction and subclinical problematic use, as the current phrasing conflates the two.

This section reads like a textbook description. Please clarify whether the CSI-16 was validated in the UK context or whether the original psychometric properties were assumed.

The paragraph effectively summarizes results but should discuss whether the mediation was full or partial and its implications.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The cited studies are relevant, but the paragraph would benefit from elaborating how FoMO specifically disrupts romantic or intimate relationships, not only general well-being.

The inclusion of multiple cultural contexts is commendable. However, the authors should clarify why a UK sample was chosen and how cultural differences might affect generalizability.

This paragraph should more explicitly state the study's hypotheses in numbered form (e.g., H1, H2, H3) for clarity and alignment with SEM analysis.

While descriptive statistics are provided, consider adding interpretation in terms of severity levels (e.g., low, moderate, high overuse) to aid reader understanding.

The chi-square statistic differs slightly between text (142.83) and table (134.62). Please check for consistency.

The reporting is clear, but bootstrapping results for indirect effects (with confidence intervals) should be presented, as this is standard for mediation.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.