

The Impact of Parental Psychological Control on Adolescent Risky Behaviors with an Emphasis on the Mediating Role of Gratitude

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence, "This stage, typically spanning from ages 10 to 19, is considered a pivotal point in human development," is overly generalized. It would be beneficial to cite specific developmental models or theories to contextualize this claim. For example, reference Erikson's stages of psychosocial development or Piaget's cognitive stages to substantiate the claim about adolescence being a pivotal stage.

The claim that "gratitude can strengthen adolescents' social relationships" could be supported by more specific evidence or studies. For instance, mentioning research by Emmons and McCullough (2003) that demonstrates how gratitude influences social bonding would provide a stronger empirical foundation for this argument.

The study design is described as "descriptive in nature and uses a survey method," but the justification for this methodological approach is unclear. The article should provide a rationale for why a descriptive survey design is appropriate for exploring the mediating role of gratitude, especially in the context of psychological control and risky behaviors.

The sampling method described as "simple random sampling" is appropriate, but further detail is needed regarding how the sampling frame was constructed. Was a list of all first-year high school students in Tonekabon available? How was randomness ensured in the selection process?

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The phrase "the brain undergoes structural and functional changes" could be expanded to specify the types of structural and functional changes. For instance, mentioning the development of the prefrontal cortex, which is crucial for decision-making and impulse control, would enhance the scientific accuracy of this statement.

The term "risky behaviors" is used frequently without providing a precise definition. It would be helpful to provide a clearer operational definition early on, perhaps citing a classification such as those developed by Steinberg (2017) or other scholars, to give context to the types of behaviors being discussed.

While discussing parental psychological control, the article should provide more details about how parental psychological control is measured. It is important to differentiate between types of psychological control (e.g., guilt induction, love withdrawal) and provide references that have explored the specific dimensions of parental control.

The link between gratitude and risk-taking behaviors could be expanded. It would be beneficial to include evidence from studies that explicitly examine the physiological or neurological underpinnings of how gratitude might reduce the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors, such as neurobiological research on emotions.

The discussion on the mediating role of gratitude is promising, but there is a lack of clarity regarding the theoretical model that will guide this mediation analysis. It would be useful to specify which mediation model is being used (e.g., Baron & Kenny, 1986) and why it was chosen.

While 361 participants are considered adequate based on the rule of 18 participants per parameter, it would be helpful to justify this sample size calculation more rigorously. The article could include a power analysis or a more detailed explanation of the assumptions made during the sample size estimation process.

The phrase "These findings are consistent with prior research (Mansouri & Khodabakhshi-Koolaee, 2024; Yousefynezhad et al., 2022)" requires clarification. A more thorough comparison of the current study's findings with those of previous studies would be beneficial. How do the results presented here expand or challenge existing knowledge?

In the sentence "Parental psychological control refers to behaviors used by parents to control their children's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors," a more nuanced discussion of parental control types is needed. For example, how does guilt induction compare to other forms of control in influencing adolescent behavior?

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.