Predicting Aggressive Behavior From Exposure to Violence and Emotion Dysregulation in Adolescents

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In paragraph 4 of the introduction, the sentence "According to transactional models, environmental stressors such as violence exposure…" is a strong point, but the article does not elaborate on the specific theoretical model (e.g., Sameroff's transactional model). Clarifying the conceptual origin of the "transactional model" would enhance theoretical alignment.

The authors claim in the introduction, paragraph 7, "adolescents in high-risk environments may normalize aggressive behavior…" but this socio-cultural interpretation would benefit from a more specific discussion of the Romanian context and relevant empirical findings.

In the final paragraph of the introduction, the sentence "Given this background…" presents the research aim but lacks explicitly stated hypotheses. Please formulate and present at least two specific hypotheses derived from the literature review.

In the Methods and Materials section, under "Study Design and Participants," the phrase "ensuring sufficient statistical power" is vague. Please specify the statistical power level (e.g., 0.80) and effect size assumed in using the Morgan and Krejcie table.

In the "Emotion Dysregulation" section, while the DERS subscales are appropriately detailed, it is unclear whether a total score or subscale scores were used in analysis. Please specify this clearly.

In the Data Analysis paragraph, the authors write, "All statistical analyses were conducted using a significance level of p < .05." Given the large sample size (n = 399), please explain whether any corrections for multiple comparisons were considered or applied.

In the regression results (Table 4), the authors report standardized beta weights but should also comment on the practical significance of the coefficients (e.g., what a one-point increase in emotion dysregulation or violence exposure predicts in terms of aggression score).

In the Discussion section, paragraph 3, the authors write, "This suggests that these two constructs independently contribute…" but should also consider potential interaction effects between exposure to violence and emotion dysregulation, even if not tested in this study.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The Measures section states that the Aggression Questionnaire (AQ) has been validated "across diverse adolescent populations," but it would improve methodological rigor to indicate whether any cultural adaptation or language translation was performed for the Romanian sample.

Under "Exposure to Violence," the use of the CEVS is described, but the sentence "The scale has been validated in multiple studies involving adolescent populations…" would be strengthened by referencing studies involving Eastern European or Romanian samples, if available.

In the Findings section, the authors report descriptive statistics (e.g., M = 83.47 for aggression), but it would be helpful to include possible score ranges for each scale to interpret the magnitude of these means.

The sentence "The assumption of normality was supported…" in the Findings section mentions skewness and kurtosis but omits the actual values for emotion dysregulation and exposure to violence. Including these values would enhance transparency.

In Table 2, the authors present bivariate correlations, yet do not discuss the theoretical implications of the moderately strong correlation (r = .43) between exposure to violence and emotion dysregulation. Please interpret this correlation in the context of possible mediation or shared variance.

In Table 3, the regression model explains 43% of the variance in aggression. However, in the Discussion section, the article states "approximately 43%" but does not interpret the remaining unexplained variance or suggest additional predictors that may account for it.

The sentence "Emotion dysregulation had a standardized beta (β) of .41…" in the Findings section should be followed by a statistical interpretation comparing the relative strength of both predictors and noting the standardized effect sizes.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.