




# Social Desirability and Its Effect on Help-Seeking: Mediated by Shame

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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:

In "The intersection of shame and social desirability is particularly critical," the article introduces the theoretical link between the two constructs but lacks empirical support at this point. Including a study that explicitly investigates both variables simultaneously would strengthen this section.

The sentence "Model fit was evaluated using standard indices..." should briefly explain why these particular fit indices (CFI, RMSEA, TLI) were chosen and what cutoffs were used, rather than assuming all readers are familiar with SEM conventions.

The authors state, "The mean shame score was 68.34," but do not indicate the range or possible maximum/minimum values of the scale. Including these values would aid in interpreting whether this score truly reflects "elevated shame."

While assumptions for multivariate analysis are checked, no details are provided on how outliers or missing data were handled. Clarify whether any participants were excluded or imputed.

In describing the correlations, the authors might consider commenting on the effect sizes in practical terms. For example, is  $r = -.52$  a moderate or strong correlation in this context?

The discussion would benefit from an explanation of why  $\chi^2$  remains important despite large sample sizes and how it complements or contrasts with the fit indices used.

The path coefficients are clearly reported, but the mediation analysis lacks mention of the bootstrapping method often recommended for indirect effect testing. Was bootstrapping used, and if so, what were the confidence intervals?

The sentence "Consequently, individuals may avoid seeking help..." makes a strong claim about Malaysian cultural norms. Consider referencing local studies or qualitative evidence from the Malaysian population to ground this claim.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase "Emerging research has also examined the moderating and mediating variables..." introduces self-esteem as a relevant construct, but this study does not examine it. Consider clarifying that this is background literature and not part of the present analysis to avoid confusion about the study's scope.

The statement "there remains a significant gap in understanding..." makes a strong claim about existing research. This should be supported by a brief summary of previous Malaysian studies (if any), or at least a citation to a review that highlights this regional gap.

In "Participants included a diverse demographic range...", please clarify the sampling method used. The phrase "convenience sampling" earlier may conflict with the claim of demographic representativeness.

The description of the GHSQ could be enhanced by indicating which version (original or modified) was used and whether it was adapted for the Malaysian cultural context, which could affect the instrument's validity.

The sentence "This supports earlier research by Mahadevan et al." would be more impactful if the authors specified which part of the model their results corroborate—i.e., the impact of social approval motives on emotional suppression.

In "Furthermore, the significant mediating role of shame...", the authors should elaborate on whether the mediation was partial or full and what this implies about intervention strategies.

The line "shame has been repeatedly linked with diminished self-worth..." would be enriched by referencing whether this relationship was also supported by the current data, since self-esteem was discussed extensively in the introduction.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.