The Role of Identity Development and Moral Reasoning in Predicting Prosocial Behavior

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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 Introduction, the paragraph starting with "One of the central factors influencing adolescent prosocial behavior is identity development" could benefit from a clearer distinction between identity development and moral identity, which are conceptually related but distinct constructs.

In the Introduction, the sentence "The emergence of digital platforms and online social environments has also reshaped..." should elaborate on what is meant by "virtual helping behaviors" with examples or evidence from referenced studies.

The Methods and Materials section, under Study Design and Participants, mentions "convenience sampling", which introduces bias. The limitations of this sampling method should be acknowledged here, not only in the discussion section.

In the Measures section on Prosocial Behavior, the authors refer to "validated in multiple cultural contexts" without naming any. It would strengthen the manuscript to cite at least one or two of those validation studies.

The section on Ego Identity should clarify how identity status (e.g., achievement, foreclosure) was derived or whether the EIPQ was analyzed dimensionally or categorically, as this influences interpretation.

In the Moral Reasoning section, the sentence "The scoring yields several indices..." should briefly clarify whether the analysis in this study used the P-score, N2 score, or both, and how these were interpreted.

In the Discussion, the sentence "These findings align with a wide body of literature…" would benefit from referencing more culturally relevant literature from Latin America or Peru specifically, given the setting of the study.

In the Discussion, the authors state: "These findings resonate with the work of Maiya et al. (2024)..." but fail to critically evaluate whether cultural differences between Peru and the study populations in those references may limit transferability.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence in the Introduction: "Cultural and ethnic identity have been found to mediate the effects of cultural stressors on prosocial actions..." should specify the population or demographic for which this mediation effect was observed to avoid overgeneralization.

The paragraph in the Introduction beginning "Theoretical models, including social identity theory and ecological systems theory..." should cite specific theoretical frameworks or original sources (e.g., Bronfenbrenner for ecological systems theory) to strengthen theoretical grounding.

In the Data Analysis section, the authors state: "assumptions were tested and confirmed" without presenting test statistics or thresholds. Including specific skewness and kurtosis cutoffs or residual plot interpretations would add rigor.

In the Findings and Results, the demographics paragraph states: "193 (55.1%) were female and 157 (44.9%) were male", but does not address whether gender differences were examined in the analysis. This could be explored or discussed.

In the paragraph before Table 2, the authors claim "These findings demonstrate that higher levels of identity development and moral reasoning were significantly associated...", but causality should be avoided due to the correlational design.

In the paragraph discussing Table 3, the statement "This robust result demonstrates the combined predictive power…" should be tempered, as $R^2 = 0.41$, while notable, also indicates that 59% of the variance remains unexplained.

In the paragraph discussing Table 4, the phrase "Moral reasoning emerged as a slightly stronger predictor…" could benefit from including a confidence interval for the beta coefficients to assess statistical significance more precisely.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

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