




The Predictive Power of Social Media Use and Body Image on Eating Attitudes in Youth

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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:

The sentence “Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook propagate idealized images...” would benefit from empirical support or examples to reinforce how these platforms specifically influence body image perceptions in adolescents.

The description of the EAT-26 would benefit from including Cronbach’s alpha or reliability score from this study’s sample to confirm internal consistency in the South African context.

Although the BSQ is described thoroughly, no reliability or cultural validation data are presented for this population—this is critical given the scale’s Western origins.

In the description of the SMUIS, the paper should clarify whether any cultural adaptation or pilot testing was conducted for South African youth, especially considering linguistic or digital use differences.

The statement “assumptions... were carefully assessed and met” is too general. The manuscript should report actual values (e.g., VIF scores, normality test results) in-text, not only in summary.

The sentence “interventions targeting disordered eating... must simultaneously address...” would benefit from a specific example of a dual-intervention approach in past research.

Discussion, final paragraph: The paper asserts that “social media can be a positive tool...” but does not suggest how to practically implement this in the South African context. Include culturally-relevant intervention strategies or campaign examples.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

When stating “the influence of social media on eating attitudes is not uniform across populations...”, consider integrating South African studies or referencing regional cultural variables to enhance contextual relevance.

The final sentence, “employing robust correlational analyses...” should be revised to clarify what is meant by “robust”—e.g., define which specific analyses were used or their statistical power.

The claim that the sample is representative due to stratified random sampling would be strengthened by describing the strata used (e.g., regions, schools, socio-economic status).

The sentence “accounted for approximately 37% ($R^2 = .37$)” should discuss whether this level of variance is considered high or moderate in psychological research.

The regression beta coefficients are identical for both predictors ($B = 0.15$), yet standardized β values differ. The authors should explain this apparent anomaly—possibly due to different scales or variances.

The phrase “confirming initial hypotheses” should reference the actual hypotheses stated earlier (which are currently missing in the article) to establish a stronger theoretical framework.

The reference to “psychological distress mechanisms related to appearance and social acceptance” could be elaborated by citing specific theories, such as social comparison theory or objectification theory.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.