




The Relationship Between Personality Traits and Phubbing in Generation Z Students: The Mediating Role of Fear of Missing Out (FoMO)

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
John S. Carlson  Distinguished Professor of the Department of Educational Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United carlsoj@msu.edu	Reviewer 1: Fahime Bahonar  Department of counseling, Universty of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Email: Fahime.bahonar@edu.ui.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mahdi Khanjani  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran. Email: khanjani_m@atu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase "...which can intensify feelings of loneliness and depression (Winarna, 2024)" lacks nuance. Please clarify whether this relationship is correlational or causal and support the claim with stronger empirical evidence if causal language is intended.

The statement "...FoMO is not only a psychological challenge but also a defining feature of Generation Z's digital lifestyle..." is overly general. Please specify supporting data or empirical studies showing generational differences in FoMO prevalence.

The translation and content validation process is only briefly described. Please report the inter-rater agreement (e.g., using CVR or CVI) from the expert panel to strengthen methodological rigor.

The positive mediation of FoMO between neuroticism and phubbing is plausible, but a stronger theoretical model should be referenced (e.g., uses and gratifications theory, compensatory internet use model) to support this behavioral pathway.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The three research questions presented are vague. Consider operationalizing “relationship” in terms of directionality, effect size, and mediating pathways to align better with your structural equation modeling (SEM) approach.

The justification for sample size ($n = 600$) references Ghasemi (2011) and others but lacks clarity. Please explicitly state how the number of observed variables was determined (are they the five traits + FoMO + phubbing?).

The manuscript states, “path analysis was performed... at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels.” Please clarify whether significance testing was corrected for multiple comparisons (e.g., using Bonferroni or FDR).

The discussion of extraversion is contradictory. While citing Duradoni et al. (2023) for lower phubbing among extroverts, you also cite Field (2024) to suggest higher phubbing. Please reconcile these findings and explain the contextual factors that may account for this divergence.

“FoMO mediates the relationship between psychosocial factors—such as relative deprivation and loneliness—and phubbing...” is mentioned but not studied in your model. Please either remove this or frame it as evidence from prior literature not directly examined in the current study.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.