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Prediction of Self-Efficacy and Aggression in Adolescents Based on Marital Conflicts and Mothers' Problem-Solving Styles

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase "insecure home environment" is used to describe the impact of parental conflict. Consider operationalizing what constitutes "insecurity" in this context (e.g., emotional unpredictability, lack of support) for conceptual precision.

The paragraph discussing social learning theory could benefit from a clearer integration of Bandura's original framework or citation to reinforce the theoretical grounding.

The discussion of gendered parental influence is important, but the manuscript could enhance nuance by acknowledging whether the sample was all-female adolescents and discussing its implication here.

The statement "maternal marital conflict significantly and negatively predicted adolescent self-efficacy" would be strengthened by directly mentioning the amount of variance explained (e.g., R² value) to indicate effect size.

In reporting the effects of problem-solving styles, it would be useful to indicate which predictor was entered first in the regression model and how multicollinearity was managed.

The sentence "Conflict between parents often generates an unpredictable and emotionally insecure home environment" should be supported by direct citation to research demonstrating this effect empirically.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the multi-stage cluster sampling is clearly described, it would improve transparency to include the number of students per selected school and classes to demonstrate representativeness.

Clarify whether the scoring method used (0, 0.5, 1) was consistent with the original version or adapted, and if adapted, report validation procedures for the scoring modification.

The use of both correlation and stepwise regression is appropriate, but justification for choosing the stepwise method over hierarchical or simultaneous entry should be explained due to known limitations of stepwise models.

The assertion that "chronic conflict may impair parental monitoring and emotional availability..." is insightful but should include a reference to studies specifically connecting marital conflict to parenting capacity.

The strong emphasis on avoidance as the "most powerful predictor" is well-argued, but consider discussing whether cultural or contextual factors may influence the degree of this effect.

The phrase "dual impact of family functioning" is theoretically rich. It would be helpful to briefly distinguish between structural and behavioral mechanisms to clarify the conceptual distinction.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

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

