

# Social Support as a Mediator Between Cyberbullying Victimization and Psychological Distress in Adolescents


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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This transitional sentence is conceptually strong, but you could enhance rigor by citing empirical studies that have previously examined protective mechanisms like social support.

Please avoid redundancy. This sentence echoes earlier statements. Instead, consider integrating new angles, such as differential outcomes based on exposure intensity or chronicity.

Strengthen this cultural contextualization by referencing empirical data or prior regional studies about the role of collectivism in adolescent coping or help-seeking behavior.

Consider citing additional empirical research directly related to parental cyber literacy or mediation styles, which could further clarify how parents buffer risk.

This is an important justification for your study, but you could enhance its impact by naming specific gaps (e.g., lack of mediation models or SEM applications in Iraq).

Please clarify how strata were defined in the stratified sampling (e.g., based on gender, school type, or grade). This is important for evaluating representativeness.

You should report the Cronbach's alpha obtained from your current sample to validate the internal consistency of the K10 in your context.

Indicate whether the 9-item scale was validated in Arabic or Kurdish (or translated), and describe the process of linguistic or cultural adaptation.

Please report the actual number of cases removed or flagged, if any. This improves transparency in handling outliers.

Consider interpreting these mean scores in light of clinical cut-offs (e.g., low, moderate, high distress), if available for K10, to add practical meaning.

It would be beneficial to mention the mediation test used (e.g., bootstrapping with 5000 samples) in the main text for clarity and replicability.

This paragraph could be strengthened by exploring how social support operates psychologically (e.g., through cognitive appraisal, emotion regulation).

While the stress-buffering model is well-known, please cite a foundational source (e.g., Cohen & Wills, 1985) for theoretical grounding.

Although the text references gender, the study does not provide gender-based analysis. Consider adding exploratory gender-based SEM in future work or discussing it in limitations.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

When stating, "These insights align with the broaden-and-build theory...", please cite Fredrickson (2001), the original theorist, as a foundational source.

The sentence "...where cultural values around family, gratitude, and psychological well-being may manifest differently" would be stronger if supported by a specific citation on Georgian cultural norms regarding parenting or emotional expression.

Correlations are clearly significant, but it would be useful to mention whether correlation differences (e.g., gratitude-SWB vs. warmth-SWB) were statistically compared (e.g., using Steiger's Z-test).

The authors state, "all variables fell within the acceptable range of -1 to +1," but normality tests (e.g., Shapiro-Wilk) or histograms/Q-Q plots could be mentioned for additional support.

The authors state, "These findings suggest that parental warmth not only has a direct impact..."—this could be strengthened by explicitly quantifying the direct and indirect paths again for emphasis.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.