







The Role of Family Functioning and Emotional Autonomy in Predicting Adolescent Depression

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Trevor Archer  Professor Department of Psychology University of Gothenburg, Sweden trevorcsarcher49@gmail.com	Reviewer 1: Zahra Yousefi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran. Email: yousefi1393@khuif.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mehdi Rostami  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: dr.mrostami@kmanresce.ca

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction effectively highlights the importance of adolescence and family dynamics in mental health. However, the research gap is not explicitly stated. For example, the sentence, "and also with attention to the use of the results of this research in dealing with challenges and opportunities, public health, psychological resistance and resilience against psychological pressures, the necessity of this research is very much felt", lacks specificity. The authors should clearly articulate the gap in existing literature that this study aims to address, particularly regarding the combined role of family functioning and emotional autonomy in predicting adolescent depression.

The reliability coefficients for the measures (e.g., Cronbach's alpha for the Beck Depression Inventory) are reported, but there is no discussion of why certain values were considered acceptable. For instance, the sentence, "In the present study, Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient was 0.84", should be accompanied by a justification for this value based on established standards in psychological research.

The descriptive statistics in Table 1 are presented without interpretation. The authors should discuss the implications of the means and standard deviations, particularly for variables like depression and emotional autonomy. For example, the sentence,

"Descriptive statistics, including mean and standard deviation, are provided in Table 1", should be followed by an analysis of whether these values align with previous research or indicate unique trends in the sample.

The discussion of emotional autonomy and depression is theoretically sound but lacks depth. For instance, the sentence, "This finding can be interpreted through the lens of emotional autonomy as a critical dimension of psychosocial development", should be expanded to include specific mechanisms through which emotional autonomy influences depression, drawing on relevant theories like self-determination theory.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the introduction mentions theories like self-determination and attachment, it does not integrate them into a cohesive theoretical framework. The authors should explicitly link these theories to the study's hypotheses, especially in the sentence, "theory posits that autonomy is a fundamental psychological need". A clear theoretical foundation would strengthen the study's rationale.

The sampling method is described as multi-stage cluster sampling, but the process lacks detail. For instance, the sentence, "Boyer-Ahmad City and its surrounding villages were divided into four zones, from which two zones were randomly selected", does not specify how zones were defined or why only two were chosen. A more detailed explanation of the sampling procedure is necessary to ensure transparency and replicability.

The correlation coefficients in Table 2 are reported but not thoroughly discussed. The authors should elaborate on the strength and direction of these relationships, particularly the negative correlations with depression. For instance, the sentence, "As shown in Table 2, family functioning ($r = -0.395$) and emotional autonomy ($r = -0.513$) both exhibit significant negative correlations with depression", should include a comparison to effect sizes reported in similar studies.

The regression analysis in Table 3 is presented without a detailed interpretation of the beta coefficients. The authors should explain the practical significance of the standardized beta values, such as, "family functioning (standardized beta = 0.599) contributed most significantly to predicting depression". Additionally, the sentence, "The inclusion of emotional autonomy increased the predictive power by 13%", should clarify whether this increase is statistically significant.

The authors claim novelty for the finding on emotional autonomy but do not sufficiently justify this claim. For example, the sentence, "While no studies directly aligned with this finding were identified, highlighting its novelty", should be supported by a more comprehensive review of existing literature to demonstrate why this finding is indeed novel.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.