


Modeling the Dark Triad of Personality (Machiavellianism, Psychopathy, and Narcissism) Based on Feelings of Inferiority, Anxiety, and Social Rejection with the Mediating Role of Impulse Control in Adolescents with a History of Running Away from Home




Aida. Ebadpoor¹, Maryam. Nikooy^{2*}, Parvaneh. mohammadkhani³

¹ Department of Psychology, Qo.C., Islamic Azad University, Qom, Iran

² Department of Counseling, Kan.C., Islamic Azad University, Kangavar, Iran

³ Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: 3256305687@iau.ir

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Anela Hasanagic  Full Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Islamic Education, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina anela.hasanagic@unze.ba	Reviewer 1: Mehdi Rostami  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: dr.mrostami@kmanresce.ca Reviewer 2: Fahime Bahonar  Department of counseling, Universty of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Email: Fahime.bahonar@edu.ui.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the introduction clearly contextualizes the Dark Triad, the opening could better highlight the research gap addressed by this study. Consider explicitly stating why runaway adolescents are an understudied group compared to general adolescent populations.

The cut-off scores (low, moderate, very good) are reported, but it is unclear whether you applied these thresholds in the analysis. Please clarify whether you used categorical or continuous scoring in SEM.

Although means and SDs are presented, the clinical interpretation is missing. For example, what does a mean score of 87.42 on inferiority indicate relative to population norms?

While path coefficients are well-detailed, you should provide standardized indirect effect sizes (e.g., Sobel test, bootstrapping CI) to strengthen mediation claims.

The interpretation focuses on inferiority, but could benefit from linking findings to Adlerian psychology (inferiority complex), which directly relates to your construct.

The transition to moral psychology (Arvan, 2013; Kesebir, 2014) feels abrupt. Consider restructuring to show how these moral outcomes are a developmental extension of adolescent vulnerabilities.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description of the three traits is strong, but you may wish to integrate theoretical frameworks (e.g., evolutionary psychology, trait theory) to deepen the conceptual grounding.

The link between socially aversive traits and running away from home is mentioned only briefly. This should be elaborated further, as it is central to your study's population and rationale.

The sentence "The reason for selecting this age range was that 18-year-old girls had just entered university..." seems inconsistent with the stated population of 14–18-year-old adolescents. Please reconcile this mismatch.

The explanation of social anxiety leading to narcissistic/Machiavellian strategies is intriguing. Consider supporting this with mechanisms from social compensation theory.

This paragraph references Bradshaw (2023) and Crysel (2013), but does not clearly integrate them with the unique context of runaway adolescents. Please make that link explicit.

Although age and gender differences are acknowledged, the discussion does not fully analyze sex-specific results in your own data. Were there differences between boys and girls in trait expression?

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.