




# Predicting Risky Behaviors Based on Emotional Schemas and Rumination in Adolescents

Majid. Zolfi Oshtolagh<sup>1</sup>, Alireza. Pirkhaefi<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, Gar.C., Islamic Azad University, Garmsar, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: apirkhaefi@iau.ac.ir

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Gholamreza Rajabi <sup>1</sup>  Professor of Counseling Department, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Iran rajabireza@scu.ac.ir	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri <sup>1</sup>  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.i <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Seyed Ali Darbani <sup>1</sup>  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. Email: Ali.darbani@iau.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Introduction, the paragraph beginning with “A growing body of research has highlighted the role of emotional and cognitive vulnerabilities...” presents emotional dysregulation, maladaptive schemas, and rumination together, but the conceptual boundaries among them are not clearly distinguished. Please clarify how “emotional schemas” specifically differ from “cognitive emotion regulation strategies” and “emotional dysregulation,” as the current text risks conceptual redundancy.

In the RRS description: “Items are rated on a four-point Likert scale from 1 (never) to 4 (always)...” the authors should clarify whether total scores or subscale scores (reflection, brooding, depression-related rumination) were used in the regression model, as only a total score appears in Table 1. This affects interpretation.

The description of Table 1 claims that skewness and kurtosis values indicate normality, but the authors do not specify the threshold criteria used (e.g.,  $\pm 2$  or  $\pm 1$ ). Add explicit justification for assuming normal distribution.

In Table 3, the model significance is reported as  $p = 0.004$ , which is highly unusual for an F-value of 27.99 with  $df(6,143)$ . Typically, this value would be  $p < .001$ . Please verify and correct the p-value.

The sentence “In contrast, the comprehensibility of emotions did not significantly predict risky behaviors...” should clarify why comprehensibility might theoretically be expected to predict risky behaviors. Without this, the non-significant finding is not meaningfully contextualized.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the paragraph starting with “Another key psychological factor associated with risky behaviors is rumination...”, the emotional cascade model is implied but not explained. The authors should explicitly introduce a theoretical model that links rumination to risky behaviors to strengthen conceptual grounding.

The sentence “male adolescents in Iran—a population with unique sociocultural experiences...” introduces sociocultural uniqueness but does not operationalize it. Add concrete sociocultural factors (e.g., gender norms, academic pressure, digital exposure) that justify the need for local research.

In the discussion paragraph referencing Kermani et al. (2021) and Mina & Amini Manesh (2021), the authors repeat concepts regarding emotional dysregulation without adding novel interpretation. Consider synthesizing rather than restating previous findings.

The sentence “these results indicate that emotional schemas are an important intrapsychic mechanism...” overgeneralizes from a correlational dataset. The phrasing should emphasize association, not mechanism, because causality cannot be inferred.

Throughout the discussion, no mention is made of potential confounding variables such as socioeconomic status, family functioning, peer influences, or school climate. These should be acknowledged as alternative explanations.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.