





## The Influence of Agreeableness on Perceived Social Support: The Mediating Role of Empathy

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “Perceived social support... plays a protective role in psychological well-being” would benefit from referencing a meta-analysis or longitudinal study that supports its cross-cultural robustness.

The explanation of empathy’s multidimensionality is solid but could be enriched by briefly noting how the current study incorporates (or doesn’t incorporate) cognitive vs. affective empathy.

The use of Krejcie and Morgan (1970) is appropriate, but the authors should clarify how stratification was conducted (e.g., by region, gender, education level?).

The authors describe the IRI well, but they should justify the use of the full scale rather than selecting specific subscales (e.g., Perspective Taking or Empathic Concern) most relevant to the model.

The sentence “Cronbach’s alpha for Agreeableness typically > .75” should be replaced with the actual value obtained in this study for the sample (i.e., internal consistency in the current dataset).

While the authors list fit indices and assumptions checked, it is not clear how the measurement model was validated (e.g., factor loadings, AVE, or discriminant validity). Please add clarification.

The phrase “participants... reported high levels of each variable” is vague. Please provide a benchmark (e.g., scale range) to justify what constitutes a “high” mean score.

The discussion of skewness/kurtosis is useful, but the authors should also report whether Mardia's multivariate normality test was used for SEM.

Although collectivist values are mentioned, there is insufficient exploration of how cultural factors might amplify or attenuate the empathy-perceived support pathway. Please elaborate.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## *1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The authors write, "Several studies have confirmed that agreeable individuals exhibit stronger empathic traits..."—please cite additional recent cross-cultural evidence from Asia or Indonesia specifically.

The reference to "Ling et al." is informative, but it would strengthen the argument to explain why empathy serves as a mediator in digital behaviors (i.e., mechanisms or theory behind this).

The sentence "In collectivist cultures, social support is not only a protective factor..." should be elaborated with examples specific to Indonesian social systems (e.g., family or community dynamics).

While the indirect effect is statistically significant, the manuscript does not report confidence intervals for indirect effects, which are essential in mediation analysis (e.g., via bootstrapping). Please include them.

The phrase "Structural Equation Modeling confirmed the full mediation effect..." is inaccurate. The presence of both direct and indirect effects suggests partial mediation, not full. Please revise.

The discussion could benefit from elaborating on why empathy mediates the relationship — e.g., from a theoretical lens like social-cognitive theory or affective resonance models.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## **2. Revised**

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.