






## Family Conflict and Adolescent Self-Injury: The Mediating Role of Alexithymia

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Mehdi Rostami  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada mehdirostami@kmanresce.ca	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Farhad Namjoo  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: farhadnamjoo@kmanresce.ca <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Joel Billieux  Institute for Behavioural Addictions, Sigmund Freud University Vienna, Austria. joelbillieux@sfu.ac.at

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) refers to the deliberate...”, the article cites Pawłowska et al. (2016). Consider including a more recent meta-analysis or large-scale epidemiological study post-2020 to reflect the current prevalence rates more accurately.

In Table 3 (Goodness-of-Fit Indices), while RMSEA and CFI are reported, the explanation in the text should include a reference to cutoff guidelines (e.g., Hu & Bentler, 1999) to justify the “excellent” claim.

In Table 4, the reporting of both  $B$  and  $\beta$  coefficients is appropriate, but the phrase “The total effect of family conflict on self-injury was strong...” would be stronger with reference to Cohen’s benchmarks (e.g., small, medium, large effect sizes).

The paragraph beginning “The present study aimed to explore...” largely restates the abstract and results. Revise to reduce redundancy and focus on theoretical implications or novel findings.

The phrase “alexithymia is not merely a co-occurring trait but a mediating process...” is powerful, but the discussion would be stronger if it differentiated between partial and full mediation and clarified the implications of partial mediation here.

The mention “common method bias” is good, but the authors should indicate whether any statistical tests (e.g., Harman’s single-factor test) were conducted to assess this limitation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “This aligns with biopsychosocial frameworks of adolescent development...” would benefit from a more explicit reference to a named theoretical model (e.g., Bronfenbrenner’s Bioecological Model) to anchor the argument in a recognized conceptual framework.

The statement “Studies conducted in diverse settings—including Myanmar, Georgia, and the Amazon region...” would be stronger with a brief elaboration on how the findings from these cultures inform the interpretation of Iranian data.

The sentence “The population consisted of secondary school students from Iran ...” should clarify which provinces or regions were included, as Iran is highly diverse and regional context influences family dynamics.

In the sentence “Female adolescents are more likely to report higher emotional sensitivity...” gender differences are discussed, but no moderator analysis was conducted. Clarify that this is speculative or suggest future studies explicitly test this moderation effect.

The claim “suggest a degree of universality in the mechanisms...” should be tempered. Universality cannot be assumed from a single-country study; suggest rewording to “suggest potential cross-cultural relevance” unless cross-country comparison is statistically tested.

The use of “biopsychosocial and ecological models” would benefit from clearer integration with the findings. Specify which level (e.g., microsystem, exosystem) family conflict and alexithymia correspond to in Bronfenbrenner’s model.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.