

Predicting Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder Symptoms Based on Defense Mechanisms and Cognitive Distortions Mediated by Mentalization in University Students




Seyed Hamid. Atashpour^{1*}, Ehsan. Ghazavi², Seyed Salar. Atashpour³

¹ Department of Psychology, Is.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

² PhD student, Department of Psychology, Is.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

³ Master's student, Counseling Department, Kho.C., Islamic Azad University, Khomeinishahr, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: hamdi.atashpour@iau.ac.ir

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Sennur Tutarel Kışlak  Department of Psychology/Faculty of Language, History and Geography, University of Ankara, Ankara, Turkey kislak@ankara.edu.tr	Reviewer 1: Thseen Nazir  Professor of Psychology and Counseling Department, Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkey. Email: thseen.nazir@ihu.edu.tr Reviewer 2: Abolghasem Khoshkanesh  Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran. Email: akhoshkonesh@sbu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The discussion on defense mechanisms could be strengthened by classifying them into adaptive and maladaptive categories earlier in the paragraph to enhance conceptual clarity before listing examples like repression or intellectualization.

The phrase “Mentalization refers to the ability to understand and interpret...” is introduced quite abruptly. Consider leading with a transition such as “Another psychological construct relevant to OCPD is...” for smoother flow.

The research question is clear, but it should be followed by a brief justification of significance—why is answering this question relevant for psychological practice or university counseling systems?

The phrase “Mentalization can act as a mediator...” is conceptually sound but would benefit from visual or verbal linkage back to Figure 1 in the results to reinforce the empirical grounding of the claim.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “They are indirectly associated with defense mechanisms and... intensify maladaptive perfectionism” lacks elaboration. How exactly are cognitive distortions indirectly associated with defense mechanisms? This link requires more nuanced explanation or empirical reference.

The phrase “examples include all-or-nothing thinking, overgeneralization, catastrophizing...” lists distortions but doesn't link each one to specific OCPD traits. Expanding briefly on each would improve conceptual depth and reader comprehension.

The bootstrapping results are clearly reported, but it would enhance clarity to specify which indirect paths were partial or full mediations, using standard mediation terminology.

The authors state, “These results may serve as a foundation for designing effective therapeutic interventions...”—this would be more compelling if specific intervention types (e.g., CBT, MBT) were briefly named and aligned with the findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.