KMAN Counseling & Psychology Nexus

OPEN PEER-REVIEW REPORT

The Moderating Role of Academic Self-Efficacy in the Relationship Between Mobile-Based Cyberloafing and Academic Commitment Among Secondary Students in Babylon, Iraq

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The authors write, "This behavior has become particularly salient among adolescents..." While this is contextually valid, more precise demographic or global prevalence data on adolescent cyberloafing would strengthen the problem statement.

The claim that cyberloafing "reflects broader cognitive and affective processes, including stress, fatigue, and poor self-regulation" needs elaboration with more specific empirical evidence—perhaps distinguishing between cause and correlation.

The use of convenience sampling should be acknowledged as a limitation within this section itself. Consider briefly discussing its implications for external validity.

The 7-point Likert scale is reversed (1 = strongly agree to 7 = strongly disagree) compared to common practices. Explain whether this reversed scaling affected interpretation or was re-coded during analysis.

The ΔR^2 values reported do not match the standard format for cumulative R^2 increases. Model 2 is reported as .20, but if Model 1 = .16 and Model 3 adds .024, the cumulative total for Model 3 should be stated clearly. Clarify whether the numbers represent total R^2 or ΔR^2 for each step.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence, "Academic commitment...has been recognized as a vital construct in educational success," should be further expanded by explaining which dimensions of academic performance (e.g., GPA, attendance) are most strongly associated with commitment.

The authors state, "Students with strong academic self-efficacy tend to employ more effective time management..." Consider briefly describing what constitutes "effective" strategies (e.g., goal-setting, self-monitoring) to strengthen this argument.

The sentence, "This lack of localized research is especially concerning..." could be expanded by specifying how Iraq's digital or educational infrastructure differs from other studied regions.

The claim that "cyberloafing negatively predicted academic commitment" should reference the exact beta coefficient or R^2 change for clarity and transparency.

The statement, "This is consistent with the theoretical framework of Bandura's social cognitive theory..." would benefit from a more applied explanation of how self-efficacy influences decision-making or behavioral regulation in digital contexts.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.