Predicting Attitudes Toward Seeking Psychological Professional Help Based on the Health Belief Model with the Mediation of Stigma in Adolescents with Depressive Symptoms

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Statistics indicate that nearly half of individuals with symptoms of depression do not use mental health services" would benefit from specifying the population studied (e.g., age, country) to contextualize this statistic and enhance generalizability.

The rationale for the final sample size of 200 should be better justified. The citation of Stevens and Kline is helpful, but the actual number of variables (q) and the calculated range should be explicitly stated.

The sentence "Participants had to exhibit moderate to severe depression…" lacks explanation for excluding those with mild depression. A brief justification for this threshold would strengthen methodological rigor.

The explanation of structural equation modeling (SEM) is technically accurate but too dense for general readers. Consider simplifying the language or providing a brief schematic overview of SEM steps.

The phrase "all outer loadings…above 0.7, indicating an excellent model fit" should be interpreted more cautiously. While 0.7 is acceptable, discuss potential redundancy or overlap among indicators if values exceed 0.85.

The statement "behavioral bias refers to defending a belief emotionally…" introduces a psychological construct without citation or explanation. Clarify this concept or remove to maintain academic coherence.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement "This reflects the individual's evaluation of whether the behavior is favorable or unfavorable" should clarify which "behavior" is being referred to—consider rephrasing for precision (e.g., "seeking professional psychological help").

In the sentence "Preferences for self-managing symptoms…have also been identified," the phrase "have also been identified" is vague. Specify the contexts or demographic groups in which these preferences were most prominent.

The sentence "These include perceived susceptibility to conditions, perceived severity…" would be clearer with brief operational definitions of each component upfront to guide the reader through the framework.

The sentence "The square root of each construct's AVE should be greater than…" is accurate but repeated without reference to specific constructs. It would help to exemplify this with one variable comparison (e.g., "Stigma vs. Self-Efficacy").

The interpretation of Q^2 values is accurate, but the phrase "excellent model fit in terms of Q^2" could be toned down. "Adequate predictive relevance" would be more cautious and statistically sound.

In the row "Perceived Barriers -> Stigma," the non-significant path is reported, but no discussion follows regarding why barriers, expected to be influential, were not significant. This anomaly warrants theoretical discussion in the Discussion section.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.