



The Structural Relationships of Emotional Neglect with Risky Behaviors in Prisoners Considering the Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation Strategies

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 28 November 2024

Reviewer:

The introductory paragraph references the WHO but does not provide sufficient data to contextualize the global significance of emotional neglect among prisoners. Including more specific prevalence rates or regional comparisons could strengthen the introduction.

While reliability coefficients for the study instruments are provided, additional information regarding cross-cultural validation of the tools used in the Iranian context would improve the methodological rigor.

Table 3 presents the model fit indices, but further discussion is needed to explain why GFI fell below the recommended threshold of 0.90 and how this might impact interpretation.

The strong correlations in Table 2, such as between emotional neglect and risky behaviors ($r = 0.29$), should include a discussion of potential confounding variables.

The discussion could benefit from a more structured comparison with existing literature to highlight consistencies or discrepancies, especially in studies involving different cultural contexts.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 29 November 2024

Reviewer:

The discussion of emotional neglect lacks connection to established psychological theories, such as attachment theory or trauma-informed frameworks, which could provide a more comprehensive theoretical foundation.

The statement “Exposure to traumatic events in childhood, including emotional neglect, is associated with various negative mental health outcomes (Wilke et al., 2024)” should compare findings with earlier landmark studies to provide a historical perspective.

The problem statement could benefit from further elaboration on why prisoners represent a unique population for studying emotional neglect, emphasizing their higher exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

The use of purposive sampling is appropriate but requires further justification regarding its suitability in the prison population context to address potential biases.

The statement “Emotional neglect alone cannot lead to risky behaviors” should be supported by referencing developmental or behavioral theories that explain indirect pathways.

The discussion could be expanded to suggest how the findings can inform correctional policies and rehabilitation programs, aligning with broader public health goals.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.