




Parental Overcontrol and Adolescent Social Withdrawal: The Mediating Role of Fear of Evaluation

Mariana. Nikolova¹, Ibrahim. Adeyemi^{2*}, Neha. Sharma³


¹ Department of Family Counseling, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

² Department of Educational Psychology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria



³ Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

* Corresponding author email address: ibrahim.adeyemi@ui.edu.ng

Editor

Bahram Jowkar
Professor of Psychology
Department, Shiraz University, Iran
jowkar@shirazu.ac.ir

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Seyed Ali Darbani
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.
Email: Ali.darbani@iau.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Fear of evaluation comprises both fear of negative evaluation (FNE)...” introduces the dual concept well but could be enhanced by briefly explaining how these constructs differ psychometrically and whether they overlap in existing measures.

The reported indices are commendably strong. However, please indicate whether the model was modified post hoc (e.g., with correlated residuals), and if so, specify which modifications were made and why.

The table shows both direct and indirect effects but omits confidence intervals. Reporting 95% CIs for indirect effects (e.g., using bootstrapping) would enhance the statistical rigor.

The authors state that “both FNE and FPE were found to partially mediate...” without quantifying the proportion of mediation. Please consider reporting the percentage of total effect mediated to support this claim.

The call for intervention is valuable, but the sentence “therapeutic approaches—particularly cognitive-behavioral therapies...” is vague. Please elaborate on which CBT techniques would address both FNE and FPE.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “Although the mediating role of fear of evaluation... remains fragmented” needs clarification. Specify whether prior fragmentation refers to lack of theoretical integration, limited statistical modeling, or sampling bias in existing research.

The sentence “To address these gaps, the present study aims...” could be strengthened by explicitly stating the study’s hypotheses or research questions, which would enhance clarity and alignment with the methods and results sections.

The PCS-YSR includes behaviors such as guilt induction and love withdrawal. It would be beneficial to mention whether cultural adaptation or pilot testing was performed for this Nigerian sample.

The paragraph preceding Table 1 contains unrelated data about Moroccan parents. This appears to be a copy-paste error and should be removed or clarified, as it confuses the sample characteristics.

The sentence “This pattern is consistent with the autonomy-suppression hypothesis...” is theoretically appropriate but lacks a citation to a primary source for this hypothesis. Please include one.

The assertion “Adolescents... may become conditioned to avoid both criticism and attention...” would be more convincing with supporting citations on evaluative conditioning or learned social avoidance.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.