

Family Resilience and Adolescent Academic Achievement: The Mediating Role of Self-Efficacy Beliefs


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The first paragraph states “family resilience... plays a vital role in buffering adolescents against challenges”. While supported by citations, the authors could add more recent meta-analytic findings to strengthen this opening claim.

The sentence “there remain gaps in understanding the precise mechanisms” should be expanded with a clearer articulation of what theoretical frameworks (e.g., ecological systems theory, social cognitive theory) are missing from prior research.

In Table 1, the variable “Self-Efficacy Beliefs” has a maximum of 39.00. Since the GSES has 10 items scored on a 4-point Likert scale, the theoretical maximum is 40. Please clarify whether 39 reflects a sample maximum or data entry inconsistency.

The authors state “Our findings... provide an additional perspective by positioning self-efficacy as the mediator”. It would strengthen the contribution to contrast more explicitly with previous models that treated resilience as the mediator.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Introduction, paragraph 2 – The sentence “Nevertheless, resilience can act as a protective factor even under such adverse conditions” is somewhat repetitive of the preceding sentence. Consider merging or rephrasing for conciseness.

In “Self-efficacy also mediates the relationship between family socioeconomic status and academic achievement”, please specify whether this mediating role has been consistently observed across multiple cultural contexts or mainly in specific regions.

The claim “Studies from China... reveal that family SES predicts academic performance, with self-efficacy serving as a key mediator” could benefit from adding details about whether this effect is linear, moderated, or conditional on gender, as cited later in the paper.

In the SEM fit indices, $\chi^2 = 242.16$ with $df = 118$. Please also report the exact p-value of χ^2 to allow readers to evaluate absolute model fit, even if relative indices are acceptable.

In reporting direct, indirect, and total effects, please clarify whether bootstrapping was applied for significance testing of indirect effects, as this is a standard approach in mediation analysis.

The sentence “This supports the theoretical understanding of family resilience as a systemic capacity to adapt...” should also acknowledge possible bidirectional influences (i.e., adolescents’ achievement reinforcing family resilience).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.