

The Role of Psychological Empowerment and Family Resilience in Predicting Family Functioning among Malaysian Adults

Wei. Zhang¹, Siti Nurhaliza. Becky^{2*}

¹ Department of Psychology, Peking University, Beijing, China

² Department of Psychology and Counseling, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia

* Corresponding author email address: sitinurhaliza.mahmud@usm.my

Editor

Manjeh Daneshpour

Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America
mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Fahime Bahonar

Department of counseling, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: Fahime.bahonar@edu.ui.ac.ir

Reviewer 2: Mahdi Khanjani

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran.
Email: khanjani_m@atu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “families respond to both internal dynamics and external pressures” provides a strong theoretical base but lacks direct reference to established systemic models (e.g., Circumplex Model by Olson). Citing such frameworks would increase conceptual rigor.

The discussion of “cultural roots play a central role in shaping how individuals interpret empowerment, resilience, and interdependence” would benefit from greater contextualization. Since the study focuses on Malaysia, examples from Southeast Asian cultural psychology literature could enrich the argument.

The statement “empowerment-oriented interventions … have shown effectiveness in improving resilience and communication among underprivileged families (Jaladin et al., 2024)” should specify the intervention duration and modality (e.g., workshop, counseling, module) for clarity and comparability.

The statement “Families that foster a sense of autonomy, control, and competence among members are more likely to manage emotional challenges effectively” should integrate a theoretical citation (e.g., Deci & Ryan’s Self-Determination Theory) to reinforce the psychological basis.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The section introducing “family resilience refers to the collective ability...” would be more comprehensive if it briefly distinguished resilience from related constructs like family hardiness or coping flexibility, clarifying the conceptual boundaries.

The link “Empowered individuals possess higher self-efficacy and optimism, which strengthen their ability to cope...” could benefit from a short transition sentence summarizing why both empowerment and resilience are hypothesized as predictors rather than mediators.

The sentence “The present study aims to examine the predictive roles...” should explicitly state hypotheses (e.g., “It was hypothesized that psychological empowerment and family resilience would each significantly predict family functioning.”). Stating hypotheses improves methodological transparency.

The statement “Assumptions of normality, linearity, and multicollinearity were tested and confirmed” could be supplemented with specific statistical thresholds (e.g., skewness/kurtosis $< \pm 1$, VIF < 5) to improve methodological transparency.

The demographic breakdown is informative but could be summarized more efficiently in a table. Adding demographic correlations (e.g., gender or education with family functioning) would strengthen interpretative value.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.