




Explaining the Causal Relationships Between Childhood Maltreatment and Attachment Styles with Forgiveness in Betrayal Victims: The Mediating Role of Defensive Mechanisms

Mohsen. Mahmoudvand¹, Kianoush. Zahrakar^{2*}, Jafar. Hasani³


¹ Ph.D. student, Department of Counseling, Qom Branch, Islamic Azad University, Qom, Iran

² Professor, Department of Counseling, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran



³ Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran.

* Corresponding author email address: dr_zahrakar@khu.ac.ir

Editor

Firouzeh Sepehrianazar
Professor of Psychology
Department, Urmia University, Iran
f.sepehrianazar@urmia.ac.ir

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Behnam Makvandi
Department of Psychology, Ahvaz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ahvaz, Ira.
Email: b.makvandi@iauahvaz.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Alireza Aghayousefi
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Payame Noor University, Tehran,
Iran. Email: aghayousefi@pnu.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Deepen the theoretical foundation linking childhood maltreatment, attachment styles, defensive mechanisms, and forgiveness, incorporating broader literature to support the proposed model.

Enhance the description of the methodology, particularly the structural equation modeling approach, and provide more justification for the sample size and selection method.

Offer a more detailed explanation of the statistical analysis, particularly how defensive mechanisms mediate the relationship between childhood maltreatment, attachment styles, and forgiveness. Discuss the implications of these findings in the context of existing psychological theories.

Expand the discussion to critically engage with how these findings contribute to existing knowledge, highlighting potential implications for counseling and therapy practices.

More comprehensively address the limitations, particularly those related to the convenience sampling method and the generalizability of findings. Propose specific directions for future research, including longitudinal studies.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Broaden the literature review to include more diverse theoretical perspectives and empirical studies related to the psychological constructs being examined.

Provide a more comprehensive description of the instruments used for measuring the study variables, including their validity and reliability in the context of this research.

Elaborate on the ethical considerations given the sensitive nature of the research topic and the potential psychological impact on participants.

Clarify the choice of statistical methods for analyzing the data and interpreting the results, especially the mediation analysis.

Discuss the practical implications of the findings for mental health professionals working with betrayal victims, offering guidance for incorporating these insights into therapeutic practices.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.