





# The Mediating Role of Parental Self-Efficacy in the Relationship Between Parental Psychological Flexibility and Behavioral Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders


Leila Alsadat. Karimi Jahromi<sup>1</sup>, Nadereh. Sohrabi Shakfati<sup>2\*</sup>, Majid. Barzegar<sup>2</sup>, Hossein. Bagholi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. Student, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, Marvdasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Marvdasht, Iran


<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, Marvdasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Marvdasht, Iran


\* Corresponding author email address: sohrabi\_sh2006@yahoo.com

## Editor

Parvaneh Mohammadkhani<sup>1</sup>  
Professor, Department of Clinical  
Psychology, University of  
Rehabilitation Sciences and Social  
Health, Tehran, Iran.  
Pa.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir

## Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Shahram Vahedi<sup>1</sup>  
Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Educational Sciences  
and Psychology, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran.  
Email: shvahedi@tabrizu.ac.ir

**Reviewer 2:** Tahmineh Shaverdi<sup>1</sup>  
Associate Professor, Department of Family Sociology, Research Institute of  
Humanities and Social Studies, Jihad University, Tehran, Iran.  
Email: t.shaverdi@ihss.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) encompasses a range of complex developmental disorders..." — Consider including more recent references to support the description of ASD, as the current references are relatively outdated. Recent studies could provide a more comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the disorder.

The reliability of the Parental Self-Efficacy Questionnaire by Domka is reported as a Cronbach's alpha of 0.54, which is relatively low. Discuss the implications of this low reliability on the study's findings and consider suggesting alternative measures with higher reliability.

There is a typographical error in "Psychological Felxibility." Correct the spelling to "Psychological Flexibility."

Expand on how the Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS) was adapted for the Iranian population, including any cultural or linguistic modifications made to the original scale.

In Table 1, the descriptive statistics for flexibility, self-efficacy, communication skills, social skills, and behavioral skills are provided. However, the table should include confidence intervals or standard errors to give a clearer picture of the variability and reliability of these measures.

The correlation matrix in Table 2 indicates significant relationships between variables. It would be beneficial to discuss the potential for multicollinearity and its implications for the regression analyses performed in the study.

The path coefficients and their significance levels are presented. It would enhance clarity if the indirect effects were also explicitly reported and discussed in the text, rather than only showing direct effects.

The discussion starts by stating the findings without providing a thorough interpretation. Begin by summarizing the key findings in the context of the existing literature before delving into detailed interpretations.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "Given the complexities of this disorder its occurrence not only affects the psychological and social processes of children but also causes psychological harm to the family and parents especially mothers (Amlashi Khanzadeh Akbari & Moghaddar 2022)" lacks specificity. Provide more detailed examples of the psychological harm caused to families to enhance clarity.

The description of the sampling method as "convenience sampling" could be expanded. Explain why this method was chosen and discuss its potential limitations and impacts on the study's generalizability.

The statement "Parents of children with autism reject their children and fail to meet their emotional needs" could be perceived as overly negative and deterministic. Consider rephrasing to avoid potential misinterpretation and to present a more balanced view.

The paragraph discusses the impact of maternal mental health on parenting. Include specific strategies or interventions that have been shown to improve maternal mental health, providing a practical application of the findings.

The discussion on the mediating role of self-efficacy is robust. However, it would benefit from a more detailed exploration of the mechanisms through which self-efficacy influences parenting behaviors and child outcomes.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.