




# Structural Equation Model of Self-Harming Behaviors Based on Self-Blame Considering the Mediating Role of Mental Dissociation and Fear of Negative Evaluation in Adolescents with Self-Harming Experience

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence, “This can affect cognition emotions and behavior impacting personal social professional and academic aspects among others,” is quite broad. Consider specifying which cognitive, emotional, or behavioral impacts are most relevant to the study of self-harming behaviors in adolescents.

The term “self-critical individuals” is used repetitively. To enhance readability and reduce redundancy, consider varying the terminology or combining some sentences to avoid repetition.

The table presents correlations between variables, but there is no discussion on the strength and significance of these correlations in the text. Adding a paragraph discussing these correlations, their implications, and how they support your model would strengthen the manuscript.

The reported beta values indicate strong effects, but the text does not discuss potential multicollinearity between predictors. Consider including variance inflation factors (VIFs) or other diagnostics to reassure readers that multicollinearity is not inflating the estimates.

The statement “Self-blame has a direct effect on self-harming behaviors” needs further elaboration. Discuss the theoretical underpinnings that could explain this relationship, perhaps drawing from relevant psychological theories such as cognitive-behavioral models.

The discussion regarding mental dissociation as a mediator is compelling but would benefit from a more in-depth exploration of how dissociation might interact with self-blame and self-harming behaviors on a cognitive level. Consider referencing specific psychological processes or mechanisms.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The convenience sampling method was used, which may introduce bias. Please discuss the potential limitations this sampling method might impose on the generalizability of the findings and suggest how future studies could address this issue.

The reliability of the Self-Blame scale is well-documented, but there is no mention of its validity in the current study. It would be beneficial to include a statement on how the validity of this scale was assessed within your sample population.

The skewness and kurtosis values suggest that the data follows a normal distribution; however, the discussion in the following paragraphs mentions non-normality. Please clarify this apparent contradiction and consider re-examining the normality of your data.

In the discussion of hypothesis testing, the manuscript refers to “confirmed” and “rejected” paths. However, the statistical criteria for these decisions (e.g., p-values, confidence intervals) should be explicitly stated in the text to justify these conclusions.

The manuscript mentions the “scar effect model” but does not provide sufficient background on this model. A brief explanation of the scar effect, including its origins and how it has been applied in previous research, would be helpful for readers unfamiliar with this concept.

The limitation regarding cultural and social factors being specific to Qom is important. However, consider discussing how these factors might specifically influence the outcomes of the study, particularly in relation to self-harming behaviors.

The limitation concerning the convenience sampling method is acknowledged, but the discussion could be expanded to suggest specific alternative sampling methods (e.g., stratified random sampling) that could enhance the representativeness of future studies.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.