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# Investigating the Mediating Role of Personality Functions in the Relationship Between Early Maladaptive Schemas and Existential Anxiety in Individuals with Depression and Anxiety


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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript occasionally uses technical terms without providing definitions accessible to a broader audience. It would be beneficial to define key terms, such as "early maladaptive schemas" and "personality functions," early in the document.

The literature review is comprehensive but could be enhanced by discussing conflicting findings from previous studies. This discussion would provide a more balanced view of the existing literature.

While the findings are well-presented, including additional visual representations of the data (e.g., graphs or charts) could make the results more accessible to readers.

The limitations section could be expanded to discuss the implications of the cross-sectional study design more fully. Additionally, acknowledging potential biases in self-reported measures would strengthen this section.

The conclusion briefly mentions future research directions, but this could be expanded. Specifically, suggesting how future studies could address the limitations of the current study would be valuable.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sample selection process (purposive sampling) and its potential limitations need to be discussed more thoroughly. The authors should consider the implications of their sampling method for the generalizability of their findings and discuss any biases it might introduce.

The manuscript would benefit from a more detailed explanation of the statistical methods used, especially the SEM approach. Clarifying the choice of model fit indices and their interpretation would aid in understanding the analysis's robustness.

The current study design may not fully account for potential confounding variables that could influence the relationships between early maladaptive schemas, personality functions, and existential anxiety. The authors should discuss how such confounds were considered or suggest how they could be addressed in future research.

Given the complexity of the relationships explored, a more nuanced analysis might reveal additional insights. For example, exploring moderating effects or conducting subgroup analyses could provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play.

The theoretical framework guiding the study could be expanded to integrate additional relevant theories or models. This would help situate the study within a broader context and potentially enrich the interpretation of the findings.

The discussion should more critically engage with how the findings contribute to existing knowledge, addressing potential discrepancies with previous research more thoroughly. Additionally, providing specific, actionable implications for clinical practice or policy could enhance the manuscript's relevance and impact.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.