

The Role of Social Support and Childhood Abuse in Sexual Addiction

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E d i t o r

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Childhood abuse, encompassing emotional, physical, and sexual maltreatment...” would benefit from a clearer operational definition aligned with the CTQ dimensions used later in the study, enhancing conceptual alignment between literature and methods.

The sentence “Internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha) for the dimensions ranged from 0.78 to 0.95...” mixes original and Iranian validation data without clear separation. Please clarify which results belong to the original and which to the localized version.

It is unclear whether the full SAST-R was used or if only certain subscales were administered. This ambiguity needs resolution, as the SAST-R contains specialized subscales that may or may not apply to a general student sample.

The authors describe MSPSS subscales but do not report how subscale scores were analyzed. Were subscales examined separately or only the total score? This should be made explicit.

The manuscript mentions that assumptions of regression were tested, yet no specific plots (e.g., histogram of residuals, P-P plots) or statistics (e.g., skewness, kurtosis) are shown. Consider including graphical evidence in supplementary materials.

The sentence “Correlation results between sexual support and independent variables...” appears to contain a typographical error. “Sexual support” should likely be “sexual addiction.”

The sentence “Childhood abuse was a significant positive predictor of sexual addiction...” should include an effect size interpretation (e.g., using standardized coefficients or R^2 change) to contextualize the practical impact.

The authors reference “theoretical frameworks emphasizing the role of attachment and mentalization...” without specifying which theoretical models they are referring to (e.g., Fonagy’s theory of mentalization or Bowlby’s attachment theory). Clear citation and elaboration would improve theoretical grounding.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In discussing mentalization, the authors write, “Mentalization, the capacity to understand and interpret one’s own and others’ mental states...” This section should clarify how mentalization was theorized in relation to sexual addiction in this study, since it is not measured directly in the research.

The transition from literature review to research objective is abrupt. Consider explicitly stating the research gap that this study seeks to address, e.g., “Despite extensive literature on childhood trauma and addiction, few studies have examined the dual role of trauma and social support in predicting sexual addiction among university students.”

The authors state that “370 individuals were recruited” but do not explain the dropout rate or how many individuals initially agreed to participate. Reporting attrition would improve transparency.

The authors restate the findings but should also discuss potential mechanisms linking childhood abuse to sexual addiction—such as dysregulation, attachment insecurity, or trauma coping—which are not currently explored in depth.

The sentence “These mechanisms likely contribute to the development of compulsive sexual behaviors...” requires a clearer linkage to the study’s statistical findings. For example, were mediation models considered to test these mechanisms?

The sentence “In contrast, social support was found to predict lower levels of sexual addiction...” would benefit from distinguishing between sources of support (e.g., family vs. peers), particularly since MSPSS includes subscales.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.