The Role of Childhood Abuse and Self-Regulation in Dark Personality Traits

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This is an important claim; however, you should include at least one longitudinal study to support the developmental trajectory from childhood trauma to emotional regulation impairments.

You mention reverse scoring, but it's unclear how you verified the reliability of the reverse-coded subscales specifically in your sample. Consider reporting subscale reliabilities from your data.

You should report Cronbach's alpha for your current study sample to confirm reliability in this context.

Clarify if you used the full 63-item scale or a shorter version. Some studies have used abbreviated forms to reduce participant burden.

The dependent variable is inconsistently labeled. In the table, "self-regulation difficulty" is described, but in the abstract, it is "self-regulation." Please align terminology throughout.

The matrix is informative but lacks confidence intervals for correlation coefficients. These should be reported to understand precision.

Suggest incorporating validity scales or social desirability measures in future research to mitigate biases associated with self-report.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Consider integrating neurobiological evidence (e.g., prefrontal cortex dysregulation) to strengthen the link between trauma and personality development.

While mentalization is mentioned here, it is not operationalized or measured in your study. Consider either excluding this construct or integrating it in the Methods as a variable.

It would be helpful to include the actual formula or rationale for multiplying the number of items by 2.5. This allows readers to evaluate the adequacy of your sample size estimation.

Please specify whether multicollinearity diagnostics (e.g., VIF) were conducted, as dark traits and childhood trauma may have conceptual overlap.

The regression seems to treat all three dark traits as a single construct. Please clarify whether these were analyzed as a composite score or individually. This distinction affects interpretation.

Consider critically addressing the potential cultural specificity of dark personality trait expression in the Iranian context. This would enhance ecological validity.

Please mention at least one evidence-based intervention (e.g., DBT, ACT) that directly targets emotional regulation and could be beneficial for individuals with dark traits.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.