




The Role of Coping Strategies and Social Competence in Predicting the Social Skills of Single-Child University Students

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Collectively, these studies underscore the importance...” compresses the findings of a dozen citations into one paragraph without sufficient synthesis. Please consider organizing these references into thematic clusters (e.g., role of hope, differentiation of self, emotion regulation) for better clarity and conceptual integration.

The research question posed—“How can psychological variables affect the social skills of single-child university students?”—would benefit from greater specificity. Consider rephrasing it to reflect the mediational model being tested (e.g., “To what extent do hope and social competence mediate the relationship between psychological constructs and social skills?”).

The description of the Coping Inventory lacks clarity regarding its adaptation. The phrase “in both domestic and international studies” is vague—please specify which Iranian or international studies confirmed the reliability of the Persian version.

The authors refer to the use of the Schneider et al. (1991) questionnaire but do not mention whether a validated Persian translation exists. If so, please provide citation details; if not, provide information about the translation and back-translation process.

The sentence “Accordingly, it can be concluded...” needs more careful wording. Correlation does not imply causation, and the interpretation of indirect effects should avoid causal language unless longitudinal or experimental design is used.

The authors state, “This finding suggests that cognitive appraisal... plays a fundamental role...” without directly referencing a cognitive theory (e.g., Beck’s theory or Lazarus’ stress appraisal model). Please anchor this interpretation in established cognitive frameworks.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the authors classify the model as medium-to-complex, this assertion is not supported by reference to SEM literature. Please provide a citation or explain why this model qualifies as medium-to-complex.

The authors state the population estimate as “approximately 520 individuals,” yet no citation or institutional source for this demographic figure is provided. Consider substantiating this estimate with a statistical or administrative source.

The citation for Amini (2008) refers to a Master's thesis, which may not meet the empirical validation standards expected in peer-reviewed journals. Please justify the use of this source or provide more robust validation evidence.

The SRMR value of 0.038 is reported as <0.05 , supporting model fit. However, it is recommended that authors mention acceptable thresholds from literature (e.g., Hu & Bentler, 1999) to justify the cutoff points used.

The statement “parents’ social competence significantly influences the development of social skills in adolescents” does not directly relate to the current sample of university students. Please reconcile this point with the fact that participants are young adults.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.