

The Effect of Parental Attachment and Peer Rejection on Social Anxiety in Teenagers


Mona. El-Sayed¹, Grace Mwangi^{2*}

¹ Department of Educational Psychology, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt



² Department of Educational Psychology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

* Corresponding author email address: grace.mwangi@uonbi.ac.ke

Editor

Thseen Nazir
Professor of Psychology and
Counseling Department, Ibn
Haldun University, Istanbul,
Turkey
thseen.nazir@ihu.edu.tr

Reviewers

Reviewer 1: Fahime Bahonar
Department of counseling, Universty of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: Fahime.bahonar@edu.ui.ac.ir
Reviewer 2: Zahra Yousefi
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Khorasgan Branch, Islamic Azad
University, Isfahan, Iran.
Email: yousefi1393@khuisf.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Adolescents who experience parental attachment insecurity often exhibit heightened fear...” should clarify whether this statement is based on empirical evidence from the cited study or generalized from theory.

The citation of Adare et al. (2021) related to college students may not be entirely appropriate for a study focusing on adolescents aged 13–19. Please justify or replace with a more age-aligned reference.

The socioeconomic distribution is mentioned, but there’s no discussion on how socioeconomic status might interact with the primary variables. A follow-up analysis or brief comment on this potential confounder would enhance depth.

The sentence “bullying victimization was positively and significantly correlated with social anxiety...” seems unrelated to the study’s stated variables (peer rejection and parental attachment). Please clarify whether this data belongs to a different study or was mistakenly included.

The mention of model fit indices (e.g., CFI, TLI, RMSEA) implies that a structural equation model (SEM) was conducted, yet no SEM methodology was described in the Methods. This inconsistency must be addressed for methodological accuracy.

“Culturally specific considerations may further elucidate these findings...” is a critical insight. However, it would benefit from direct references to Kenyan cultural norms around family and peer structures, rather than referencing Asian contexts.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

“Secure peer attachments mediate the negative effects of parental attachment insecurity on depressive withdrawal among teenagers...” would benefit from a brief elaboration on whether this mediation is partial or full and its relevance to anxiety, as opposed to depression.

The claim “studies examining these variables concurrently, especially within the Kenyan context, remain scarce” should be supported with a brief mention of any available studies in Sub-Saharan Africa to strengthen the rationale for the research gap.

The explanation of the Peer Nominations Inventory (PNI) lacks information on how the nominations were collected (e.g., in-class, anonymous), which is crucial for ethical and methodological clarity.

While it mentions checking regression assumptions, it would improve transparency to specify the actual test used for normality (e.g., Shapiro-Wilk) rather than only mentioning skewness and kurtosis.

The interpretation of the constant term ($B = 68.74$) is vague. The sentence “reflecting the baseline social anxiety scores...” should clarify what this baseline represents—e.g., hypothetical score when predictors are zero.

The sentence “Repeated peer rejection reinforces adolescents’ negative self-perceptions...” would benefit from explicitly discussing whether this has a mediating or moderating role in the anxiety process, according to existing literature.

The phrase “Parental attachment emerged as a stronger predictor compared to peer rejection...” should be numerically supported with β values or standardized coefficients to enhance analytical transparency.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.