

Predicting Social Rejection Based on Perceived Stress and Loneliness with the Mediation of Social Skills in Generation Z Adolescents

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Anela Hasanagic  Full Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Islamic Education, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina anela.hasanagic@unze.ba	Reviewer 1: Sara Nejatifar  Department of Psychology and Education of People with Special Needs, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Email: s.nejatifar@edu.ui.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Kamdin. Parsakia  Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: kamdinarsakia@kmanresce.ca

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph introduces Generation Z traits but lacks a theoretical framework that directly connects these traits to susceptibility to social rejection. Consider integrating a psychological or sociological theory to provide stronger conceptual grounding.

The choice of Tehran districts 8, 9, and 10 is not justified. A brief explanation of why these districts were selected (e.g., demographic diversity, socioeconomic status) would enhance the generalizability argument.

The description of the Social Isolation Questionnaire references Chalabi & Amirkaafi (2004), but does not report psychometric properties from the present study beyond Cronbach's alpha. Consider including CFA results or item-total correlations if available.

In Table 3, the B values are positive while the Betas are negative. This discrepancy should be clarified in the text or footnotes to prevent confusion regarding the directionality of mediation.

The conclusion misses the opportunity to discuss broader implications for school psychologists or education policymakers. Including this would enhance the practical significance of the findings.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The definition of social rejection in “Social rejection, or social exclusion, occurs when...” repeats existing definitions from the literature without adding a novel perspective. Consider synthesizing prior findings instead of reiterating them.

The section on loneliness does not explicitly connect the subtypes of loneliness (social and emotional) to the study’s outcomes. Consider explaining which dimension is hypothesized to more strongly predict social rejection.

The sentence “a shortage of comprehensive and applied studies...” would be stronger if supported with specific citations to highlight the literature gap the current study addresses.

While Campagne (2019) and Brandt et al. (2022) are cited, their findings should be more critically compared with the present results to either support or contrast with the current model.

The sentence “social skills not only mediate the negative impact...” would benefit from a clearer explanation of the theoretical contribution this finding makes to adolescent developmental psychology.

The limitation regarding geographical scope is valid, but a deeper discussion on how Tehran’s urban characteristics may have influenced social dynamics would offer more nuanced insights.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.