




Predicting Anxiety and Depression in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder Based on Childhood Trauma Severity: The Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation Difficulties




Farshad. Samadi^{1*}, Maedeh. Khoshakhlagh², Melika. Yazdani³

¹ Ph.D in Health Psychology, Imam Ali (AS) Hospital, North Khorasan University of Medical Sciences, Bojnurd, Iran

² Master of Clinical Psychology, Garmsar Branch, Islamic Azad University, Garmsar, Iran

³ Master of Clinical Psychology, Behshahr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Behshahr, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: melikayazdani10@gmail.com

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Ahmad Amani  Associate Professor, Counseling Department, University of Kurdistan, Sanandaj, Iran a.amani@uok.ac.ir	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 term “emotion regulation” is introduced, but its operationalization in the context of ASD is not clearly delineated. It is recommended to include a brief explanation of how emotion regulation challenges manifest uniquely in adolescents with ASD.

The rationale for using convenience sampling is not discussed. Please include potential limitations of this method, particularly in clinical populations, and consider adding how it may affect the generalizability of findings.

While ethical compliance is mentioned, the article lacks an ethics committee approval number or institution name. This information should be included for transparency.

Figure 1, the SEM diagram, is referenced but not included in a readable format within the current version. Ensure the final publication includes a high-resolution figure with standardized path coefficients and significance levels.

You mention that Rahmani (2021) found a weak mediating role of emotion regulation in non-clinical samples. Elaborate more on why the current findings diverge, possibly referencing sample characteristics, measurement tools, or cultural differences.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

You state that emotion regulation as a mediator is “relatively less attended to,” but this could be enhanced by a more systematic review of recent literature to justify the research gap.

The hypotheses are mentioned, but not numbered or presented in a standalone format. Consider formatting them more clearly at the end of the Introduction to enhance readability and methodological alignment.

The statement “impairs the brain’s ability to regulate emotions” (Discussion) references the prefrontal-amygdala circuit. Consider citing relevant neuroimaging studies to support this neurobiological explanation.

The discussion does not reflect on how cultural context (Iranian adolescent population) might influence trauma perception, emotion regulation, or symptom expression. This consideration would strengthen the ecological validity of findings.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.