




Developing a Model of Tendency Toward Risky Behavior Based on Self-Differentiation and Cognitive Flexibility with the Mediating Role of Self-Control in Adolescents

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “making them a persistent concern in public health and psychological research” would benefit from elaboration on how HRBs are treated in current Iranian public health policies or school-based psychological interventions to better contextualize the local relevance.

Consider including a brief rationale for selecting this specific age group (13–16). How does the literature support this developmental window as critical for the development of differentiation and flexibility?

When discussing the mediating role of self-control, you mention that “cognitive and emotional competencies shape self-regulatory strength.” Clarify the directionality here—is the model unidirectional or are you implying a reciprocal influence? The model should be consistent with your theoretical stance.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description of self-differentiation could be strengthened by directly referencing Bowen's original framework and contrasting it more explicitly with constructs like emotional intelligence or emotional regulation to distinguish it conceptually.

The sentence "This model also addresses an important gap in adolescent mental health research in Iran" is vague. Please specify which empirical studies are lacking—e.g., is it the use of SEM in modeling HRBs, the role of mediators, or contextually localized models?

The sentence "To test the effectiveness of the intervention..." seems inconsistent with the design of the study, which is stated earlier as correlational and modeled through SEM. If there was an intervention, this needs clarification. If not, this sentence should be revised to avoid confusion.

In Table 3, the values for GFI (0.896) and AGFI (0.865) are below the recommended threshold (>0.90). The sentence "All model fit indices were within acceptable ranges..." should be moderated to acknowledge that not all indices met strict cutoff criteria.

You write "Previous studies have supported this assertion..." followed by three citations. Specify which outcome variables were confirmed in each study—emotional regulation? peer pressure? self-harm? This will help triangulate your findings more precisely.

The phrase "analyze consequences, consider alternative perspectives..." implies metacognition. Consider referencing whether the cognitive flexibility scale measured this subcomponent or whether this is theoretical extrapolation.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.