

Body Image Concerns as a Mediator between Instagram Use and Self-Esteem in Female Adolescents


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The Abstract states "...among female adolescents in Hungary". It would strengthen the abstract to justify why Hungary was selected, as this context may not be familiar to international readers.

The phrase "The indirect effect ... was stronger than the direct effect" is correct, but it would be useful to report the effect size (e.g., standardized indirect effect) with confidence intervals to assess robustness.

The discussion begins with "The findings revealed three primary outcomes". Consider restructuring this section to more clearly separate empirical findings from theoretical interpretation for readability.

The authors state "Previous studies have similarly documented that adolescent girls who frequently engage with Instagram filters and edited images report increased concerns...". Please clarify whether the present study assessed specific Instagram behaviors (e.g., filter use), or only general usage.

The sentence "Some evidence indicates that engagement with body positivity content on the platform can foster resilience" is important. The authors should expand on this to highlight potential intervention strategies based on positive Instagram use.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction begins with “In recent years, the proliferation of social media platforms has profoundly altered the way young people interact...”. While this is engaging, the paragraph could better distinguish Instagram’s unique visual affordances compared to other platforms (e.g., TikTok, Snapchat), to justify its exclusive focus.

The sentence “Research has also begun to unpack the mechanisms underlying these associations. One key pathway is the role of social comparison” would benefit from integration of more recent longitudinal studies, since most cited are cross-sectional. This will show stronger causal inferences.

The authors note “The cultural context also plays an important role...”. While multiple cultural studies are cited, there is little mention of Eastern European adolescents. Please add justification for extending findings from Western/Asian samples to Hungary before conducting the study.

The sentence “...the present study aims to contribute...by offering empirical evidence from a Hungarian adolescent population” could be strengthened by explaining the specific gap in Hungarian research literature (e.g., lack of mediation modeling in this context).

Although RMSEA = 0.051 indicates close fit, please report its 90% confidence interval, as it provides essential information about model precision.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.