

# Negative Affectivity and Maladaptive Coping Strategies in Depressed Adolescents' Family Conflict Management: The Mediating Role of Emotional Flexibility

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement “negative emotionality has emerged as a powerful predictor of internalizing psychopathology” would benefit from a brief operational definition distinguishing negative emotionality from negative affect, trait neuroticism, and emotional dysregulation, as these constructs are later discussed together and risk conceptual overlap.

In “emotional flexibility refers to the capacity to modulate emotional responses in a context-sensitive manner”, please specify whether your conceptualization follows a process-based model (e.g., variability, adaptability) or a skills-based model (e.g., reappraisal, tolerance). This distinction is theoretically important for interpreting mediation results.

The CTS-PC includes reasoning as a positive tactic and aggression as negative tactics, yet you later use a single total score as family conflict management. Please justify the conceptual validity of aggregating constructive and destructive tactics into one composite index.

The statement “Descriptive statistics are methods used to summarize large sets of data” is textbook-level and could be substantially condensed to improve manuscript concision.

The claim “no outliers were present” is asserted without specifying detection criteria. Please report the statistical method used (e.g., z-scores, Mahalanobis distance).

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “integrative models examining how these variables interact ... remain scarce” should be supported by at least one brief citation gap statement explicitly contrasting prior models with the current approach.

The sampling description simultaneously mentions Morgan table and convenience sampling. Please clarify whether the Morgan table was used for target sample size estimation while convenience sampling was used for participant recruitment, as the current phrasing implies methodological inconsistency.

The criterion “diagnosis of mild to moderate depression based on the school counselor’s assessment” requires methodological elaboration. Please specify the diagnostic framework, screening instrument, or clinical criteria used to establish depression severity.

You describe the scale as measuring emotional awareness, yet the construct under study is negative affectivity. Please justify this alignment or clarify how emotional awareness indices operationalize negative affectivity in your model.

In reporting Cronbach’s alphas for Iranian samples, you cite multiple studies but do not report reliability for your own sample. Please include internal consistency coefficients calculated from the present dataset.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.