

The Effectiveness of Social Problem-Solving Skills Training on Peer Conflict and Social Adjustment in Adolescents

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph beginning “Adolescence represents a critical developmental period...” provides a strong conceptual overview; however, it would benefit from a clearer problem statement explicitly identifying the gap this study addresses by the end of the paragraph.

In the paragraph discussing peer dynamics (“A growing body of research highlights the central role of peer dynamics...”), consider briefly distinguishing peer conflict from peer victimization or bullying, as these constructs are conceptually related but not identical.

The description of the PCS is thorough; however, please report internal consistency coefficients (Cronbach’s α) obtained in the present sample, not only prior studies.

The paragraph describing the SAS-SR-Y mentions varying item numbers. Please clarify which exact version (number of items/domains) was used in this study to ensure replicability.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Deficits in social problem-solving skills have been linked to increased aggression...” would be strengthened by a short mechanistic explanation (e.g., cognitive distortions, emotion regulation deficits) linking skills deficits to aggressive responses.

The paragraph starting “Despite the growing international literature...” appropriately identifies a cultural gap. Please explicitly state why Iranian adolescents may differ (educational system, collectivist norms, family dynamics) to justify contextual relevance.

The aim is clearly stated; however, consider specifying directional hypotheses (e.g., “It was hypothesized that...”), which would improve alignment with the experimental design.

In the sentence “30 adolescents were enrolled and randomly assigned...”, please report inclusion and exclusion criteria (e.g., clinical diagnoses, prior interventions) to clarify sample characteristics.

Although ethical adherence is later mentioned, the Methods section would benefit from explicitly stating ethics committee approval code and date, not only adherence to the Helsinki Declaration.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.