The Effectiveness of Self-Compassion Training on Suicidal Ideation and Criticism Sensitivity among First Lower Secondary School Female Students with Feelings of Loneliness

Shahnaz. Rastgoo[1] , Zahra. Yousefi[2]* , Mohsen. Golparvar[3, 4]

[1] PhD student in Psychology, Department of Psychology, Isf.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran
[2] Assistance Professor, Department of Cilinical Psychology, Isf.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran
[3] Professor, Department of Psychology, Isf.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran
[4] Research Center for Behavioral and Psychological Science, Department of Dsychology, Isf.C., Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

* **Corresponding author email address**: Dr_yousefi@iau.ac.ir

Editor	Reviewers
Anela Hasanagic Full Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Islamic Education, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina anela.hasanagic@unze.ba	**Reviewer 1:** Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri Associate Professor ‹Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.ir **Reviewer 2:** Seyed Ali Darbani Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. Email: Ali.darbani@iau.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript states that participants were "randomly assigned to the experimental and control groups" but does not explain how randomization was performed (e.g., random number table, computerized randomization). This information is essential for assessing internal validity.

Given that suicidal ideation was assessed, please expand the Ethical Considerations section to clarify risk management procedures, such as referral protocols, on-call counseling availability, or procedures followed if high suicide risk was detected during assessments.

The paragraph describing assumption testing is thorough; however, exact test statistics (e.g., Box's M, Mauchly's W) are not reported. Including these values would improve statistical transparency.

Table 2 includes both within- and between-group effects, but the labeling of degrees of freedom (e.g., fractional df values) may be confusing. Please add a note explaining Greenhouse–Geisser corrections for clarity.

In Table 3, the reference group label "Coping With Abandonment Feelings" appears inconsistent with the study design and variables. This seems to be a copy-editing error and should be corrected immediately to avoid confusion.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The inclusion criterion "experiencing feelings of loneliness for more than two months" relies on an interview but does not specify whether a standardized loneliness scale was used. Clarifying this would strengthen construct validity and replicability.

Although strong reliability indices are reported, the questionnaire was originally developed for adults. Please discuss evidence of age appropriateness or prior adolescent validation, or acknowledge this as a measurement limitation.

The manuscript would benefit from a brief explanation of translation, cultural adaptation, or validation procedures for the Beck Scale for Suicide Ideation and the Criticism Sensitivity Questionnaire in the Iranian adolescent context.

The intervention is described in detail; however, no information is provided on therapist training, supervision, or fidelity monitoring. Please clarify how consistency across sessions was ensured and whether adherence was formally assessed.

The control group was placed on a waiting list. Please discuss the limitations of using a passive control and whether expectancy or attention effects may have contributed to the observed between-group differences.

The abstract refers to follow-up assessments, while the methods mention a "two-month follow-up" and later a "one-month follow-up". This discrepancy should be corrected to ensure consistency and clarity.

In Table 1, suicidal ideation scores appear relatively high at pretest. Please provide clinical interpretation or cut-off references to help readers understand the severity level of the sample at baseline.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.