




The Relationship Between Early Maladaptive Schemas and Adolescents' Social Anxiety: The Mediating Role of Locus of Control

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Methods section, the authors indicate that convenience sampling was used and that the sample size was determined using Morgan's table. However, no information is provided regarding the estimated population size, response rate, number of schools approached, or number of students who declined participation. These details are necessary for evaluating sampling bias and external validity.

The Measures section reports reliability coefficients obtained from prior studies rather than from the current sample. The authors should report Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability, or McDonald's omega values calculated using the present dataset to demonstrate measurement reliability within the study population.

The manuscript reports confidence intervals for mediation paths, but it does not specify whether the indirect effects were tested using bootstrapping procedures. Given the non-normal distribution often associated with indirect effects, the authors should explicitly report bootstrap sample size and bias-corrected confidence intervals.

The discussion interprets Social Isolation/Alienation as the strongest predictor of social anxiety; however, the authors should consider alternative explanations such as conceptual overlap between social isolation schema content and social anxiety symptom content. This overlap may artificially inflate the observed relationship.

The interpretation of the relationship between Emotional Inhibition and social anxiety is theoretically plausible, yet the discussion does not sufficiently distinguish between emotional suppression as a behavioral strategy and emotional inhibition as a schema construct. Greater conceptual precision would strengthen the argument.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description of Rotter's Locus of Control Scale requires clarification. The manuscript presents a categorical cutoff score ("scores of 9 or higher") while subsequently treating locus of control as a continuous variable in correlational and SEM analyses. The authors should justify this analytical decision and explain whether classification procedures were actually applied.

The Data Analysis section indicates that normality and linearity assumptions were examined; however, no test statistics, skewness values, kurtosis values, residual analyses, or graphical diagnostics are reported. The manuscript should present objective evidence demonstrating that the assumptions for Pearson correlations, regression, and SEM were satisfied.

The demographic description would be improved by reporting additional participant characteristics such as parental education, family income indicators, academic field within vocational education, and history of psychological treatment. These variables may act as important confounders in the relationship between schemas and social anxiety.

The statement that "all variables were normally distributed and suitable for subsequent parametric analyses" should be supported by actual statistical evidence rather than a narrative conclusion. The authors are encouraged to report skewness, kurtosis, Shapiro–Wilk statistics, or multivariate normality indices.

The correlation matrix reveals substantial intercorrelations among several schema domains, including correlations as high as .66. The manuscript should report multicollinearity diagnostics such as variance inflation factors (VIFs), tolerance values, and condition indices before interpreting regression coefficients.

The regression analysis explains 55% of the variance in social anxiety, which is substantial. Nevertheless, the manuscript does not report whether assumptions of multiple regression were assessed, including homoscedasticity, independence of errors, multicollinearity, and influential observations. These analyses should be included.

The mediation model is insufficiently reported according to contemporary SEM standards. While path coefficients are presented, essential model-fit indices such as χ^2/df , CFI, TLI, RMSEA, and SRMR are absent. Without these indices, readers cannot evaluate the adequacy of the proposed model.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.