

Cultural Adaptation Stress and Social Competence as Determinants of Hopelessness

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The objective in the abstract is somewhat ambiguous. Specifically, the sentence "The aim was to identify how these factors interact to influence the psychological well-being of this population" could be more precise. Clarify whether the primary goal is to examine the interaction of cultural adaptation stress and social competence or their individual impacts on hopelessness.

The sampling technique described as "stratified random sampling" (Methods, paragraph 1) needs more detail. Specify the strata used (e.g., university, country of origin, level of study) and explain how participants were allocated within each stratum.

The conclusion (final paragraph) suggests that educational institutions develop support systems. Consider providing concrete examples of such systems or programs that have been successful in similar contexts, supported by references.

The introduction (first paragraph) could benefit from a more comprehensive literature review. Include recent studies beyond 2021 to provide a broader context and current relevance to the research topic.

The introduction references the theoretical framework of biculturalism (LaFromboise et al., 1993). Provide a brief explanation or definition of biculturalism to ensure readers unfamiliar with the concept can follow the argument.

The choice of linear regression analysis is appropriate; however, the justification for selecting this method (Methods, Data Analysis section) could be expanded. Discuss why linear regression was chosen over other potential methods like structural equation modeling (SEM).

Authors revised the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description of the Beck Hopelessness Scale (Methods, paragraph 3) mentions its subscales but does not provide the specific items or example questions. Including one or two examples for each subscale would enhance understanding.

In the Results section, the reporting of statistical significance (e.g., "Pearson correlation analysis showed significant positive correlations between hopelessness and cultural adaptation stress") should include effect sizes (e.g., Cohen's *d*) alongside *p*-values to give a better sense of the practical significance.

The discussion (first paragraph) states, "These findings align with previous research demonstrating the significant impact of cultural adaptation stress on mental health outcomes among international students." This statement would benefit from referencing specific studies to support this claim.

The demographic breakdown (Results, paragraph 1) includes age categories (e.g., "34-105 years"). This range appears to be an error or typo. Verify and correct this age category to reflect the actual distribution.

The limitations section (Discussion, paragraph 4) should include a discussion about the potential impact of self-selection bias, given that the study relies on self-reported data from volunteers.

Authors revised the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.