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Deep Learning–Based Detection of Anxiety and Perfectionism Patterns in High-Ability Youth

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the sentence “Perfectionism is a multidimensional construct encompassing both adaptive and maladaptive dimensions,” consider briefly specifying the theoretical framework (e.g., multidimensional or dual-process models) to strengthen conceptual grounding before moving to empirical evidence.

The paragraph discussing intervention-based research effectively summarizes prior work; however, it would be useful to explicitly highlight the methodological limitations of these intervention studies (e.g., reliance on traditional statistics, small samples) to more clearly justify the need for deep learning approaches.

The study aim is clearly articulated, but the novelty claim would be strengthened by explicitly stating how this study differs from existing machine learning applications in anxiety or perfectionism research, particularly in terms of population and data modalities.

The interpretation of the high-anxiety maladaptive profile is compelling, yet alternative explanations (e.g., transitional developmental stress, school-level factors) should be briefly acknowledged to balance the discussion.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph describing participant recruitment mentions “several federal states in Germany,” but does not specify which regions were included. Providing this information would enhance transparency and replicability.

In the sentence “Model training was conducted using supervised learning,” please clarify how ground truth labels for anxiety–perfectionism profiles were constructed and validated prior to model training.

The transition from descriptive statistics to deep learning outcomes is logical, but a brief statement clarifying the analytical sequence (descriptive → predictive → profiling) would improve structural clarity.

The reported mean levels of anxiety and perfectionism are informative; however, the paragraph would be strengthened by explicitly stating whether these values fall above normative cutoffs for adolescent populations.

When stating “the multimodal hybrid model substantially outperformed single-modality models,” please indicate whether statistical comparisons between model performances were conducted and, if so, which tests were used.

The sentence “the relatively high mean scores for socially prescribed perfectionism support earlier findings” could be strengthened by explicitly linking this result to cultural or educational pressures specific to high-ability contexts.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.

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