




# The Structural Model of Psychological Vulnerability Based on Object Relations and Adverse Childhood Experiences Considering the Mediating Role of Internalized Shame in Individuals Seeking Cosmetic Surgery

Ladan. Nassiri<sup>1</sup>  Maryam. Ghahremani<sup>2\*</sup>  Shahriar. Dargahi<sup>3</sup> 


<sup>1</sup> PhD Student in Counseling, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup> PhD in Health Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, Ashtian Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ashtian, Iran



<sup>3</sup> Department of Psychology Education and Counseling, Farhangian University, Tehran, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: maryam\_ghahremani@yahoo.com

### Editor

Trevor Archer   
Professor Department of  
Psychology University of  
Gothenburg Sweden  
trevorcsarcher49@gmail.com

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Mohammad Masoud Dayarian   
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic  
Azad University. Komeinishar/Isfahan, Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Ali Akbar Soleymanian   
Associate Professor of Counseling Department, Bojnord University, Iran. Email:  
Soleymanian@ub.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Cosmetic surgery has become a captivating factor and a means for luxury..." Consider expanding on the theoretical framework that underpins this assertion. How does the perceived luxury of cosmetic surgery relate to psychological vulnerability beyond appearance concerns?

"Studies indicate that Iran ranks among the top countries globally in terms of the number of cosmetic surgery procedures..." It would strengthen this statement to include more recent statistics or comparative data from other countries to illustrate the magnitude of cosmetic surgery prevalence in Iran.

"Compared to other countries, most cosmetic surgery candidates in Iran are typically under 30 years old..." Clarify if cultural, social, or economic factors might explain why younger individuals in Iran pursue cosmetic surgery at higher rates than in other countries.

"The data analysis results indicated that the proposed model's indices demonstrated an acceptable fit." It would improve clarity to specify which fit indices were used and their corresponding values, including a discussion of their thresholds.

"The correlation matrix demonstrates significant positive relationships among all variables at both 95% and 99% confidence levels." Include a discussion of the practical implications of these correlations and whether any observed relationships were stronger or weaker than expected.

Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables Consider discussing the implications of skewness and kurtosis values. Do these values suggest any potential bias or need for data transformation?

"The influence of early family experiences on adult psychological vulnerability can be explained through family resilience..."

Suggest incorporating additional references that discuss the role of family resilience in psychological outcomes to strengthen this point.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Participants were informed that providing their names was unnecessary and that all information collected would be accessible only to the researcher..." It would be beneficial to elaborate on additional steps taken to ensure participant anonymity and data security.

"Internalized Shame... Each item uses a 5-point Likert scale, with scoring reversed so that high scores indicate worthlessness..." Clarify whether the reverse scoring was validated in previous studies, and discuss any potential impact on data interpretation.

"Adverse Childhood Experiences... Scores range from 0 to 10, with higher scores indicating more adverse experiences." Consider elaborating on how the questionnaire's binary response format (yes/no) might limit the granularity of the collected data.

Direct Effects - "Adverse Childhood Experiences -> Psychological Vulnerability" It would be useful to contextualize the beta value (0.115) within the broader literature. Is this effect size consistent with or divergent from previous studies?

"One finding revealed that adverse childhood experiences have a direct impact on the psychological vulnerability of cosmetic surgery candidates." Discuss how this finding aligns or contrasts with existing research, especially studies with diverse cultural contexts.

"The study also found that object relations directly impact the psychological vulnerability of cosmetic surgery candidates." The discussion would benefit from a deeper examination of the theoretical implications. How might different object relations theories provide alternative explanations?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.