

The Structural Model of Death Anxiety and Self-Acceptance Based on Psychological Flexibility with the Mediating Role of Self-Compassion in Elderly Residents of Nursing Homes in Nowshahr and Chalous Counties




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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the sentence, “The statistical population included all individuals aged 60 and above residing in daily nursing homes in Nowshahr and Chalous counties from February 2024 to August 2024 (N = 232),” it would be helpful to specify whether these nursing homes were public or private, as this could influence generalizability.

The study employs validated scales, including the Templer Death Anxiety Scale and the Self-Compassion Scale. However, it does not discuss whether these scales have been specifically validated for elderly populations in this cultural context. Including this information would enhance credibility.

The findings section presents demographic information, but it does not analyze whether variables such as gender or education level affected psychological flexibility, self-compassion, or death anxiety. A subgroup analysis could enhance the depth of results.

Table 2 presents Pearson correlation coefficients, yet no justification is given for why a specific cutoff value (e.g., $r > 0.3$) is considered practically significant. Addressing this would clarify the strength of associations.

While Table 3 reports fit indices, it does not discuss why certain indices, such as AGFI (0.861), are acceptable despite being slightly below the conventional threshold of 0.90. A brief justification would improve interpretability.

The study finds that self-compassion mediates the relationship between psychological flexibility and death anxiety. However, it does not explore potential alternative mediators, such as social support. Acknowledging this limitation would strengthen the discussion.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction references Terror Management Theory (TMT) and its relevance to death anxiety. However, the article later emphasizes psychological flexibility as the core construct. It would improve coherence if a stronger bridge between these theories were explicitly discussed.

While the introduction outlines past research on self-compassion and death anxiety, it lacks a direct statement regarding what gap this study aims to fill. Consider adding a sentence explicitly stating how this study extends previous research.

In Table 4, the path coefficient for "Self-Compassion → Self-Acceptance" ($\beta = 0.846$, $p < 0.0005$) is quite high. Discussing whether multicollinearity was tested among these variables would be valuable to ensure robustness.

The results discuss indirect pathways (Table 5) but do not explain why bootstrap confidence intervals were selected over alternative methods such as Sobel tests. Including a rationale for using bootstrap analysis would enhance methodological rigor.

The discussion highlights the role of psychological flexibility but does not adequately explain how it interacts with other constructs in the model. A more explicit integration of psychological flexibility with Terror Management Theory would provide stronger theoretical coherence.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.