# From Autonomy Support to Moral Reasoning: The Mediating Role of Emotional Maturity in Adolescents

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The description of emotional maturity—"manage affective responses, delay gratification, tolerate frustration, and engage in reflective self-regulation"—is compelling, but lacks direct references to a unified theoretical framework. Consider citing a psychological model of emotional development here.

The claim "few studies have empirically tested the mediating role of emotional maturity..." should be supported by citing a systematic review or literature gap analysis to reinforce its novelty.

The explanation "Using the Morgan and Krejcie (1970) table..." is appropriate, but the article should briefly justify why this table is still valid given evolving sampling standards in psychology research.

The EMS is said to score higher for immaturity and lower for maturity, which may be counterintuitive for readers. Clarify whether the scoring was reversed or how interpretation aligned with the study's conceptual model.

The sentence "The mean for emotional maturity was 2.91..." lacks interpretation due to the reverse scoring. Clarify whether lower scores represent better or worse outcomes for interpretative clarity.

The correlation between emotional maturity and moral reasoning (r = .46) is moderately strong. The authors should discuss whether this magnitude aligns with theoretical expectations or past literature.

The observation that "autonomy support can be transformed into a stable moral identity" is insightful but lacks direct empirical evidence or references. Consider citing longitudinal work that traces this transformation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the line "Understanding the interplay between emotional maturity and moral reasoning is particularly important in today's social context...", the 'social context' is broad. Consider narrowing this to specify social media, globalization, or cross-cultural exposure.

The sentence "...peer relationships, school climate, and community values" is a strong point. Yet the current study does not account for these influences methodologically. Consider acknowledging this as a limitation or justify the focus on parental autonomy support alone.

The sentence "...adolescents who experience this form of parenting often feel more empowered..." could be strengthened by linking this to autonomy-supportive parenting styles in specific cultural contexts, particularly Austrian.

The statement "...more resilient in morally ambiguous situations" could be enriched by providing an example of such a situation adolescents might commonly face.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.