

Effect of Peer-Mentoring Programs on Academic Motivation and School Belonging in First-Generation Learners




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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The authors note that “peer relationships...can normalize academic struggles.” This assertion could be strengthened by briefly referencing how normalization is psychologically beneficial—perhaps via the concept of social comparison or stigma reduction.

Although the sessions are outlined clearly, there is no information on fidelity monitoring or mentor training evaluation. Please include how program integrity was assessed to ensure consistency across mentoring groups.

The sentence “Participants in the intervention group showed a clear increase...” would benefit from explicit reference to effect sizes for each variable across time points to demonstrate practical significance.

The sentence “mentoring may also help students improve academic self-concept and develop metacognitive skills...” introduces novel outcomes not measured in this study. It’s advisable to rephrase this as a hypothesis for future research rather than as a suggestion of current results.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement “A more holistic understanding is needed...” would be more compelling if the authors briefly outlined what a holistic model might entail or reference an existing framework they aim to expand.

The cross-cultural dimension introduced through the sentence “students in collectivist societies may derive motivation...” is excellent. However, the manuscript would benefit from clearer linkage between these cultural variations and the Canadian context of the study.

The sentence “Given the compelling theoretical and empirical foundations...” is strong but lacks a clear research hypothesis. Consider explicitly stating the study’s hypotheses to guide the reader and ensure alignment with the methods and analysis.

The claim “These findings provide strong evidence...” should be tempered by acknowledging the relatively small sample size (N=30), which limits the power and generalizability despite statistical significance.

The statement “mentoring relationships appear to reinforce these beliefs...” would be enhanced by referencing which specific subtypes of motivation (intrinsic, extrinsic, or identified regulation) increased as a result of the intervention.

The sentence “Peer mentoring appears to play a central role...” would benefit from inclusion of qualitative insights or anecdotal quotes (if collected), which could support the claim of improved belonging and connectedness.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.