

Developing a Predictive Model of Sense of Coherence in Elderly Women Based on Perceived Social Support with the Mediating Role of Ego Strength

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The claim that Iran has one of the largest aging populations in the world requires specific statistical support or citation from global demographic databases. Consider citing WHO or UN Population Division reports.

The repetition of “Mousavi Asl & Parouei, 2021” in two adjacent paragraphs may suggest over-reliance on one source. Diversifying sources could strengthen the conceptual justification for the sense of coherence construct.

There is some redundancy in defining perceived social support twice in two consecutive paragraphs. Consider consolidating these into one coherent explanation for improved clarity and flow.

The labeling of Table 1 should include a full title that specifies the sample and variables. Consider adding “Descriptive Statistics for Main Variables Among Elderly Women (N=220)” to improve self-containment.

In the narrative for Table 2, “psychological capital” and “loneliness” are mentioned but were not listed as variables in the method section. This suggests text may have been copied from another paper. Please correct this inconsistency.

The SEM path diagram is referred to but not described in detail. Please include labels on all paths (coefficients and significance) and ensure the model figure meets publication-quality standards (e.g., clarity, resolution).

The values in Table 4 are excellent, but no narrative interpretation is offered. Please explicitly state how these indices confirm model adequacy (e.g., CFI = 0.976 indicates excellent fit).

Be cautious with causal language such as “this model demonstrates that social support does not directly lead to greater coherence...” Since the study is cross-sectional, such conclusions should be phrased more tentatively.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The use of “energized” in describing the sense of coherence might be misleading. Consider replacing with more precise terms like “motivated” or “psychologically resilient” to align with Antonovsky’s original definitions.

The assertion that early childhood is the critical period for developing a strong sense of coherence may be too deterministic. It might be more accurate to state that early childhood lays foundational patterns, but development can continue through life with interventions.

While Table 5 includes lower and upper bounds, you should explicitly state that the CI does not include zero, which confirms the significance of the mediation effect.

The phrase “although no previous study directly addressed this hypothesis...” is contradicted by the long list of cited supporting studies. Please clarify the novelty of your contribution more precisely.

The discussion could be strengthened by more clearly integrating Antonovsky’s theory of salutogenesis with the findings. Currently, the link between social support and the three components of coherence is underdeveloped.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.