

Mediating Roles of Character Traits and Parenting in the Relationship Between Maternal Effortful Control and Children's Conduct Problems

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Review 1

This is a very innovative, well-written paper that evaluates the mediating role of personality traits and parenting practices in effortful control and children's conduct problems in a representative sample from Israel. In addition to being an innovative study, the theoretical foundation that supports it is adequate, as well as the statistical analyzes carried out. However, there are some small observations and doubts to clarify and improve this great manuscript.

Introduction section.

The study's theoretical background is strongly defined and clearly exposed in the introduction.

Please, consider including the "R" in the introduction section where the TCI is mentioned as this was the instrument used (TCI-R, Lines 89, 92, 99). One important concern is the affirmation found in lines 182 and 183 "Conduct problems during childhood are indicative of criminal behavior and substance abuse in adulthood...". I suggest authors do not make this strong conclusion as this sentence is highly stigmatizing and based on studies from more than 20 years ago. It is better to talk about associations and include more recent evidence of these associations.

Materials & Method

Concerning the demographic information of the participant mothers. Do authors evaluate if the number of children was related to Parenting Practices? Do authors consider that Parent Practices are the same for those mothers with one child and those with more than one child? If this is or is not the case, please clarify as it is possible to consider that Parenting Practices may be different with the experience of having another child or clarify that the assessment

was performed explaining That the evaluation refers only to the child currently in kindergarten.

In Table 2, some of the psychometric properties of the instruments are included. Please add the values of Kurtosis. Also, you can include this information in the description of each instrument and if skewness and kurtosis were adequate for all of them (add the range), just add this information to the text. This will eliminate Table 2 from the manuscript as it is more important the use of tables for presenting results related to the aim of the study than for information more related to the Method (in this particular case). In fact, I recommend to eliminate this table as all the information about reliability is already in the text and only data from the ranges of scoring and general information about skewness and kurtosis may be added.

Analytic Plan

Just for the readers, can you please include the values of the SEM model you consider as adequate with their respective references? This will be very useful for those readers who are not familiar with the SEM.

Results

Figure 2 exhibits values of zero which are described in the text. I suggest you just include the paths that were significant considering the modification indices described in the text. In this way, it will be visually clearer the adequacy of the third modeling and its fit indices. It also will clarify why the first modeling (the hypothesis model) was not the most adequate and which variables are not related (Figure 1).

Discussion

It is highly important to highlight that the study was performed on mothers and not fathers. Therefore, when talking about parents, authors are really talking about mothers. Please consider to adequate the text according to this (for example, parenting practices from mothers) or something that avoids generalization of the results to both parents. Although this is included as a limitation, the text can be improved by referring exclusively to the mother.