Reviewer's report

Title: Does parenting style matter? - Predictors of suicide attempts in a representative sample of adolescents

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Reviewer: Vanessa Sanchez-Gistau

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the authors:
Paper improved. However, there are few issues that need to be better clarified.
1- Discretionary revision.

Regarding paper’s length, authors have made an effort to make it shorter. However, methods section is still too long for the reader. Statistical analysis is still very detailed and hard to follow. I think authors can summarize it a little bit more. For instance:

“Taking only the sample size into account, it would have been possible to include a large number of predictors. According to Altman [33], the number of independent variables used should not exceed the square root of the sample size (here n = 44,610; potential predictors > 200). However, we decided that a lean model was still a priority” (Is this paragraph necessary? I suggest you to eliminate or summarize lines that do not add important information regarding your paper)

Please summarize this extensive paragraph regarding missing values:

“Missing values were evident in less than 5% of the cases across the chosen variables, (with the exception of fathers’ parental behavior). Given the sample size of 44,610, these missing values could have been ignored. However, we chose to impute the missing values conservatively in order to include the full sample in the regression analysis and to avoid changing sample sizes across or within the three different analytical steps. This means that if a student did not answer a certain item, the item was given the zero or “no” value; for example, if the item for parental separation was not answered, it was counted as “no” for parental separation events. This handling was used for the variables parental separation events, smoking, binge drinking, living on welfare, volunteer activities, social integration in school, ADHD, self-esteem, and mental well-being. The item assessing truancy was already posed in such a way that students who had never had an unexcused absence had to mark the item. Consequently, all unmarked items counted as a “yes” for truancy. This procedure was chosen to reduce effects of social desirability. Missing values on the variable migration background were classified as “other countries.” Concerning school grades, missing values were imputed with the median of all other students. Furthermore, missing values for the variables age,
school anxiety, and parental behavior were imputed with the mean of the sample. The only remaining variable that was not imputed was the variable sex (missing values 1.1%). Thus, the available sample was reduced from 44,610 to 44,134 for all analyses.

2-Minor revision

Finally, there is still a point that should be addressed in relation to a question according to my question about having ever diagnosed by a depressive disorder. You responded that data quality about this item was insufficient. As I said previously depression is a well-known risk factor for suicide, so that it has to be explained in the discussion/ or as a limitation in your study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests