Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations of personality traits with Internet addiction in Chinese medical students: the mediating role of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder symptoms

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Reviewer: Ursula Eleonore Oberst

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written manuscript that intends to make a contribution to the research on Internet addiction. The literature review is adequate, the objectives and hypotheses are correctly stated, and the methodology is standard, though not sophisticated. It is also positive that adequate conclusions are drawn and suggestions for treatment are made.

However, I would consider the contribution to the existing literature as only moderate, due to the following shortcomings; in my opinion, resolving them would add considerable value to this paper.

1) Why medical students? The authors dwell on the cultural differences in IA, but there are already many studies on IA addiction in Chinese populations, and also with respect to its relationship to personality and ADHD. Can the authors justify more clearly why it is relevant to use a sample of medical students, specifically? What makes them different as a population? It could have also been interesting to see if there are differences between medical students and other student groups or med students and doctors, etc.

2) In my opinion, studying Internet addiction as such is not very interesting anymore; more recent literature investigates subtypes of internet addiction, or what people actually do on the internet (studying, gaming, communicating, etc.), and this can be quite different in medical students and in other students. In this context it would have also been interesting to assess how much time people spend on the internet. Can the authors justify why they used such a general approach?

3) I also have a methodological suggestion: the authors describe the paths for a mediation model with direct (Personality on IA and on ADHD, ADHD on IA) and indirect effects (Personality - ADHD - IA), but they do not use goodness of fit indices to check the goodness of fit of their model. Is this an intentional omission or were the results insufficient to warrant adequate model fits? Obtaining adequate indices would add value to this manuscript and not having them is a limitation that should be mentioned in the manuscript.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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