Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationship between social networking addiction and academic performance in Iranian students of medical sciences

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Reviewer: Gianluca Serafini

Reviewer's report:

This is, in summary, an interesting paper aimed to investigate the relation between social networking addiction and academic performance in a sample of 360 Iranian students who were recruited by stratified random sampling. The authors reported that the mean social networking addiction was 50.83 (±13.00) out of 90. Moreover, there was a significant/negative relation between students' addiction to social networking and their academic performance. The authors concluded that it is imperative that the university authorities take interventional steps to help students who are dependent on these networks informing them, through workshops, about the negative consequences of addiction to these networks.

The authors may find as follows my main comments/suggestions.

First, when throughout the Introduction section the authors reported that the current use of social networks has been managed poorly, as they can have negative consequences at the individual and social levels and immediately cited the social networking addiction, they seem to simply refer to only this condition and not adequately focusing on recent emergent issues that are now completely changing the world of psychopathology that clinicians have been to date trained to recognize. Here, more details/information to this regard are needed.

In addition, within the same section, while the authors simply referred to the existence of studies who found a significant/negative relation between the use of social networks and academic students performance, they should, in my opinion, at least partially focus on the most frequent association between the use of social networks and major depression and/or suicidal behavior.

Moreover, as the authors reported extensively the most important aims/objectives of this paper, similarly the main study hypotheses should be described.

Furthermore, the Bergen Social Media Addiction Scale (BSMAS) could be described more succinctly.

Also, concerning the most relevant results/findings of this manuscript, the authors simply described the most relevant socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the study sample and later reported simple bivariate correlations between the identified variables. Here, the question that was not minimally investigated is the potential predictive value of social networking addiction in terms of academic performance of the analyzed study sample. Why the authors did not perform a multivariate regression analysis to address this fundamental issue? Here, more details/information are needed to this
regard for the general readership.

Moreover, the Discussion section is really poor and limited as actually presented and needs to be readapted in order to more clearly stress the main topic and its clinical implications. Perhaps, new findings derived from carrying out regression analyses may help to generally improve the main structure and quality of the present paper.

In addition, in the Conclusion section, the authors should more directly specify some conclusive remarks as well as explain how the issue of addiction to social networking needs to be comprehensively reviewed and considered. Here, I suggest to insert a specific take-home message to this regard.

Finally, the manuscript needs to be reviewed by a native English speaker for the quality of language.

**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.

No

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

Yes

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