Author’s response to reviews

Title: School functioning and internalizing problems in young schoolchildren

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Version: 1 Date: 09 Sep 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Ana Pereira
Editor
BMC Psychology September
09th, 2019

RE: Revision of PSYO-D-19-00084 School functioning and internalizing problems in young schoolchildren

Thank you for the thorough and comprehensive review of our article. We found the reviewers’ points important, and we have revised the manuscript accordingly. The changes are indicated in text by track change in the revised manuscript. In an attached document, we list in detail how each reviewer comment have been addressed. The major points made by the reviewers have been addressed as follows:
Clarification of the objectives of the study

We have written the objectives of the study more precisely and have also added a research question comparing the teacher-rated internalizing symptoms and the children’s self-report on symptoms of anxiety and depression. We have included some new analysis and more discussion around the topic.

Contribution to the field

Several changes have been made to clarify the contribution to the field. We have now emphasized the issue that young school children’s voices on internalizing symptoms are not commonly heard. The children in the current study are also representing an at-risk population with elevated symptoms of anxiety and depression, more seldom studied than general population samples or clinical samples.

By adding a research question, we were able to obtain a more complete picture on whether and how internalizing problems was associated with school functioning, as seen by the teachers and the children respectively. Based on these findings, we made some suggestions on what the schools and the teachers need to be aware of when trying to identify and support the children with internalizing symptoms.

Method and discussion

The methods section has been extended with the requested information. The discussion section is made more comprehensive.

The manuscript has also been reviewed by the professional English editing service; www.scribendi.com.

We hope the revised manuscript will be acceptable for publication in BMC Psychology.

Best regards,

Marit L. Pedersen