

## **Reviewer-2**

Yes. Improving family dynamics is essential to child and adolescent development. This research adds to the body of evidence useful to share to aid in promoting healthy family relationships.

The section headings appear appropriate and concise. They present the basic concepts, themes, theories, and methodology.

There are a couple of recent publications that support the manuscripts evidence that may also be useful: Mathews, B, & Dube, S. (2025). Childhood emotional abuse is becoming a public health priority: Evidentiary support for a paradigm change. *Child Protection and Practice* Volume 4, April 2025, 100093 Fares-Otero, N. E., Carranza-Neira, J., Womersley, J. S., et al. (2025). Child maltreatment and resilience in adulthood: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychological Medicine*. 2025 Jun 2:55:e163. doi: 10.1017/S0033291725001205.

### **Specific Comments:**

These comments should be supported by a citation.

Emotional maltreatment—defined by invalidation, humiliation, and verbal degradation—has been associated with difficulties in emotional regulation, self-harm, and challenges in relationships and work settings. A reference citation would be helpful here, i.e. Pereira et al, The impact of childhood abuse on adult self-esteem and emotional regulation, *Ann Med*. 2021 Sep 28;53(Suppl 1): S164. doi: 10.1080/07853890.2021.1896171 or another of your choice.

For instance, adults who experienced emotional abuse in childhood may struggle with self-esteem issues, have difficulty forming and maintaining healthy relationships, and may exhibit self-destructive behaviors. Or a citation here.

### **Section Introduction**

Last paragraph. Consider replacing your with our - As professionals and researchers, our role in this process is significant, and our contributions can make a real difference.

### **Section Implications for Social Work Practice**

First paragraph, last sentence, consider replacing your with our - “As professionals in the field, it is our responsibility,”

### **Section Measures**

Noting that I am not a statistician, the use of Cronbach's alpha and regression analysis appears to be useful as standard practice to demonstrate reliability and validity.

#### Section – Cultural responsiveness or Conclusion

The recommendations for integrating this research into curriculum, supervision, and prevention strategies are pertinent. Providing an example of how this could be implemented in prevention, supervision, and/or curriculum would be useful to the readers.