

Peer Review

Review of: "Psychosocial Predictors of Suicidal Ideation in Mexican Adolescents: The Role of Gender, Bullying, and Intrafamilial Violence"

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The paper analyzes the effect of a number of social variables on a suicidal ideation measure among adolescents in secondary school in Veracruz, Mexico. The sample includes 278 students, and the analysis and presentation of results appear carefully done. The major finding is that gender and academic engagement are stronger correlates of suicidal ideation than bullying or intrafamilial violence. The study compares its results with others that have looked at gender, bullying, and intrafamilial violence in China and South America. This is a very interesting result given the focus on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which include intrafamilial abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction, on mental health outcomes in North America.^{[1][2]}

The main recommendation I have for this paper is to engage with theoretical literature that helps to further contextualize these significant results. For example, taking a life-history approach can help sort out why certain social-environmental conditions have effects on suicidal ideation throughout the life course. Ziker and Snopkowski^[3] found that social support during middle childhood--including sources of support outside the family--was the strongest protective factor, reducing the odds of suicidal ideation in early adolescents. Non-kin social support sources in this study included friends of the family, babysitters, counselors/teachers at school, a coach or leader, or other nonrelatives. The result of Perez-Conti et al. regarding academic disengagement may indicate a lack of non-kin social support. Life history theory can shed light on why certain variables have positive or negative effects on the timing of life course events as a part of phenotypic plasticity.^[4] Another promising theoretical approach to understanding suicidal ideation and attempts draws on bargaining theory.^{[5][6]}

References

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Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.