

# Review of: "Motivational Variables as Predictors of Academic Achievement Among University Students"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The main objective of the article is to identify predictor variables of academic performance among Chilean university students in the field of their motivation towards learning. I found the article interesting; however, there are some details the authors should address:

Organize the Abstract in this way:

**Introduction:** Write a brief rationale and the objective. Delete the word "international"; just use "evidence."

**Method:** Include the type of study, sample and settings, then measures, statistical analysis, and level of significance. Do not quote authors in this section.

**Results:** Include them according to the method.

**Conclusion:** According to the results.

**Introduction section:**

-This section is not well-organized; it seems the authors wrote different paragraphs, but they do not have a particular connection.

-Explain the scientific background and rationale of the investigation; add the important definitions here and include the objectives in this section, and a hypothesis if you have any.

-Abbreviations should be explained.

-The "Background of research on motivation and academic performance" could be summarized in a few sentences (e.g., the association/correlation between academic performance and self-efficacy was determined from XXX to XXX) using methodologies such as systematic reviews.

-Do not use subheadings here.

**Method section:**

-This section is not well-organized. Please report the method using STROBE guidelines.

-A representative sample is required in all studies, but here at least 5 - 10 cases for each item of the scale (from 155 to

310 cases) should be analyzed. I see the sample is not enough to obtain robust results. Why was your research focused on second-year students?

-It is not needed to explain validity and reliability (theory); only mention the values obtained, in this case only reliability, as this is not a validation study.

-Normality (its value) only should be mentioned in the statistical analysis, not as a result.

-Is the MSLQ test Motivation Scale a Likert scale? It is not mentioned in the method section.

-Did the authors ask permission to use the scale?

Results section:

-A table showing the sociodemographic characteristics of the sample is required.

-There are tables that can be replaced by text (they are not working very well).

-There is not a table that describes items' responses of the scale.

-Tables presenting means should include standard deviations.

-Using figures to show linearity may show the behavior of the variables, but to understand the model much better, tables that show Beta coefficients, confidence intervals, and statistical significance (P values, not only  $P < 0.05$ ) are required.

-I could not see your supplemental information; a model using only dimensions could be useful.

Discussion section:

-Do not include results here again. It is organized according to the findings.

General comment:

This is a confirmatory study (authors mentioned it, too). It is important that studies include new methods or variables that add to the current literature. It is required that authors organize the whole document much better. Samples are very important to obtain robust results.