


Risk-Taking, Cognitive Distortions, and Their Influence on Proactive Coping in Higher Education

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Participants completed self-report measures including the Proactive Coping Inventory (PCI) Domain-Specific Risk-Taking (DOSPERT) Scale and the Cognitive Distortion Scale (CDS)" should be revised for clarity. Consider adding commas for better readability: "Participants completed self-report measures, including the Proactive Coping Inventory (PCI), Domain-Specific Risk-Taking (DOSPERT) Scale, and the Cognitive Distortion Scale (CDS)."

The sentence "Participants were selected through convenience sampling from a university setting ensuring a diverse representation in terms of age gender and academic background" should mention the limitations of convenience sampling and its potential impact on generalizability.

When describing the Proactive Coping Inventory (PCI), clarify which version of the PCI was used and provide a brief explanation of why this version is appropriate for the study.

Include the reliability coefficients (e.g., Cronbach's alpha) for the Domain-Specific Risk-Taking (DOSPERT) Scale from this study to demonstrate its internal consistency.

Provide the Cronbach's alpha for the Cognitive Distortion Scale (CDS) from this study to illustrate the measure's reliability within your sample.

The section mentions several assumptions were checked but does not specify the results. Including specific values or passing criteria would add credibility, e.g., "The Shapiro-Wilk test for normality was non-significant ($W = 0.98$, $p = 0.06$), indicating normal distribution."

The practical implications for educational settings could be expanded by providing examples of specific interventions or programs that could be implemented based on your findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The mention of assumptions for normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity is good practice. However, briefly stating the results of these tests would enhance transparency, e.g., "Assumptions for normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity were checked and confirmed (Shapiro-Wilk test, scatterplot inspection, Breusch-Pagan test, respectively)."

The statement "Risk-taking can have both positive and negative consequences depending on the context and the individual's ability to manage the associated risks effectively" could benefit from an example to illustrate these consequences in real-life contexts.

The relevance of proactive coping during the COVID-19 pandemic is well-noted. Consider providing specific studies or data to strengthen this point, e.g., "For instance, Moore & Lucas (2020) found that individuals engaging in proactive coping during the pandemic reported better psychological well-being."

The demographic table would benefit from a more detailed breakdown of participants' academic backgrounds and how these might influence the study's findings.

The statement "The positive association between risk-taking and proactive coping indicates that individuals who are more willing to engage in risk-taking behaviors are also more likely to engage in proactive coping strategies" could be enriched by discussing potential mediators or moderators of this relationship.

When discussing the negative association between cognitive distortions and proactive coping, it might be helpful to suggest specific cognitive distortions that were most detrimental based on your findings.

The limitation regarding the cross-sectional design is noted. Suggesting a specific longitudinal or experimental design for future research would provide a constructive direction for further studies.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.