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Parental Emotional Deprivation and Psychological Health among Adolescents: The Mediating Role of Social Media Addiction in Islamic Educational Contexts

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction/Objective

This research aims to investigate the direct and indirect impacts of parental emotional deprivation on adolescents' psychological health. The study examines the mediating role of social media addiction on the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and the adolescents' psychological health.

Methods

The research employed a quantitative, cross-sectional correlational design with validated measurement scales to assess parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health. Data were gathered via an online survey from 314 adolescent students aged 15–19 years enrolled in Islamic educational institutions in Oman. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was applied to test the proposed model and assess the hypothesised relationships.

Results

The findings reveal that higher levels of parental emotional deprivation are associated with poorer psychological health among adolescents. Furthermore, parental emotional deprivation exerts an indirect effect on poorer psychological health through social media addiction, indicating that adolescents experiencing greater emotional deprivation are more likely to develop problematic social media use, which in turn is associated with poorer psychological well-being.. Furthermore, adolescents with higher levels of emotional deprivation from parents were found to be more likely to have problematic social media use.

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Discussion

These outcomes emphasise social media addiction as a significant psychological and behavioural predictor that converts family-related emotional shortfalls to mental health risks. The research integrates family systems theory, behavioural addiction frameworks, and adolescent mental health research to better understand these dynamics within an Islamic educational setting.

Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing family emotional environments and digital behaviours can promote the mental well-being of adolescents. The findings highlight the need for parents, educators, and policymakers to support and implement early interventions targeting dysfunctional digital patterns.

1. INTRODUCTION

Parental emotional deprivation is a psychosocial phenomenon observed across different family systems and cultural contexts [1]. Several studies highlight that occurs when parents fail to provide adequate emotional and psychological support to their children despite being physically present [2]. Additionally, another contributing factor is lack of parental responsiveness towards their children. This condition is commonly associated with ineffective parenting practices, emotional neglect, and limited parent–child interaction [3]. Moreover, adolescents exposed to parental emotional deprivation often demonstrate elevated psychological vulnerability [4].

Psychological health problems among adolescents have become a public health concern worldwide [5]. In fact, poor psychological health among youths is associated with emotional instability, reduced academic performance, behavioural problems, and increased risk of long-term mental disorders [6]. According to [7], family-related emotional factors are primary predictors of adolescent psychological outcomes. Other identified factors include emotional deprivation has been linked to anxiety, depression, and impaired emotional regulation [8]. The growth of digital technologies has significantly affected adolescents' coping and socialisation patterns. Social media platforms provide continuous access to communication, validation, and social interaction [9]. While these platforms offer social benefits, its excessive use or behavioural addiction can result in compulsive use, tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, and functional impairment [10], [11].

Adolescents experiencing emotional deprivation within the family are more likely to engage excessively with social media platforms [12]. Social media may serve as an alternative source of emotional fulfilment when parental support is insufficient. However, reliance on digital environments for emotional regulation increases the likelihood of misusing digital tools [13]. Empirical evidence indicates that social media addiction is associated with sleep disturbance, psychological distress, reduced self-esteem, and depressive symptoms among adolescents [14], [15]. Although previous studies have examined parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health independently, limited research has integrated these constructs within a single explanatory model. Especially, the mediating role of social media addiction in the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health remains insufficiently explored in adolescent populations. Existing studies have predominantly focused on direct effects, overlooking indirect behavioural pathways.

To address this gap, the present study investigates the direct effect of parental emotional deprivation on adolescents' psychological health and examines the mediating role of social media addiction. Using a quantitative approach and Structural Equation Modelling (SEM), this study aims to clarify the psychological mechanism through which emotional deprivation within the family context translates into adverse mental health outcomes in the digital age.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Parental Emotional Deprivation

Parental emotional deprivation refers to the persistent lack of emotional warmth, responsiveness, and psychological availability from parents toward their children [1]. It is commonly associated with emotional neglect, ineffective parenting styles, and weak

parent–child attachment [2]. Adolescents exposed to emotionally deprived family environments often experience difficulties in emotional regulation and interpersonal functioning [3].

Empirical studies indicate that parental emotional deprivation is positively associated with psychological distress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms among adolescents [4], [5]. Emotional deprivation disrupts adolescents' ability to develop secure attachment patterns, which are essential for psychological stability [6]. As a result, emotionally deprived adolescents exhibit higher vulnerability to maladaptive behaviours and impaired psychological health [7].

In this study, psychological health is operationalized such that higher scores indicate poorer psychological health (greater psychological distress). Accordingly, positive path coefficients represent an increase in psychological distress rather than an improvement in psychological well-being.

H1: Parental emotional deprivation has a significant positive effect on poorer psychological health among adolescents.

2.2 Parental Emotional Deprivation and Social Media Addiction

Social media addiction is defined as a behavioural addiction characterized by excessive, compulsive, and uncontrolled use of social networking platforms [8]. It involves symptoms such as salience, tolerance, withdrawal, and functional impairment [9]. Adolescents are particularly susceptible due to ongoing emotional development and increased sensitivity to social feedback [10].

Family-related emotional factors play a critical role in adolescents' social media use patterns. Adolescents who experience parental emotional deprivation are more likely to seek emotional compensation through online interactions [11]. Social media platforms provide instant validation, perceived social support, and emotional expression, which may substitute unmet familial emotional needs [12]. Studies have consistently reported a positive relationship between emotional neglect and problematic social media use [13], [14].

H2: Parental emotional deprivation has a significant effect on social media addiction among adolescents.

2.3 Social Media Addiction and Psychological Health

Psychological health reflects individuals' emotional well-being, adaptive functioning, and ability to cope with stressors [15]. Social media addiction has been identified as a significant risk factor for impaired psychological health among adolescents [16]. Excessive social media use is associated with increased stress, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depressive symptoms, and reduced self-esteem [17], [18].

Problematic engagement with social media disrupts daily routines, academic functioning, and real-life social relationships [19]. Continuous exposure to social comparison and online feedback further intensifies emotional instability [20]. Empirical evidence confirms that adolescents with higher levels of social media addiction exhibit poorer psychological health outcomes [21].

H3: Social media addiction has a significant effect on adolescents' psychological health.

2.4 Mediating Role of Social Media Addiction

Attachment theory suggests that emotionally deprived adolescents develop insecure attachment patterns, increasing their reliance on external sources for emotional regulation [22]. In the digital context, social media platforms serve as readily accessible tools for emotional compensation. Behavioural addiction theory explains how repeated emotional reinforcement from social media use may evolve into compulsive behaviour [23].

Prior studies have reported indirect pathways linking family emotional deficits to psychological outcomes through maladaptive behaviours [24]. However, limited research has explicitly tested social media addiction as a mediating mechanism between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health. Understanding this mediation is essential for explaining how family-related emotional deficits translate into mental health risks in the digital age.

H4: Social media addiction mediates the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and adolescents' psychological health.

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual model of the study. The model proposes that parental emotional deprivation directly affects adolescents' psychological health and indirectly influences psychological health through social media addiction. Parental emotional deprivation is hypothesized to increase the likelihood of social media addiction, which in turn negatively affects

psychological health. Social media addiction is therefore positioned as a mediating variable that explains the behavioural mechanism linking parental emotional deprivation to psychological health outcomes.

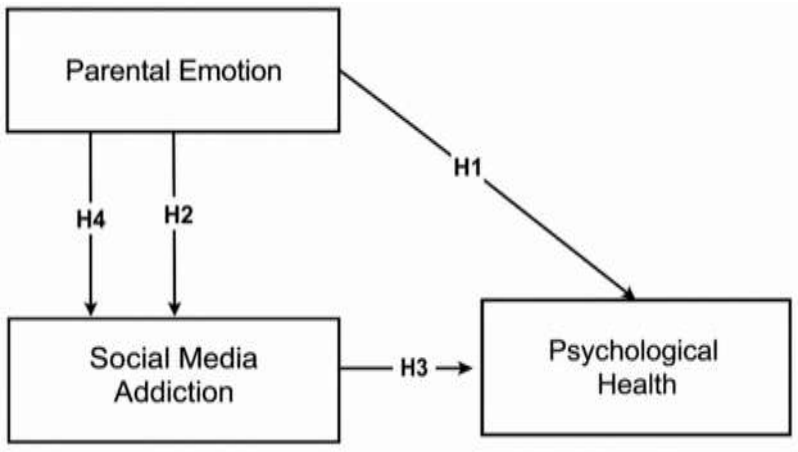

Figure 1 The Conceptual Model

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a quantitative research approach using a cross-sectional correlational design. The design is suitable for examining direct and indirect relationships among parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health. Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) is employed to test the hypothesized relationships and the mediating effect proposed in the conceptual model.

3.2 Case Study Context: Sultanate of Oman

The study was conducted as a case study in the Sultanate of Oman. Oman represents a culturally distinct context characterized by strong family structures, religious values, and rapid digital transformation. Adolescents in Oman experience increasing exposure to social media platforms alongside traditional family and educational systems. This context provides an appropriate setting for examining the interaction between parental emotional factors, digital behaviour, and psychological health.

The study population comprised 314 adolescent students enrolled in Islamic educational institutions in Oman. The sample consisted of 209 males and 105 females, with a mean age of 17.2 years (SD = 1.1; range = 15–19 years). These institutions emphasize moral education and family involvement, making them particularly relevant for investigating parental emotional deprivation and its psychological consequences. Focusing on Oman as a case study provides context-specific insights while contributing to the broader literature on adolescent mental health in non-Western societies.

3.3 Data Collection Procedure

Data are collected using an online survey administered through a secure digital platform. The online survey method is selected to ensure accessibility, efficiency, and wide geographic coverage across different regions of Oman. Participation is voluntary, and informed consent is obtained electronically prior to survey completion.

The survey link was distributed to eligible participants through institutional communication channels. Eligibility was limited to adolescent students enrolled in Islamic educational institutions across different regions of Oman to ensure broad geographic representation. Participation was voluntary, and only respondents who provided informed consent prior to data collection were included in the study. All questionnaires were completed anonymously to reduce social desirability bias and encourage honest responses. To enhance data quality, completed questionnaires were screened for potential duplicate or invalid submissions using multiple indicators, including response completeness, completion time, response patterns, and available technical identifiers. Responses were excluded only when the combined evidence indicated probable duplication or invalid participation. Shared IP addresses alone were not used as the sole criterion for excluding responses, as multiple participants could legitimately access the survey through the same institutional or household internet connection [5].

3.4 Measurement Instruments

Parental emotional deprivation is measured using a validated scale assessing perceived emotional neglect, lack of parental warmth, and emotional unavailability. Social media addiction is measured using a standardised behavioural addiction scale capturing compulsive use, tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, and functional impairment. Psychological health is assessed using a validated scale measuring emotional well-being, stress, and psychological distress. All measurement items are rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

3.5 Reliability and Validity

Measurement reliability and validity were assessed prior to testing the structural model. Internal consistency reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (CR). As shown in Table 1, all constructs exceeded the recommended threshold of 0.70, indicating satisfactory internal consistency.

Table 1 Internal Consistency Reliability

Construct	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha (α)	Composite Reliability (CR)
Parental Emotional Deprivation	6	0.85	0.72
Social Media Addiction	5	0.73	0.91
Psychological Health	8	0.89	0.82

Convergent validity was examined using standardized factor loadings and average variance extracted (AVE). All item loadings exceeded 0.60, and AVE values were above the minimum acceptable level of 0.50 for all constructs, as presented in Table 2. These results confirm adequate convergent validity.

Table 2 Convergent Validity

Construct	Standardized Loadings	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Parental Emotional Deprivation	0.67	0.51
Social Media Addiction	0.71	0.53
Psychological Health	0.66	0.55

Discriminant validity was assessed using the Fornell–Larcker criterion. The square root of the AVE for each construct was greater than the corresponding inter-construct correlations, demonstrating acceptable discriminant validity. The results are summarised in Table 3, indicating sufficient construct distinctiveness.

Table 3 Discriminant Validity (Fornell–Larcker Criterion)

Construct	PED	SMA	PH
PED	**0.78**		
SMA	0.54	**0.81**	
PH	0.49	0.62	**0.84**

3.6 Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis is conducted using SEM software. The analysis follows a two-stage procedure consisting of measurement model assessment and structural model evaluation. Model fit is evaluated using multiple goodness-of-fit indices, including the comparative fit index (CFI), Tucker–Lewis index (TLI), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA), and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR). Mediation effects are tested using bootstrapping methods to assess the significance of indirect effects.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the University of Malay prior to data collection. The study complies with ethical standards for research involving human participants. Participation is voluntary, informed consent is obtained, and all collected data are treated with strict confidentiality.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Structural Model Assessment

The structural model was evaluated after establishing satisfactory measurement reliability and validity. Model fit was assessed using multiple goodness-of-fit indices commonly applied in structural equation modeling. Acceptable model fit was determined based on comparative fit index (CFI) and Tucker–Lewis index (TLI) values of 0.90 or higher, root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) values of 0.08 or lower, and a chi-square to degrees of freedom ratio (χ^2/df) below 3.00. These criteria are widely recommended for covariance-based SEM models.

As shown in Table 4, all fit indices met the recommended thresholds, indicating that the proposed structural model provides a good representation of the observed data and is suitable for hypothesis testing.

Table 4 Structural Model Fit Indices

Fit Index	Recommended Value	Obtained Value
CFI	≥ 0.90	0.94
TLI	≥ 0.90	0.93
RMSEA	≤ 0.08	0.052
SRMR	≤ 0.08	0.047
χ^2/df	≤ 3.00	2.18

4.2 Direct Effects and Hypothesis Testing

The direct relationships among parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health were examined using standardized path coefficients. Hypotheses were considered supported when the standardized path coefficient (β) was statistically significant at the 0.05 level ($p < 0.05$). The results are reported using standardized path coefficients (β), t-values, and p-values.

As presented in Table 5, parental emotional deprivation had a significant positive effect on psychological health ($\beta = 0.410$, $t = 6.320$, $p < 0.001$). Because higher scores on the psychological health measure represent poorer psychological health, this result indicates that greater parental emotional deprivation is associated with increased psychological distress among adolescents. Similarly, parental emotional deprivation had a significant positive effect on social media addiction ($\beta = 0.480$, $t = 7.150$, $p < 0.001$), and social media addiction had a significant positive effect on poorer psychological health ($\beta = 0.360$, $t = 5.840$, $p < 0.001$), supporting H2 and H3.

Table 5 Direct Effects and Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	Path	β	t	p	Decision
H1	PED → PH	0.410	6.320	<0.001	Supported
H2	PED → SMA	0.480	7.150	<0.001	Supported
H3	SMA → PH	0.360	5.840	<0.001	Supported

4.3 Mediation Analysis

The mediating role of social media addiction was examined using a bootstrapping procedure with bias-corrected confidence intervals. Mediation was considered significant when the 95% bootstrapped confidence interval for the indirect effect did not include zero.

As shown in Table 6, the indirect effect of parental emotional deprivation on psychological health through social media addiction was statistically significant ($\beta = 0.170$, 95% CI = [0.090, 0.260], $p < 0.001$). Because the bootstrapped confidence interval did not include zero, the mediation effect was supported. Therefore, H4 was supported, indicating that social media addiction partially mediates the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health.

Table 6 Mediation Effect (Bootstrapping Results)

Indirect Path	β	95% CI	p	Decision
PED → SMA → PH	0.170	[0.090, 0.260]	<0.001	Supported

4.4 Criteria for Evaluation and Comparison with Prior Studies

The evaluation of the structural model followed established criteria for covariance-based structural equation modelling. Model adequacy was assessed using conventional fit thresholds, where CFI and TLI values equal to or greater than 0.90 indicate acceptable fit, RMSEA and SRMR values below 0.08 indicate reasonable approximation error, and a χ^2/df ratio below 3.00 reflects good model parsimony [25], [26]. Hypotheses were considered supported when the standardized path coefficient (β) was statistically significant, with t-values greater than 1.96 and p-values less than 0.05. Accordingly, all structural relationships are reported using β, t-values, and p-values to ensure consistent statistical reporting throughout the manuscript.

The magnitude of the standardized path coefficients observed in the present study falls within ranges commonly reported in adolescent psychological and behavioural research. Effect sizes between 0.30 and 0.50 are typically interpreted as moderate and substantively meaningful in social science models involving psychosocial predictors and behavioural mediators [27]. The direct effect of parental emotional deprivation on psychological health is consistent with previous findings indicating that emotional neglect and insufficient parental support are significant predictors of adolescent psychological distress and reduced emotional well-being [28], [29].

The significant positive relationship between parental emotional deprivation and social media addiction aligns with earlier empirical studies demonstrating that adolescents exposed to emotionally unsupportive family environments are more likely to engage in excessive and compulsive social media use [30], [31]. Prior research suggests that unmet emotional needs increase adolescents' reliance on digital platforms as alternative sources of validation and emotional regulation, thereby elevating the risk of addictive usage patterns [32].

The observed effect of social media addiction on psychological health is consistent with a growing body of literature linking problematic social media use to adverse mental health outcomes, including anxiety, depressive symptoms, emotional exhaustion, and sleep disturbances among adolescents [33], [34]. Large-scale empirical studies and recent reviews have reported comparable associations, supporting the robustness of this relationship across cultural and educational contexts [35].

The significant indirect effect identified in the mediation analysis further supports behavioural pathway models suggesting that early emotional deprivation contributes to psychological vulnerability through maladaptive coping behaviours [36]. Previous studies have similarly demonstrated that digital addiction-related behaviours mediate the relationship between family-related emotional risk factors and adolescent mental health outcomes [31], [37]. Collectively, the benchmarking results indicate that the findings of the present study are theoretically coherent and empirically consistent with prior research, thereby reinforcing the validity of the proposed structural model.

4.5 Summary of Hypothesis Testing

Overall, the results in Table 7 indicate that the proposed structural model is empirically supported. Parental emotional deprivation exerts both direct and indirect effects on adolescents' psychological health. Social media addiction functions as a significant behavioural mediator, partially explaining the mechanism linking family-related emotional deprivation to psychological health outcomes.

Table 7 Summary of Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	Description	Result
H1	Parental emotional deprivation affects psychological health	Supported
H2	Parental emotional deprivation affects social media addiction	Supported
H3	Social media addiction affects psychological health	Supported
H4	Social media addiction mediates the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health	Supported

5. DISCUSSION

The present study examined the relationships among parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health among adolescents in Oman. The findings provide empirical support for the proposed structural model and offer insights into the psychological and behavioural mechanisms linking family emotional factors to adolescent mental health outcomes.

The significant positive relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health ($\beta = 0.410$, $t = 6.320$, $p < 0.001$) indicates that adolescents experiencing greater emotional deprivation are more likely to report poorer psychological health (greater psychological distress). This finding is consistent with previous research showing that emotional neglect contributes to anxiety, depressive symptoms, and emotional dysregulation during adolescence. This finding is consistent with prior research demonstrating that emotional neglect and emotionally unresponsive parenting contribute to increased psychological distress, depressive symptoms, and emotional dysregulation during adolescence [38], [39]. Adolescents who experience emotional deprivation may lack essential emotional resources required for effective coping and psychological resilience.

The results further indicate that parental emotional deprivation significantly predicted social media addiction ($\beta = 0.480$, $t = 7.150$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that emotionally deprived adolescents were more likely to develop problematic social media use [41]. Social media addiction also had a significant effect on psychological health ($\beta = 0.360$, $t = 5.840$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that greater levels of problematic social media use were associated with poorer psychological health. However, repeated reliance on such platforms may reinforce maladaptive usage patterns and lead to addictive behaviours [42].

The significant effect of social media addiction on psychological health aligns with extensive empirical evidence linking problematic social media use to adverse mental health outcomes. Previous studies have shown that excessive engagement with social media is associated with anxiety, depressive symptoms, emotional exhaustion, and sleep-related problems among adolescents [43], [44]. Continuous exposure to social comparison, online validation, and digital overstimulation may further intensify emotional vulnerability and psychological strain [45].

The mediation analysis revealed that social media addiction partially mediates the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health. This finding supports behavioural pathway models suggesting that early emotional deficits

increase adolescents' susceptibility to maladaptive coping strategies, which subsequently impair psychological well-being [46], [47]. The partial mediation observed indicates that parental emotional deprivation affects psychological health both directly and indirectly through problematic digital behaviour.

From a theoretical perspective, the findings are consistent with attachment theory, which posits that emotionally insecure parent–child relationships contribute to difficulties in emotional regulation and increased reliance on external sources for validation [48]. The results also align with behavioural addiction frameworks, which explain how repeated emotional reinforcement through digital platforms can evolve into compulsive usage patterns [49]. Integrating these perspectives provides a more comprehensive explanation of how family-related emotional deprivation translates into mental health risks in the digital age.

The findings have important practical implications. Parents should be encouraged to adopt emotionally responsive parenting practices to reduce adolescents' reliance on digital platforms for emotional regulation. Educational institutions may implement awareness programs addressing healthy social media use and emotional coping skills. Mental health professionals should consider family emotional dynamics and digital behaviours when designing intervention and prevention strategies for adolescents.

Despite its contributions, the study has limitations. The cross-sectional design restricts causal inference, and future longitudinal studies are recommended to examine developmental trajectories over time. Data were collected using self-reported measures, which may be subject to response bias. Future research may incorporate multi-informant data and objective measures of digital behaviour. Additionally, while Oman provides a valuable cultural context, replication in other cultural and educational settings would enhance generalizability.

Overall, the study advances understanding of the psychological mechanisms linking parental emotional deprivation to adolescent psychological health. By identifying social media addiction as a significant mediating factor, the findings contribute to both theory and practice and highlight the importance of addressing family emotional environments and digital behaviours to promote adolescent mental well-being.

6. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

This study investigated the relationships among parental emotional deprivation, social media addiction, and psychological health among adolescents, using Oman as a case study. The results provide empirical support for the proposed structural model and confirm that parental emotional deprivation is a significant predictor of adolescents' psychological health. Adolescents report poorer psychological health, as reflected by higher scores on the psychological health measure used in this study.

The findings further demonstrate that parental emotional deprivation significantly increases the likelihood of social media addiction. This result indicates that emotionally deprived adolescents are more inclined to rely on digital platforms as alternative sources of emotional regulation and validation. In addition, social media addiction was found to have a significant negative effect on psychological health, confirming its role as a critical behavioural risk factor for adolescent mental well-being.

The mediation analysis revealed that social media addiction partially mediates the relationship between parental emotional deprivation and psychological health. This finding highlights the importance of behavioural mechanisms in explaining how family-related emotional deficits translate into adverse mental health outcomes. By integrating family emotional factors and digital behaviour within a single explanatory framework, this study extends existing literature on adolescent psychological health in the digital age.

6.2 Theoretical Implications

The study contributes to theory in several ways. First, it extends attachment-based and family systems perspectives by empirically demonstrating that parental emotional deprivation has both direct and indirect effects on adolescent psychological health. Second, the findings support behavioural addiction theory by identifying social media addiction as a key mechanism through which emotional deficits influence mental health outcomes. Third, the integration of family emotional processes with digital behaviour frameworks provides a more comprehensive understanding of adolescent psychological vulnerability in contemporary contexts.

6.3 Practical Implications

The findings offer important practical implications for parents, educators, and policymakers. Parents should be made aware of the long-term psychological consequences of emotional unavailability and neglect. Parenting programs and family counselling initiatives should emphasize emotional responsiveness, effective communication, and emotional bonding during adolescence.

Educational institutions, particularly within Islamic educational settings, should incorporate mental health awareness and digital literacy programs that address problematic social media use. School counsellors and psychologists can play a critical role in identifying emotionally vulnerable students and providing early interventions targeting maladaptive digital behaviours.

At the policy level, the results underscore the need for adolescent mental health strategies that integrate family-based interventions with digital well-being initiatives. Policymakers should support preventive programs that promote healthy family relationships and responsible social media use among adolescents.

6.4 Limitations and Future Research

Despite its contributions, this study has limitations. The cross-sectional design limits causal inference, and future studies should employ longitudinal designs to examine changes over time. Data were collected using self-reported measures, which may be subject to response bias. Future research may incorporate multi-informant or objective measures. Additionally, future studies should examine other potential mediators or moderators, such as self-esteem, peer support, or religious coping, to further elucidate the mechanisms linking parental emotional deprivation and psychological health.

ETHICAL APPROVALS

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the University of Malaya prior to the commencement of data collection.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL GUIDELINES

The research was conducted in strict compliance with established ethical standards for studies involving human participants.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATIONS

Participation in the research was entirely voluntary, and all participants provided informed electronic consent before completing the online survey. To ensure data integrity and participant protection, all responses were collected anonymously, and the resulting data were treated with strict confidentiality.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: D.S.K.A., M.B.D: Contributed to the study design, data collection, analysis, and manuscript writing; F.A., M.B.D: Contributed to the study design, data interpretation, and manuscript revision. All authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript for submission.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AVE = Average Variance Extracted

CFI = Comparative Fit Index

CR = Composite Reliability

PED = Parental Emotional Deprivation

PH = Psychological Health

RMSEA = Root Mean Square Error of Approximation

SEM = Structural Equation Modelling

SMA = Social Media Addiction

SRMR = Standardized Root Mean Square Residual

TLI = Tucker–Lewis Index

x^2/df = Chi-square to degrees of freedom ratio

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

STANDARDS OF REPORTING

The study was reported in accordance with internationally accepted reporting standards for cross-sectional observational research..

AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIALS

The data and supportive information are available within the article.

FUNDING

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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