April, 2, 2023

**Adolescents from Closed Religious Communities Dropping Out of Israeli Ultra-Orthodox Education: Unique Risk Factors**

Manuscript ID JAD-2023-0085

Prof. Gila Chen

Co-Editor

*Journal of Adolescence*

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you very much for your professional comments. I am sure that the corrections following these comments will improve the article professionally and linguistically. Below I will refer to the corrections made following your comments.

Reviewer 1:

1. Research goals: were move to the end of the opening paragraph (p. 4).
2. Three paragraphs in the "theoretical framework were integrated into on paragraph (p. 6).
3. The theoretical framework was thickened and at the end of each paragraph there is a sentence (or several sentences) connecting to the current study (pp. 8-11).
4. In the beginning of the section of "Factors contributing to risk behaviors" the order of the sentences was changed to make it clearer (p. 7).
5. "The current study" section: was added at the end of the introduction (p. 11).
6. The description of risk factors was thickened (pp. 7-11). In the article there is an attempt to address a cluster of factors in a comprehensive manner. The scope of the article does not allow to more depth in each of the factors.
7. "Peer group" section was added both in the literature review (pp. 9-10) and in the instrument section (p. 13).
8. The term "school integration" was changed to "integration into school system", for more clarification (p. 13).
9. Likert scale answers: were as follows – (1) not at all; (2) once during the last month; (3) 2 times during the last month; (4) 3 times during the last month; (5) more than 3 times a month. We consider (and also following consultation with the professionals we conducted with the study), that categories 1 to 4 - do not indicate a patter, but more than 3 times a month indicate that there is a problem (p. 15).
10. "The model" refers to step 3. This has been corrected in the text (p. 17).
11. In Figure 2, the values presented are B values for significant predictors. This has been corrected in Figure 2. The values unstandardized coefficients. (Figure 2).
12. We tried to avoid two sentences paragraph throughout the article. It was corrected also in the discussion (p. 18).
13. We are aware that another caveat is that causality should not be assumed based on our statistical analysis. We add a note about it in the limitation paragraph (p. 23).
14. On page 4, 17% of OU adolescents are identified by the authorities as being at risk is based on the Knesset Research and Information Center. It includes dropping out of UO formal education frameworks or receiving services from authorities providing services to at-risk youth (Weissblai, 2019). The information was added to the text.
15. Following the comment, we made the terms more precise. In most cases "educational frameworks" refer to the educational system. Where the term "educational frameworks" remains, it refers to any educational framework. In cases where the meaning is OU educational system – the term has been corrected.

The use of the term "alternative community educational frameworks refer to educational frameworks for at-risk youth that are not supervised by formal education system at all.

1. The term "qualitative in character" was changed to "qualitative research methods" (p. 11).
2. The manuscript was sent to language editing again.

Reviewer 2

1. Data on UO adolescents at-risk in Israel was added (pp 4-5).
2. The social and cultural approaches are presented in the theoretical framework (p. 7).
3. A short theoretical presentation of the approaches was added with an emphasis on the connections between the systems (p. 8).
4. Peer groups section – see comment 7 above.
5. In the method section, a few sentences about each of the three localities was added (p. 12).
6. Throughout the discussion reference was made to the social and cultural capital (pp. 19=21).

As to additional comments of reviewer 3,

* The study was carried out in partnership of The Haredi Institute for Policy Affair and the Ministry of Education and received research ethics approval from these two organizations. Following the JoA office request the related sentence was removed.
* A paragraph added expending on applied aspects of the research findings.

All other issues are referred to above, in sections 1, 7, 12 and 23.

We hope these revisions incorporate the necessary revisions/corrections into the manuscript.

Thank you again.

The authors.