

**Examiners' comments:** Conceptualisation of mental health problems in UAE adolescent: There is inconsistency throughout the studies/thesis chapters in how mental health problems in the given population are framed; Study 1 seems to refer to emotional difficulties and Study 2 to emotional as well as behavioural difficulties; while elsewhere in the thesis these terms are used interchangeably and/or in combination with other terms such as mental health problems/disorders, emotional disorders, etc.

We suggest that the reference to these problems surrounds the concept of 'emotional and behavioural difficulties' given that this is the nature of problems indexed by the overall rationale of this PhD. In addition, adolescents' internalising and externalising problems need to be defined and set within the context of emotional and behavioural difficulties respectively. The inclusion of a section early in the Introduction providing definitions of key mental health concepts, narrowing down to emotional and behavioural difficulties –whether these are presented within the framework of clinically diagnosed mental health disorders or not-, would set the scene for what is to follow. Consistency in how these difficulties are referred to throughout the studies/rest of the thesis should be maintained.

**Response:** The term 'emotional and behavioural difficulties' has now been used consistently throughout the thesis. A section introducing definitions of key mental health concepts and rationale for use of the term 'emotional and behavioural difficulties' has been included (pp. 4-6). In the same section, internalising and externalising difficulties have been defined (p.5) and discussed in the context of emotional and behavioural difficulties.

**Examiners' comment:** While the stated aims at the end of the Introduction are logically linked to the thesis background/rationale, it is not clear how they will be addressed in the different chapters of this thesis; a brief outline at that point of how the subsequent chapters/studies will address these aims should be presented.

Also, it would be good to provide a short section early in the introduction that connects the studies into a conceptually coherent piece of research through an overarching aim; we recommend that this could be added after the emotional and behavioural difficulties in UAE have been introduced so that a subsequent link can be drawn between what the thesis will investigate and what the ultimate aim is, i.e., to develop a parent-based intervention for the management of these difficulties.

**Response:** The overarching aim has been added (p. 32) after the section on emotional and behavioural difficulties in the UAE. A section outlining how the chapters address this overarching aim has also been added at this point (p. 32).

**Examiners' comments:** Studies 1, 2 and 3- Rationale for the utilisation of the selected tools: A justification should be provided in the respective background sections of these studies for the selection of the RCADS, SDQ and FAS –as applicable- to investigate the UAE adolescent difficulties in question.

**Response:** This has been added for study 1 (pp. 34-36). A justification for use of the SDQ-A has already been provided for Study 2 (p. 50 and 60). Justification for use of FAS is added (p. 61). None of these measures were used in study 3 and so no changes were made in this regard.

**Examiners' comments:** Additionally, the rationale for conducting the scoping review (in Study 2) on the use of SDQ in the specified countries/cultures using the stated search/inclusion criteria should be elaborated upon in the background of the scoping review; (a) In particular, what is meant by the need to use SDQ in 'more traditional cultures'? A link to the 'collectivistic' cultures mentioned in the introduction could be made at this point in order to draw out cultural and other contextual factors contributing to the observed findings pertaining to adolescent mental health difficulties, and (b) although this information is captured in the summary table, the summary of the scoping review findings should incorporate in the text too the measures used in the cited studies (otherwise it is not evident in the text that the SDQ was used only in a few studies).

**Response:** The term 'traditional culture' is synonymous with 'collectivistic culture'. The text has been revised to only use 'collectivistic cultures.' (pp. 51-54).

The language was edited to reflect the fact that all the studies included in the scoping review used the SDQ and that these studies were only a handful compared to the initially identified studies (p. 53).

**Examiners' comments:** Study 1- Need to revisit Aim 2: Aim 2 of Study 1 should be revisited/reframed to better account for the challenges that the comparison between RCADS and SDQ poses in terms of their overlap (or lack of) in the constructs they measure. Taking into account the nature of the difficulties that are the focus of this PhD and that these measures were developed for different purposes, the emerging findings and implications need to be reviewed and discussed accordingly; alternatively, this comparison can be omitted from the thesis.

**Response:** The aim for study 1 has been reframed such that the comparison was omitted. (p. 36).

**Examiners' comments:** Also, if a power analysis or equivalent estimate was calculated to gauge the required sample size, this should be included in the study design.

**Response:** There was no power analysis conducted for Study 1.

**Examiners' comments:** Study 1 and 2- Need for inclusion of further methodological detail: Some further context on the research procedure (e.g., recruitment/sampling/consent procedures, etc.) and how it adhered to ethics regulations would be informative, upon checking for compatibility with the study sponsor's expectations.

**Response:** This has been edited for both studies. See pp. 37, 39, 40, 57, 62, 63.

**Examiners' comments:** Study 3 (Systematic review)- As per earlier comment, the concept of 'emotional difficulties' which is the focus of this systematic review needs to be revisited and placed within the revised conceptual framework of the nature of the difficulties in the given population. It is assumed that the term 'emotional difficulties' encompasses both emotional and behavioural difficulties and this should be reflected in how the review's outcomes are organised too. Clearer reflections should be offered in the discussion on how parent-related outcomes may corroborate the targeted adolescent-related outcomes in the to-be-developed parent-based interventions.

**Response:** The term 'emotional difficulties' has been replaced by 'emotional and behavioural difficulties' throughout the chapter to maintain consistency with the rest of the thesis. The discussion has been edited as suggested (p. 128).

**Examiners' comments:** General Discussion- A brief section should be added to the implications of this PhD research to provide a synthesis among all sections of the thesis in relation to:

- the revisited mental health concepts in the context of the study findings and the UAE adolescent population
- the importance or contribution of cultural and/or other contextual factors to the observed patterns of adolescent UAE emotional and behavioural difficulties
- the theoretical and/or therapeutic frameworks and their implications for the contextualisation of UAE adolescent emotional and behavioural difficulties (e.g., in relation to attachment theory, family structure, inter-personal relationships, psychoeducation, etc.)
- which of the parent-related and adolescent-related outcomes can be corroborated in practice (intervention) implementation in UAE adolescents

**Response:** These have been incorporated in pp. 142-146.

**Examiners' comments:** A final proof-reading of the thesis is required along with a check through the Appendices to ensure they are all labelled.

**Response:** The thesis has been proof-read and appendices have been re-labelled.