



Determinants of Abortion in the Tehran Metropolis Based on the Lived Experiences of Tehranian Women

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph introducing the Second Demographic Transition, the theoretical integration remains descriptive. The manuscript would benefit from clarifying whether SDT serves as a guiding analytical framework, a sensitizing concept, or merely contextual background. Please explicitly connect SDT assumptions to grounded theory category construction.

After Table 1, demographic data are presented descriptively but not analytically. Please interpret how marital status, education, or employment distribution may have influenced category formation.

Table 2 contains a very large number of subcategories under “Dysfunction of the family institution.” The analytical boundaries between family dysfunction and lifestyle incompatibility appear blurred. Consider refining category distinctions to enhance theoretical parsimony.

Across Tables 2–4, the number of codes appears extremely high for 33 participants. Please explain how theoretical saturation was determined and provide examples of collapsed categories during axial coding.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the paragraph discussing modernization theory (“The cultural dimension of demographic change has been further elaborated...”), modernization is treated as a linear process. Consider acknowledging alternative critiques (e.g., hybrid modernity or cultural resistance) to avoid theoretical determinism.

The concept “reproductive autonomy” appears early in the introduction but becomes a core category only for Group One. Please clarify whether reproductive autonomy is a universal analytical concept or group-specific outcome.

In the paragraph beginning “In this study, the grounded theory method...”, the rationale for selecting grounded theory rather than phenomenology or narrative analysis is not sufficiently justified. Please explain why grounded theory was methodologically superior for answering the research question.

The statement “snowball sampling was subsequently employed” requires deeper methodological reflection. Snowball sampling in stigmatized populations may introduce network homogeneity bias. Please discuss how diversity of experiences was ensured.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.