

Designing a Model of Marital Violence in Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The discussion of food insecurity and psychiatric morbidity is insightful; however, the connection to the present qualitative model remains implicit. Consider adding one bridging sentence clarifying how these distal stressors were anticipated to appear in participants' narratives or coding categories.

In the paragraph addressing legal and marriage registration issues ("Legal and family-formation contexts may also intersect..."), the relevance to the grounded theory model is not fully articulated. The reviewer suggests explicitly linking these legal structures to women's perceived agency, help-seeking behavior, or entrapment, which would strengthen analytic integration.

The logic linking axial codes to categories is generally sound; however, the manuscript would benefit from one illustrative narrative excerpt per major axial category to demonstrate analytic grounding in participants' voices.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph discussing health and psychosocial consequences (“The harms associated with marital violence extend well beyond acute episodes...”) is well supported by international literature. However, the causal language (e.g., “becomes biologically and psychologically embedded”) would benefit from a brief clarification distinguishing associative evidence from causal inference, particularly given the qualitative nature of the present study.

In the paragraph starting “Understanding why marital violence emerges and persists requires an integrative lens...”, multiple theoretical perspectives are referenced. The reviewer recommends explicitly stating which theoretical traditions most directly informed the coding paradigm (e.g., ecological model, coercive control theory, biopsychosocial framework) to enhance conceptual coherence.

The final aim sentence is clear; however, it currently combines model design and intervention development. The reviewer recommends clarifying whether intervention development is a primary empirical output or a secondary applied implication, to avoid overstating the scope of the qualitative findings.

In Table 1, “Control and domination” appears under both causal factors and manifestations. While theoretically plausible, this dual placement requires explicit justification in the text to prevent conceptual overlap or reader confusion.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.