

Examining the Role of Women's Coping Strategies and Interaction Patterns in Spousal Addiction: A Qualitative Study

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Reviewer 1: Farideh Dokanehi Fard 
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning with “Substance use disorders continue to impose substantial and multidimensional burdens...”, the manuscript offers a broad and well-written overview. However, the central research problem is not yet explicitly articulated. Please add one or two sentences clearly identifying the unresolved scholarly gap that motivates the present study.

The final sentence of the Introduction — “The present study aimed to explore the role of women’s coping strategies and interaction patterns...” — is clear, but it would benefit from explicitly stating why a qualitative phenomenological design is the most suitable approach for addressing this aim.

The inclusion criterion “possessing mental health (as assessed by the researcher during counseling conversations and clinical interviews)” lacks methodological precision. Please specify the procedure or criteria used to judge participants’ mental health status.

In the paragraph beginning “In this study, data were collected using in-depth, semi-structured interviews...”, only sample questions are provided. Consider including the full interview guide in an appendix or supplemental material to enhance methodological transparency.

In the section describing the application of Diekelmann, Allen, and Tanner’s method, the manuscript states that “interpretive summaries” were generated. Please specify the exact sequence of coding and abstraction steps used in your analysis.

In the paragraph starting “To examine the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings…”, it is noted that participants reviewed extracted interpretations. Please clarify how many participants engaged in this process and at which analytic stage.

The opening paragraph of the Discussion beginning “The present qualitative findings delineated a coherent explanatory map…” is conceptually rich but very dense. Consider dividing it into two paragraphs for improved clarity and readability.

Throughout the Discussion, phrases such as “may function as relational conditions that facilitate…” occasionally imply causality. Please ensure that all claims remain consistent with the interpretive nature of qualitative research.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

In the paragraph starting “Gender-sensitive scholarship further underscores…”, the discussion of stigma and gender roles is valuable, but the connection to the study’s focal constructs (coping strategies and interaction patterns) remains implicit. This conceptual link should be made explicit.

In the section beginning “A key theoretical and empirical anchor for understanding these dyadic dynamics…”, several theoretical frameworks are introduced (emotion regulation, attachment, schemas). Please add a short integrative paragraph clarifying how these frameworks jointly inform your analytic perspective.

Immediately following Table 2, the manuscript presents themes and subthemes but does not explicitly describe how meaning units were transformed into these higher-order categories. Please add a brief explanation of this abstraction process.

The theme titled “Destructive and facilitating interaction patterns” contains a conceptual tension. Please clarify how the same interaction patterns are considered both destructive and facilitating, or revise the label for conceptual precision.

In several sections (e.g., Participant No. 9 under maladaptive internalization), quotations are presented with minimal immediate interpretation. Please strengthen analytic depth by explicitly connecting each quotation to the relevant subtheme.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.