



Phenomenological Consequences of Girls Witnessing Parental Infidelity

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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “Parental infidelity is one of the most disruptive family crises...” is strong but unsupported by regional statistics. Consider adding epidemiological or demographic data to justify the magnitude of the problem in Iran or globally.

The sample size of “a total of ten participants” is quite small for grounded theory. Provide justification for why ten was sufficient, beyond the claim of saturation, perhaps citing methodological authorities.

The narrative states, “Data saturation was reached after ten semi-structured interviews...” but no evidence is provided. Include a brief table or description of when saturation occurred (e.g., after which interview).

The category “Persistent Psychological Damages” lists “obsessive decision-making.” This concept is vague. Clarify with a direct quote from participants or a more specific psychological construct (e.g., indecisiveness, compulsive rumination).

The claim “this pervasive sense of mistrust emerged as a significant barrier to forming or maintaining healthy relationships” would benefit from direct excerpts of participants’ words to ground it in data.

The authors compare their results to Nigerian and Southeast Asian studies, but no contrasts with Iranian literature are made. Include local studies to situate the findings in Iran’s cultural context.

The section compares findings to “inter-tribal family studies” and “South Korea qualitative inquiries,” but these seem tangential. Refocus the discussion on adolescents’ experiences rather than diverse adult populations.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “These results align with observations from other cultural settings, where infidelity is associated with reduced resilience and increased emotional vulnerability...” is overly general. Specify at least one of the cited studies’ sample or method to strengthen the argument.

The objective is written as “The present study, therefore, seeks to determine the phenomenological consequences...” but it would benefit from being reframed as a research question or aim statement (e.g., “This study aimed to explore...”) for clarity.

The authors state, “This study adopted the grounded theory methodology...” but later refer to it as “phenomenological.” Clarify whether the study follows grounded theory or phenomenology, or justify the hybrid approach.

The statement “Attachment theory also provides a framework for understanding this phenomenon...” should be expanded with a short theoretical explanation rather than simply mentioned.

The link to “revenge-related family violence” seems overstated given the current data. Revise or moderate this claim to avoid overgeneralization.

The authors mention “post-traumatic growth” but do not engage with established PTG literature (e.g., Tedeschi & Calhoun). Integrating these would strengthen the theoretical grounding.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.