

Perceptions of Discipline and Punishment in Families from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract is comprehensive but could benefit from more specificity. For instance, the sentence "Cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and community norms significantly influenced these practices" could be expanded to briefly mention how these factors influenced practices differently among the various cultural backgrounds studied (Abstract).

The data analysis section describes the use of NVivo software and thematic analysis. Providing more detail on the specific steps taken during the thematic analysis, such as how codes were generated and reviewed, and the criteria for defining themes, would strengthen the rigor of the methodology (Methods and Materials, Paragraph 6, sentences 2-4).

The results section provides a broad overview of participant demographics. Including a table that breaks down the demographics by cultural background, gender, and socioeconomic status would make the data more accessible and easier to interpret (Findings and Results, Paragraph 1, sentences 1-3).

The presentation of themes in the results section could be more integrated. For instance, instead of listing themes and sub-themes, consider weaving participant quotes into a narrative that illustrates each theme more vividly (Findings and Results, Paragraph 1, sentences 4-6).

Ensure that each theme is supported by multiple quotes from different participants to highlight the diversity of perspectives. For example, the theme of "Unacceptable Disciplinary Practices" could include more varied quotes to represent different cultural views (Findings and Results, Paragraph 3, sentences 1-2).

The section on "Gender Differences in Punishment" could benefit from more detailed analysis. For instance, discuss how societal expectations specifically differ between cultures and how this affects disciplinary practices for boys versus girls (Findings and Results, Paragraph 8, sentences 1-2).

The discussion section compares findings with existing literature but could do so more explicitly. Consider adding sub-sections that systematically compare the study's results with key studies mentioned in the introduction, highlighting similarities and differences (Discussion and Conclusion, Paragraph 2, sentences 1-2).

Authors revised the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction section briefly mentions several studies, but it would be beneficial to elaborate on how the current study fills gaps in the existing literature. Specifically, more detail could be provided on what specific aspects of cultural influences on discipline are being explored that previous studies have not covered (Introduction, Paragraph 3, sentences 1-2).

The terms "discipline" and "punishment" are central to the study but are used somewhat interchangeably. A clear definition and differentiation of these terms at the beginning would help in setting a consistent framework for the readers (Introduction, Paragraph 1, sentences 2-3).

The methods section mentions that participants were recruited through community centers, cultural organizations, and social media platforms. More detail on the recruitment process, such as the specific steps taken to ensure a diverse sample and any challenges encountered, would enhance the transparency and replicability of the study (Methods and Materials, Paragraph 2, sentences 1-2).

While the semi-structured interviews were based on an interview guide developed from existing literature, it would be beneficial to include more detail about the development process of this guide, including any pre-testing or piloting conducted to refine the questions (Methods and Materials, Paragraph 3, sentences 1-2).

The practical implications of the findings for parents, educators, and policymakers are mentioned but could be expanded. Providing specific examples or case studies of how the findings could be applied in real-world settings would make this section more impactful (Discussion and Conclusion, Paragraph 6, sentences 1-2).

The limitations section acknowledges the sample size and reliance on self-reported data. Additional limitations such as potential cultural biases in self-reporting and the cross-sectional nature of the study should also be discussed to provide a more comprehensive view (Discussion and Conclusion, Paragraph 8, sentences 1-2).

The suggestions for future research are broad. Including more specific recommendations, such as exploring the long-term impacts of disciplinary practices through longitudinal studies or investigating the perspectives of children directly, would provide clearer guidance for future studies (Discussion and Conclusion, Paragraph 9, sentences 1-2).

Authors revised the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.