




Understanding and Managing Falling in Love Syndrome for Marriage Among Marriage-Seeking Youth: A Grounded Theory

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “This trend has transformed the beginning of marriage... into an experience marked by regret...” makes a strong claim. Please provide empirical support or a citation to justify the association between social comparisons and regret at the onset of marriage.

The sentence “Qualitative observations suggest that some young men and women are unable to marry...” lacks attribution. Who made these observations? Consider citing field interviews or existing qualitative work.

The line “no intervention plans have been introduced to address their problem” is too broad. Clarify whether this refers to national programs, clinical interventions, or published models in the literature.

The explanation “codes that recurred more frequently... were prioritized” suggests frequency-based coding. This approach may contradict grounded theory's emphasis on theoretical saturation over frequency. Please reconcile this.

You mention a “second literature review” after theory development. More details are needed: What was its scope? How did it refine the emerging categories?

In presenting three dimensions (nature, etiology, treatment), it would be clearer to break each into its own subsection with headings. This will improve readability and emphasize grounded theory's layered abstraction.

The article references a figure but does not include its visual structure in the body text. Ensure that the figure is legible, complete, and properly labeled. Consider integrating it more clearly into the narrative.

The line "Beliefs like 'my spouse must match my mental image...'" is compelling but anecdotal. Consider generalizing this into a broader concept such as "idealization schema" and support it with relevant literature.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The definition of "falling in love syndrome" as "a psychological condition in which a young person is unable to develop romantic or affectionate feelings..." requires citation. If this is a newly coined term, clarify that and explain its novelty.

The claim "neurochemical processes... play a key role" is accurate but would benefit from more nuanced discussion. For instance, include how these neurochemicals interact during early romantic phases and why their disruption may contribute to the syndrome.

The description "experiences they had in the counseling room" is vague. Please specify the nature of the counseling—was it private, institutional, or associated with a specific therapeutic orientation?

The authors state "preliminary interviews were conducted with several young individuals diagnosed with falling in love syndrome." Please clarify how these individuals were "diagnosed," given that the syndrome is not yet a clinical category.

The line "participants were assured of the confidentiality..." could be improved by explicitly mentioning how confidentiality was maintained (e.g., pseudonyms, password-protected files).

The claim "easy access to premarital friendships... may reduce motivational power" is speculative. Please include citations or rephrase as a hypothesis from participants' views, not a general assertion.

The statement "media subtly and pervasively shapes their choices..." needs empirical backing. Which media forms were most influential, according to participants? Social media? Television? Influencers?

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.