The Psychological Effects of Parentification in Girls within Single-Parent Families

Majid. Shamsaee[1] , Hannaneh Sadat. Hosseinimajd[2] , Aghdas. Parsa Brojeni[3] , Dorri. Ghanad Tousi[4] , Azizreza. Ghasemzadeh[5,6]*

[1] MA in Family Counseling, Department of Counseling, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran
[2] Master in Rehabilitation Counseling, Department of Psychology, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
[3] PhD in Sociology, Department of Social Studies, Farhangian University, Isfahan, Iran
[4] PhD Student in Health Psychology, Department of Psychology, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran
[5] Social Counselor, Armada Medical Centre, Dubai, UAE
[6] Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

* Corresponding author email address: aghasemzadeh@irimed.org

Editor	Reviewers
Hussein OMAR Alkhozahe Professor, Department of Sociology, Al-Balqa' Applied University, Salt, Jordan huss1960@bau.edu.com	**Reviewer 1:** Hajar Torkan Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Isfahan, Iran. h.torkan@khuisf.ac.ir **Reviewer 2:** Farhad Namjoo Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: farhadnamjoo@kmanresce.ca

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The article provides a broad description of the qualitative research design but lacks specific details on the selection criteria for participants and how theoretical saturation was confirmed. It would enhance the paper's clarity and replicability to include more detailed information about these methodological choices, such as the criteria for participant selection and the indicators used to determine theoretical saturation.

The thematic analysis process is described in a general manner. To improve transparency and rigor, the authors should describe the coding process in more detail. This includes how codes were developed, the process of theme generation, and any software tools used in the analysis. Providing examples of coding and theme development would significantly enhance the trustworthiness of the findings.

The reliance on self-reported data and the implications for bias are briefly mentioned in the limitations section. However, the discussion would benefit from a more thorough examination of how such biases were mitigated during the study, including any strategies used during data collection and analysis to enhance the credibility and validity of the findings.

The conclusion section discusses the need for targeted interventions but remains vague on specific recommendations. The paper could be strengthened by offering more concrete suggestions for educational, mental health, and community support interventions based on the findings. Examples could include school-based support programs, counseling strategies, or community resources that could directly address the challenges identified.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The findings highlight resilience as a significant theme but do not deeply explore the factors contributing to resilience among the participants. Expanding the discussion to include specific resilience factors identified in the data and how these could inform support strategies would make a valuable contribution to the literature on parentification.

The conclusion summarizes the findings but could be expanded to more clearly articulate the study's contributions to the existing body of knowledge, its limitations, and directions for future research. A stronger conclusion would reiterate the study's significance, reflect on the broader implications of the findings, and suggest specific areas where further research is needed.

The introduction provides a comprehensive overview but could be refined to more sharply focus on the study's research question and objectives. A concise summary of the study's rationale, aims, and significance at the end of the introduction section would enhance its clarity and focus.

Throughout the document, there are inconsistencies in the use of specific terms related to parentification. Standardizing the terminology used to describe the phenomena under study (e.g., defining and consistently using "parentification," "role reversal," etc.) would improve the paper's readability and precision.

The findings section identifies social support as a crucial factor in mitigating negative outcomes, but the discussion on this aspect is somewhat brief. Expanding this discussion to include how different types of social support (e.g., familial, community, institutional) impact the experiences of parentified girls could provide deeper insights.

The abstract succinctly summarizes the study but could provide a clearer overview of the methods and key findings. Revising the abstract to include specific methodological details (e.g., the number of participants, data collection method) and briefly highlighting the main themes identified would make it more informative.

While the paper mentions adherence to the Helsinki Declaration, providing more details on the ethical considerations and protections in place for the participants (especially given their minor status) would strengthen the ethical transparency of the study.

The findings section would benefit from the inclusion of more direct quotes from participants to illustrate the identified themes and subthemes. This would not only enhance the credibility of the analysis but also provide readers with a deeper understanding of the participants' experiences.

A review of the references and in-text citations for consistency and adherence to the journal's style guide is recommended. Ensuring that all cited works are included in the reference list and that all references are cited in the text will enhance the paper's scholarly rigor.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.