The Role of Social Support Systems in Enhancing Mental Health in Women Experiencing Postpartum Depression

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction could benefit from a clearer articulation of the significance of postpartum depression (PPD) in the context of Tehran. Please enhance the background information with recent statistics on PPD prevalence in Iran, as this would strengthen the rationale for your study (Paragraph 1).

Consider including demographic data in a tabular format for clarity. This would help in visualizing the characteristics of your sample more effectively, especially in terms of education and employment status (Table 1).

The qualitative analysis methodology lacks depth. Please provide details on how themes were identified and categorized, including any coding software used or team discussions that contributed to the analysis process (Paragraph 5).

When discussing coping mechanisms, it would be valuable to delve deeper into how different coping strategies correlate with participants' demographic factors (e.g., education level, age) (Paragraph 11).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the introduction, please explicitly state your research objectives. Clarifying whether you aimed to explore the impact of social support or other variables would help readers understand the focus of your study better (Paragraph 2).

The literature review section is somewhat limited in scope. Expanding this section to include a broader range of studies on postpartum depression, particularly those from the Middle East, would enhance the context and relevance of your findings (Paragraph 3).

Please elaborate on your sampling method. The description of how participants were recruited lacks detail. Providing specific inclusion and exclusion criteria would clarify the sampling strategy (Paragraph 4).

While participant quotes enrich the findings, consider providing more context for the quotes used. For example, include demographic information about the quoted participants to enhance relatability and understanding (Paragraph 6).

Some subcategories within the themes are broad and could be further specified. For instance, "Feelings of Isolation" might include specific scenarios or experiences that illustrate these feelings more vividly (Table 1).

In the discussion section, please strengthen the connection between your findings and existing literature. For example, when you mention family support, it would be beneficial to cite specific studies that align with or contradict your results (Paragraph 10).

The discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic could be expanded. Please include more detailed analysis or references to studies that document similar impacts on postpartum women in other contexts to enrich your argument (Paragraph 12).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

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