





Psychological Hardiness as a Protective Factor in Women Undergoing Reproductive Treatments

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening sentence, "Infertility, defined as the inability to conceive after one year of regular unprotected intercourse, affects millions of women worldwide and has significant psychological, social, and emotional implications," could be made more impactful by including recent global or regional statistics on infertility prevalence for context.

The inclusion criteria mention that participants must "provide informed consent." Could you elaborate on how this consent process was conducted and documented?

Consider elaborating on how themes were reviewed and validated during the six-step process. For instance, how were disagreements between coders resolved?

The finding that societal stigma affects support networks is crucial. Could you add more examples or direct quotes to illustrate this point vividly?

When discussing "professional assistance," could you elaborate on the types of psychological interventions participants found most effective? Were specific therapies mentioned?

The connection between emotional resilience and psychological hardiness is well articulated. However, the statement, "These findings align with Abubakar et al. (2020)," would benefit from more explicit linking of results to their study's outcomes.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence, "Psychological hardiness, a personality trait encompassing commitment, control, and challenge, is increasingly recognized for its role in enhancing individuals' resilience," needs a citation to support the claim of growing recognition.

You reference pronatalist policies in Iran without specific examples or evidence. Adding citations or specific laws/policies would strengthen this claim.

The sentence, "An interview guide was developed based on the study objectives," would benefit from including a brief example of the questions or themes covered.

The category "Emotional Resilience" includes "coping affirmations" as a concept. Could you clarify or provide an example of a coping affirmation shared by participants?

The phrase "I imagine myself holding my baby—it keeps me going" is a powerful quote. Consider linking this directly to relevant psychological theories or frameworks on visualization and resilience.

The sentence, "Participants valued empathetic relationships and group therapy sessions for fostering emotional connection," could be enhanced by including examples of how group therapy sessions were structured or their outcomes.

The role of spiritual practices, such as prayer, is briefly mentioned. Could you discuss the broader cultural or religious implications of these practices in Iranian society?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.