

Identifying the Psychological Mechanisms Behind Women's Reactions to Gender-Based Violence

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

There is a mention of "psychological mechanisms that influence women's reactions to GBV," but no specific theoretical framework is cited. Adding references to trauma theories, feminist psychology, or cognitive appraisal models could strengthen the argument.

The statement "many participants engaged in avoidance coping, such as emotional numbing and disengagement" lacks depth. Could you specify the situational triggers or patterns observed in avoidance behaviors?

The results highlight commonalities but do not discuss variability in responses. Did factors such as socio-economic status, education level, or family support influence psychological mechanisms?

The discussion heavily emphasizes coping strategies but does not critique whether certain coping mechanisms may be adaptive/maladaptive in the long run. A brief discussion on resilience-building approaches versus maladaptive coping strategies would be insightful.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description states that participants were chosen "using purposive sampling," but it does not explain the exact inclusion/exclusion criteria beyond age and experience with GBV. Were there other factors such as severity of violence, duration, or legal action taken?

The methods section describes thematic analysis but does not clarify how coding reliability was ensured. Did multiple researchers code the data? Was intercoder agreement checked?

The section states that "participants exhibited cognitive processing patterns like self-blame and rumination." It would be helpful to differentiate these mechanisms in relation to psychological theories, such as maladaptive cognitive schemas or learned helplessness.

The study reports that "long-term impact of GBV included social withdrawal, trust issues, and diminished self-worth." It would be beneficial to include a timeframe (e.g., months, years post-violence) to clarify what constitutes "long-term."

Some citations are used, but the discussion could better integrate findings with prior research. For example, linking self-blame to attribution theory or avoidance coping to trauma-informed models could strengthen theoretical alignment.

The discussion mentions "culturally sensitive mental health services and awareness campaigns," but it lacks details on what specific policies or interventions might be effective. Can you reference successful models from other countries?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.