

Lived Experience of Women Applying for Divorce from Marital Life with a Husband Having Cluster B Personality Disorders: A Phenomenological Study

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening paragraph effectively situates divorce within family mental health; however, it would benefit from a clearer theoretical anchoring. Consider explicitly linking this discussion to systemic family theory or relational psychopathology to strengthen the conceptual foundation.

The claim that Iran is “among the top seven countries in the world” requires either an updated citation or a brief clarification regarding the metric used (e.g., crude divorce rate, divorce-to-marriage ratio). Without clarification, the statement risks appearing overstated.

The paragraph listing hereditary, physiological, and personality traits would benefit from clearer conceptual integration. Please consider explicitly stating how personality pathology is theoretically positioned as a proximal versus distal predictor of divorce.

The subthemes closely mirror DSM-5 symptom clusters. Please clarify whether this alignment emerged inductively from data or was influenced by pre-existing diagnostic frameworks, to address potential researcher bias.

The discussion of poverty and employment is insightful, but it would benefit from clearer differentiation between disorder-related dysfunction and broader structural economic factors.

The description occasionally shifts into generalized clinical exposition. Please refocus this subsection more explicitly on participants' lived experiences, supported by quotations.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

Interviews lasting 90–120 minutes are unusually long. Please justify this duration and discuss how participant fatigue was managed to maintain data quality.

Although member checking and peer consultation are mentioned, the manuscript would benefit from explicitly framing rigor using established criteria (e.g., credibility, dependability, confirmability, transferability).

Table 1 is informative; however, the surrounding text merely restates its existence. Please add a brief analytic interpretation (e.g., implications of education level or marriage duration for lived experience).

The manuscript reports 679 initial codes in one section and 693 initial codes later. Please reconcile this discrepancy to avoid methodological confusion.

The eight subthemes are rich, but their conceptual overlap (e.g., "lack of empathy" and "one-sided life") could be clarified. Please explain how these were analytically distinguished during theme development.

Quotations are compelling; however, some paragraphs include multiple quotes without analytic commentary. Please ensure that each quote is explicitly interpreted rather than left to "speak for itself."

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.