

A Qualitative Study of Sexual Separation in Married Women


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction lacks clarity on the specific cultural context of sexual separation in Iranian society. Adding a brief overview of how cultural norms influence sexual dynamics in marriage would enhance the reader's understanding.

The rationale for choosing a descriptive phenomenological method over other qualitative methods is not sufficiently explained. Including a comparative analysis of different methods would strengthen the justification.

The seven-step Colaizzi method is listed without detail. Providing a more in-depth description of each step, with examples, would aid in understanding the analytical process.

The process of identifying significant statements is mentioned. Including examples of such statements and their corresponding formulated meanings would illustrate the coding process.

The integration of themes with existing literature is briefly noted. A more thorough discussion on how these findings align or contrast with previous studies would strengthen the discussion section.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants are not clearly defined. Clarifying whether factors like socio-economic status, education level, or duration of marriage were considered would add depth to the sampling process.

The process of conducting semi-structured interviews is briefly mentioned. Detailing the interview guide and providing examples of key questions would enhance the transparency and reproducibility of the study.

The concept of data saturation is mentioned but not explained. Describing how data saturation was determined would improve the methodological rigor.

The presentation of themes and sub-themes is clear, but the narrative could be improved by interweaving direct quotes from participants to substantiate the findings.

The development of the 'lackluster relationship' theme could be enriched by providing more contextual details about how participants described their experiences.

The 'wrong path' sub-theme is introduced but lacks depth. Including more detailed descriptions and participant quotes would provide a richer understanding.

The discussion begins to explore the implications of the findings but could benefit from a more detailed analysis of how these findings contribute to the broader field of marital satisfaction and sexual health.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.