

Explaining Disclosed Marital Infidelity in Men Based on the Inter-Systemic Model




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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Introduction, the paragraph beginning “Despite its prevalence and significance...” claims men’s disclosed infidelity is “underexplored” but does not quantify this gap. Consider citing specific prevalence or publication statistics to strengthen the argument for the study’s necessity.

The sentence “analyzed using qualitative content analysis to identify themes, categories, and systemic linkages” would benefit from more procedural detail—specify the coding steps (e.g., open, axial, selective coding), software used (if any), and procedures to ensure inter-coder reliability or trustworthiness (e.g., member checking, peer debriefing).

The first sentence of the Limitations section states “The sample consisted of only 15 men”. Consider elaborating on their demographic profile (e.g., socioeconomic status, duration of marriage) and how this homogeneity might limit transferability.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The paragraph beginning “The inter-systemic model provides a particularly suitable lens...” would benefit from a brief conceptual diagram or textual explanation of the model’s layers (individual, relational, familial, sociocultural) to ground readers unfamiliar with the framework.

The Discussion paragraph beginning “Another prominent theme was the experience of sexual dissatisfaction...” cites previous work but could more explicitly show how current findings expand or nuance existing theories, rather than only confirm them.

The Discussion does not address researcher positionality (e.g., gender of interviewers, cultural background), which can affect data interpretation in studies on sensitive topics like infidelity. Please add a brief reflexivity statement acknowledging this.

The Discussion paragraph “Such an understanding has significant implications for therapeutic interventions...” remains general. Please propose at least 2–3 specific, actionable strategies (e.g., couple therapy modules, premarital education curricula) based on your findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.