



Identifying Patterns of Role Negotiation in Blended Families and Their Effects on Cohesion and Identity


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph is strong but overly broad. It would benefit from narrowing the global framing more quickly to Iraq and Middle Eastern contexts to emphasize the study's originality.

The quotation "You are not my real mother, you can't tell me what to do" is powerful. However, more context (child's age, gender, family role) would add analytic depth and illustrate variation across participants.

The text notes "coping through faith and humor". It would be valuable to expand on how religious coping in Iraq specifically differs from other contexts, since this is a culturally distinctive finding.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While citing Kumar (2017) is useful, consider clarifying how this life-cycle model specifically informs your coding scheme or interpretation of Iraqi families, to strengthen theoretical alignment.

This paragraph leans heavily on Western literature. A stronger bridge is needed to explain how these behaviors might manifest differently in collectivist Iraqi culture.

The research question is implied but not explicitly formulated. Consider adding a clear research question or aim in a single sentence (e.g., “This study asked: How do blended families in Iraq negotiate roles, and how do these negotiations affect cohesion and identity?”).

The quote “In our culture, girls must help in the kitchen” could be enriched by linking directly to broader gender norms in Iraqi society, rather than presenting only as individual family conflict.

While the link to Ganong et al. (2019) is appropriate, add more comparison with Middle Eastern literature (e.g., Navabinejad et al., 2024) to strengthen the regional contribution.

The manuscript cites Vaezi et al. (2024) on capitalist systems, which seems somewhat tangential. Clarify explicitly how this macro-level perspective relates to Iraqi blended families.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.