




## Prioritizing Emotional Climate Factors in Families with Adolescent Anxiety

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening paragraph effectively defines the construct but lacks a conceptual linkage to the theoretical framework used (e.g., Family Systems Theory or the Ecological Model). Clarifying this theoretical anchor would improve coherence and academic rigor.

The paragraph provides a rich literature base but would benefit from a critical synthesis rather than listing. The authors could explicitly contrast findings across cultural or methodological boundaries to highlight existing research gaps.

The explanation of keyword selection and inclusion/exclusion criteria is insufficient. Please specify the number of databases searched, years covered, and the PRISMA flow or equivalent process for inclusion.

The article would benefit from reporting psychometric properties of the developed questionnaire (e.g., Cronbach's  $\alpha$ , KMO, or Bartlett's test) to demonstrate reliability and validity.

Although NVivo is mentioned, inter-coder reliability is not reported. Please specify whether Cohen's kappa or other reliability indices were calculated to ensure credibility of the thematic coding.

The table clearly presents ranks, but the manuscript should include standard deviations or confidence intervals for mean rank scores. This would give a clearer indication of variability across participants.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement “Parents struggling with anxiety or depression frequently transmit their emotional instability to children” needs stronger empirical backing. Please cite specific longitudinal or meta-analytic studies demonstrating causal transmission rather than correlation.

The aim statement is appropriate but should include the methodological strategy and the country context (Kenya) explicitly, as this contextual element is central to interpretation and generalizability.

The description of the qualitative phase mentions “systematic literature review until theoretical saturation.” This phrasing may be methodologically confusing because theoretical saturation typically applies to empirical data, not literature reviews. Clarify whether content analysis or meta-synthesis procedures were applied.

It is unclear whether post-hoc pairwise comparisons were conducted after the Friedman test. Reporting these would clarify which specific emotional climate factors differed significantly in priority ranking.

Table 1 is comprehensive but dense. Consider summarizing the number of open codes per subtheme or including frequency counts to enhance interpretive depth and show data saturation evidence.

This paragraph thoroughly explains the theme, but it would benefit from including one or two representative quotations from the reviewed studies or a synthesized conceptual model to support interpretation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.