

Exploring Hope and Future Orientation in Adolescents from Low-Income Communities

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “early school dropout, and engagement in risk behaviors” could be more detailed. Please define what specific risk behaviors are referred to here, as this term is broad and culturally variable.

While you report basic demographics, it would improve transparency to include a brief table summarizing participants’ educational and family statuses to supplement the text.

In the sentence “One participant noted, ‘Even when things are hard at home...’” please indicate the participant’s gender and age range to provide deeper context for interpretation of resilience.

The subtheme “Gender Constraints” is insightful, but the example “My brother can go out and study...” would be enriched by more detailed elaboration on how cultural expectations are enforced or negotiated.

The category “Lack of Role Models” lacks discussion of media figures or virtual role models, which may be relevant. Consider asking if adolescents referred to influencers, celebrities, or online figures as aspirational.

The subtheme “Migration Aspirations” would benefit from further analysis. Please discuss whether this aspiration is realistic given the participants’ circumstances, or whether it serves as an emotional escape.

The sentence “Me and my best friend talk about our dreams...” is very evocative. Consider expanding on how peer dialogue fosters collective resilience or mutual goal setting.

The term “aspirational dissonance” is well-used but underexplored. Please cite relevant psychological or sociological models (e.g., theory of possible selves) to support this concept.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the sentence “From a developmental standpoint, adolescence is also a time when cognitive capacities...,” it would strengthen the argument to include neurodevelopmental research supporting the maturation of hypothetical thinking during adolescence.

The research questions are well-structured but could be presented more explicitly as bullet points to enhance clarity and direct alignment with the findings section.

You mention that interviews were conducted in Urdu and transcribed verbatim. Please clarify who performed the translation and whether back-translation or intercoder reliability methods were used to ensure fidelity in meaning.

The sentence “Credibility and trustworthiness of the findings were ensured through peer debriefing, member checks...” would be more scientifically rigorous if you detailed the number of member checks performed and how discrepancies were handled.

“This study adds to existing evidence by illustrating how psychological hope operates...” would be more convincing with a specific quote or cross-reference to the participants’ descriptions of hope as an active strategy.

When discussing gender-based restrictions, the article would benefit from acknowledging the intersectionality of gender and religion or gender and rurality, which may further compound barriers.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.