

Ranking Internalized Beliefs Contributing to Body Image Dissatisfaction


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R e v i e w e r s

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph is conceptually strong but would benefit from integrating a theoretical framework (e.g., the Tripartite Influence Model or Objectification Theory) earlier to anchor the reader.

The authors discuss social media effects thoroughly, but they should clarify whether this study's participants were active users and how social media engagement may have moderated belief internalization.

The sampling strategy ("purposive and convenience sampling") could introduce bias. A paragraph clarifying how representativeness was maintained and whether demographic distributions align with Malaysia's national statistics is recommended.

Please specify how many items per theme were included and report an example item for each domain. Without this, reproducibility and face validity are difficult to assess.

The manuscript should describe inter-coder reliability or agreement indices (e.g., Cohen's Kappa) to validate coding consistency between researchers.

Thematic elaboration is comprehensive but should include frequency counts or coding percentages for each theme to show their relative weight in the qualitative phase before quantitative ranking.

Authors should provide post-hoc test results following the Friedman test to identify which pairs of belief domains significantly differ. This will strengthen inferential rigor.

The statement “participants view consumerist messages as external influences” is interpretive; evidence (e.g., mean Likert scores, qualitative examples) should be presented to justify this conclusion.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The integration of neurocognitive and perceptual literature is impressive, yet it digresses from the main behavioral focus. Consider tightening this discussion or linking it more directly to belief internalization rather than perceptual distortion.

The aim is clearly stated but should also include a hypothesis or research question, e.g., “It was hypothesized that socio-cultural appearance ideals would rank highest among internalized beliefs.”

The sequential design is sound, but authors should justify why literature synthesis (rather than interviews or focus groups) was used for qualitative data. This limits ecological validity and should be acknowledged explicitly.

The figure is referenced but not described. Include exact χ^2 (df) values, p-values, and perhaps a short interpretation (e.g., “Figure 1 visually demonstrates the dominance of sociocultural ideals and appearance-based self-worth”).

The authors restate results clearly but should add theoretical implications, explaining how their ranking supports or refines existing body image models.

This section blends results and literature review. Strengthen the analytic depth by linking findings to schema maintenance processes or cognitive-behavioral reinforcement loops.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.