




Relational and Intrapersonal Factors Driving Women's Engagement in High-Risk Relationships

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the sentence "...remains an underexplored but urgent priority...", provide a citation supporting this claim of underexploration. This will ground the urgency in empirical or policy-based evidence.

The sentence "Relational trauma, often beginning in childhood or adolescence, can perpetuate cycles of victimization..." may benefit from a more precise operational definition or examples of "relational trauma" to guide reader understanding.

In "maximum variation sampling to reflect diversity...", include details on how variation was assessed or measured (e.g., age ranges, urban/rural status) to enhance transparency and replicability.

The statement "Reflexivity was also maintained..." needs elaboration. Did the authors keep reflexive journals, conduct bracketing interviews, or engage in positionality statements? Specify how reflexivity was practiced and documented.

Mention if the interview guide was pilot-tested or reviewed by experts before use. This adds credibility to the data collection tool's validity.

While the demographics are informative, the employment status breakdown (e.g., "13 were unemployed or homemakers") should clarify how "homemakers" were defined and whether unpaid domestic work was recognized as labor.

This section would benefit from specifying whether informed consent or ethical safeguards were in place for addressing participants' potential trauma disclosure during interviews. This is especially important given the sensitive nature of the content.

In “This romanticized endurance, often framed as loyalty...”, consider referencing cognitive dissonance theory or trauma bonding literature to deepen the theoretical analysis of why women persist in harmful dynamics.

The sentence “remaining in a high-risk relationship may be perceived as the lesser of two threats...” is conceptually strong. Consider citing additional literature on constrained agency or bounded rationality in IPV contexts.

The finding “In my town, you only go if you're crazy” (Findings section) is echoed in the discussion. It may be useful to include literature on help-seeking behaviors among rural women or cultural stigma in Latin America.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “Gaslighting, manipulation, and jealousy may initially be interpreted as signs of care...” is crucial. Please consider citing additional cross-cultural research or meta-analyses that support this interpretation bias across cultural groups.

You state: “...remain a critical gap in contextualizing these patterns within specific sociocultural environments.” Please elaborate on why Mexico, in particular, presents a unique case beyond traditional gender norms—perhaps noting national IPV statistics or structural inequalities.

Some open codes under “Hope for Redemption” and “Idealization of Partner” appear conceptually overlapping. Consider clarifying distinctions, possibly by providing representative quotes that exemplify their difference.

The quote “Even when I hated him, the idea of being without him made me panic” is powerful. Consider following it with brief analytic commentary to reinforce the subtheme’s interpretive strength.

The subtheme “Manipulative Control Tactics” includes “love bombing,” a concept that may be unfamiliar to some readers. Please define or explain it briefly in context.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.