

Peer Review

Review of: "Social Class, Gender and Psychological Distress in Mumbai: Risk and Protective Factors"

Hany Akeel Al-hussaniy¹

1. University of Baghdad, Iraq

This study provides a valuable and contextually rich examination of psychological distress in Mumbai using an intersectional framework of social class and gender, supported by a relatively large community sample and a multidimensional assessment of distress using GHQ-28 subscales. The findings highlighting stress and perceived health as consistent predictors across distress domains, along with the identification of protective psychological variables such as hope and positive emotional style, contribute meaningfully to understanding mental health vulnerabilities in urban low- and middle-income settings. However, the cross-sectional design limits causal inference, and methodological concerns—including differences in sampling strategies between socioeconomic groups, reliance on self-reported measures, and relatively low internal reliability of some scales (e.g., Positive Emotional Style and short PSS)—may affect robustness and comparability. Additionally, the use of snowball sampling for the middle-income group introduces potential selection bias. Despite these limitations, the study offers important sociocultural insights and highlights the need for gender-sensitive, community-based mental health interventions, particularly addressing stress, health perception, and socio-economic inequalities in rapidly urbanizing populations.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.