

Review of: ""There Are Challenging Cases for Us": A Qualitative Study of Cypriot Midwives' Experiences Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Manuscript Title: "There Are Challenging Cases for Us": A Qualitative Study of Cypriot

Midwives' Experiences Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence

During Pregnancy

Qeios ID: GLV7WC

General Comments

1. The manuscript deals with lived experiences of Cypriot midwives investigating incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) during pregnancy.

Overall, the manuscript is technically sound, scientifically valid, and has an appreciable degree of novelty.

1. The abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussions, and conclusion are formatted in a logical manner.
3. Notwithstanding, the manuscript can be further improved.

Specific Comments/Revisions Required

The Manuscript Title

1. I personally find the title a bit problematic or confusing and think it can be recast to make it clearer. I suggest the title is revised to read: *"There are Challenging Cases for Us": Experiences of Cypriot Midwives Investigating Incidents of Intimate Partner Violence – A Qualitative Study*

Abstract

2. Under the results line 1: Instead of *"categories"*, *"themes"* would have been more appropriate. Moreover, instead of listing the themes, it could have been simply stated: "Five themes and thirteen subthemes emerged from the analysis"

of the interviews". The midwives described their.....

3. Last but one line under results: "*mentioned*" should be "*suggested*".

Introduction/Background

4. Not much information was given in the introduction to show that intimate partner violence is a problem in Cyprus. You can give a brief picture of IPV from the world perspective, Europe/Asia, and narrow it down to Cyprus to enrich the introduction.
5. Are there any reasons why IPV increases during pregnancy and postpartum periods? It is important to throw a little light on that.

Materials and Methods

6. The section captioned "*Methods*" should be "*Materials and Methods*", which is widely accepted by many journals.
7. **Table 1**: Under the section experiences, please check the spelling of the word "*incidents*" and write it correctly.
8. **Table 1**: Please check and correctly write "*challenges*". The section should be: "*Challenges and barriers*". Moreover, under challenges and barriers, the first question can be revised as: "*What are some of the challenges or difficulties you face when investigating cases of domestic violence?*"
9. **Table 1 question 5**: Should be properly reframed. I suggest you write: "*What are some of the things you think could help you deal with cases of domestic violence?*" **Believe** is not appropriate in this context.

Data Collection

10. Last but one sentence: Which times are considered convenient? You can probably say, *Interviews were conducted at the times convenient to the respondents and.....*"

Analysis

11. Line 1: Should be "The data analysis involved **all the** four researchers".
12. Line 4: Should be: "*All **the** authors (.....) were involved in all **the** stages of the analysis*"
13. Line 8: "*All the interviews were meticulously..... to ensure **that***"
14. Line 10: Second sentence: "*All **the** data.....*"

Demographics

...

15. The first sentence under this section is not clear. Please revise. "*Two of the fourteen midwives....., while the other fourteen....., with just one...*"
16. Line 2: Second sentence: "*The participants' ages **ranged** from....*"
17. Last sentence: Please add the standard deviation to read "***15.53 ± x years***".
18. Is it by accident or coincident that one of the respondents was a male? With almost all the respondents being

predominantly female, are you sure the judgment of this male respondent on domestic violence will be the same as those of the female counterparts?

19. The following revisions could be made to Table 2. The columns with the heading:

- i. Sex: Should be F (for female) and M (for male);
- ii. Educational level: Just write **First Degree**, **Master's**, and **Postgraduate Diploma** and remove all the “degree” therein;
- iii. Workplace: Please remove all the “sector”;
- iv. Department: Please remove all the “Unit” from the table since they are repetitions.

Ethics Approval

This section is okay.

Results

20. Line 4, page 6 can be reframed as: *“Four themes emerged from the analysis of the interviews, which further gave rise to fourteen subthemes”*.
21. The word “**ambiguous**” used in **theme two** should be replaced with a much more suitable word because it is not conveying the intended meaning in this context. I think words like “*unconventional*”, “*non-standard*”, or “*inappropriate*” would be better.
22. Furthermore, **subtheme one** under *theme three* should be “**poor cooperation**” instead of “*bad cooperation*”.
23. Page 7: The statement by M6 should be:**the women**” do not.... instead of “**the girls**” do not....
24. Page 7: “The denial of the victim..... And frequently **lead** to.... (not ‘**led**’).
25. Page 8: Replace **ambiguous** with an appropriate word.
26. Page 10: Please check the pronouns in the statement ascribed to M15. I think it should be **she** instead of **he**.

Discussion

27. The discussion is quite okay, but it would have been better if it were done according to the major themes and related to those from other studies.
28. Page 12, line 25:.....”**with respect for**” should be revised to read “**with respect to**”

Conclusions

20. “**Conclusion**” should be “**Conclusions**”.
30. Conclusions were consistent with findings from the study.

Recommendations:

31. Dealing with intimate partner violence without the involvement of the perpetrators will not yield desired results. A way should be found to involve the perpetrators to help curb the incidence. I think this should be one of the study’s recommendations.

References

Reference No. 3: Incomplete reference. Please provide the URL and the date the information was retrieved if possible.

Reference No. 8: Incomplete reference. Please provide the URL and the date the information was retrieved.

Reference No. 9: Incomplete reference. Please provide the URL and the date the information was retrieved.

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