Review of: "Exploring the link between Smartphone Use, Violence, and Social Sharing in 50 case studies"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

While the research topics effectively summarizes the key findings and highlights the significance of the research, there are certain aspects that warrant further attention for a more comprehensive and actionable closing statement.

1. Introduction:

To further enhance the introduction, you may consider:

- Providing a concise outline of the paper to help readers navigate the upcoming sections. So do consider dividing your article into sections with subheadings.
- Expanding on the potential societal implications of smartphone-mediated violence to underscore the importance of the study.

2. Methodology:

To further enhance your methodology, you may consider:

- **Ethical Considerations**: Addressing ethical considerations related to data collection is essential, especially when dealing with sensitive topics such as violence. The methodology section should discuss how you ensured ethical practices during data collection, including issues related to informed consent, privacy, and the potential harm that may arise from researching violent incidents. A lack of attention to ethical considerations can weaken the ethical foundation of your study.
- **Data Source Selection**: While you mention using major Italian newspapers as data sources, it would be beneficial to briefly discuss why you chose these particular sources. What criteria did you use to select these newspapers, and how might this choice impact the generalizability of your findings? Discussing the strengths and limitations of your data source selection can add depth to your methodology.
- **Search Strategy and Keywords**: Provide some additional context regarding the specific search strategy you employed. For example, did you use Boolean operators (AND, OR) in your search queries, and how did you ensure comprehensive coverage of relevant cases? A more detailed explanation of your search strategy can help other researchers replicate your approach.
- **Data Validation and Reliability**: Mention how you ensured the validity and reliability of the data collected. Were there

any steps taken to verify the accuracy of the information reported in the newspapers? Addressing data validation measures can enhance the trustworthiness of your findings.

- **Data Analysis Plan**: While the "Methods" section outlines data collection, it does not provide details on how you plan to analyze the collected data. Briefly mentioning the analytical techniques or methods you intend to use in subsequent sections of the paper would provide clarity on the overall research process.

3. Results:

You present a comprehensive list of 50 case studies involving the use of smartphones in various acts of violence and harassment in Italy. You discuss the types of violence, the roles of smartphones, and the motivations behind smartphone use in these incidents. While the section is informative and highlights the disturbing nature of these events, some weak points could be improved:

- **Organization and Clarity**: The section contains a substantial amount of information presented in a tabular format. To improve clarity, consider breaking down the information into subsections or categories based on the type of violence or motivations behind smartphone use. This would make it easier for readers to navigate the content and identify patterns.
- **Data Analysis and Interpretation**: The section primarily presents descriptive information about the cases. To enhance the scientific rigor of the review, consider conducting a more in-depth analysis of the data. For example, you could explore trends, commonalities, or variations in the use of smartphones across different types of violence or demographic factors of the individuals involved. This would provide more meaningful insights.
- **Citations and References**: If you are drawing upon existing research or literature to support your analysis or provide context, it's important to include proper citations and references. This enhances the credibility of your review and allows readers to explore related studies.
- **Discussion of Implications**: While you describe the cases and motivations behind smartphone use, it would be beneficial to discuss the broader implications of these findings. How might these incidents impact individuals, society, or technology use? What preventive measures or interventions could be considered in light of these cases?
- **Ethical Considerations**: Given the sensitive nature of the content, it's crucial to address ethical considerations. Discuss how the privacy and consent of individuals involved in these cases were handled, especially when sharing specific details of these incidents. Additionally, consider the ethical implications of sharing potentially disturbing content in a scientific review.
- **Future Directions**: Conclude the section by suggesting potential areas for future research or investigation. Are there gaps in the current understanding of smartphone-related violence that warrant further exploration? Identifying these gaps can guide future studies in this field.
- **Visual Aids**: While you provide a table summarizing the cases, consider using visual aids such as charts or graphs to illustrate trends or patterns in the data. Visual representations can enhance the reader's understanding and engagement.

4. Discussion:

Areas for Further Improvement:

- Clarity in Research Methodology: The discussion mentions the analysis of 50 recent cases of violence but lacks clarity regarding the methodology employed. A detailed explanation of case selection, assessment criteria, and data analysis would enhance the study's transparency and reproducibility.

- Causality vs. Correlation: While the discussion acknowledges that smartphone use is not the primary cause of violence, at times, the language used implies a stronger causal link than intended. The nature of this relationship should be clarified to avoid the overgeneralization.

- Cultural Sensitivity: The discussion should pay closer attention to cultural and contextual factors influencing smartphone-mediated violence. Variations across regions and demographics can significantly impact both the incidence and perception of such incidents. Addressing these differences would enhance the discussion's depth.

- Incorporation of Empirical Evidence: While the discussion relies on existing literature, it would benefit from incorporating empirical evidence and statistical analysis where applicable. Data-driven insights can strengthen the discussion's claims and provide a more robust foundation for assertions.

- Practical Recommendations: To make a more substantial contribution to the field, the discussion could offer specific recommendations for intervention and prevention. Detailing how authorities and individuals can responsibly use smartphones to mitigate violence would increase the discussion's practical relevance.

5. Conclusions:

Areas for Further Improvement:

- Explicit Addressing of Limitations: While the limitations of the study are mentioned, the conclusion could benefit from a more explicit discussion of how these limitations might affect the generalizability of the findings. Readers should have a clearer understanding of the study's boundaries.

- Concrete Actionable Recommendations: To enhance the conclusion's practical relevance, it would be valuable to include specific, actionable recommendations for addressing and preventing smartphone-mediated violence. These recommendations could encompass educational initiatives, policy changes, and awareness campaigns.

- Expansion of the Call to Action: While the call to action is potent, expanding on the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in more detail would provide a clearer roadmap for addressing the issue. How can society, institutions, and individuals collaborate effectively?

- Incorporation of Future Research Directions: To encourage further research in the field, the conclusion could suggest potential avenues for future investigations. Identifying gaps in knowledge and proposing research questions could inspire continued exploration of this critical issue.