

Review of: "Conceptualizing Toxic Positivity: A Scoping Review Protocol"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I see that you're trying to understand toxic positivity in the context of COVID-19. You further extend to mention how this review will answer questions like what toxic positivity is, the dimensions, antecedents, and consequences that come along with this concept. However, toxic positivity is itself an independent concept with its own components which can change in the context of COVID-19, which eventually locked people inside, and people were going through cognitive and affective overload. Since positivity is a part of affective control, it will anyway be affected. It is a situation of mass hysteria while everyone is panicked. For example, if you want to study hypochondriac behavior among people during COVID-19, you'll find an increased trend, which is an outcome of affective overload; it can stem from recent live events, constant fear of disease, or suppression of negative emotions. This, however, will not reflect the concept, features, and dimensions of hypochondriac behavior in general. Similarly, toxic positivity is found in many contexts and in many social situations; COVID-19 is one of them. But studying the concept in a particular context will only provide a biased understanding of the concept and will be confounded by many other human and affective variables which are otherwise not relevant. So, my question is why there is a need to study toxic positivity in the context of COVID-19. I think it is important to conduct a study where the variations in toxic positivity can be captured across people with a profiling of their affective states.

Secondly, I feel there is a lack of defined research hypotheses. We already have various definitions of toxic positivity (some of which you have also referenced) and proposed components of it. Why do we need another new definition for it, and if so, how will that definition be neutral if only a particular context (COVID-19, in this case) is considered?

Third, have you looked into aging literature? It is neurologically established that in the aging population, there is a positivity bias. So, if the studies selected for this review include papers that have no control for age groups, then age can contribute as a factor that may have contributed as a source of a higher trend toward toxic positivity. So, please have a look into that.

I find the topic of work very intriguing. But a bit more specification of the gaps in existing literature, a clear reasoning for the research hypotheses, strict inclusion and exclusion criteria for the papers selected to be reviewed, and a detailed explanation of the approach taken towards data are required. In general, my questions to you are,

- Can you provide examples of how toxic positivity manifests in different contexts beyond COVID-19 to clarify your point?
- Can you suggest specific research hypotheses or questions that the authors should consider to address the gaps you

mentioned?

- Can you suggest specific criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of papers to ensure a balanced view of toxic positivity across different contexts?
- What specific gaps in the existing literature do you think should be addressed, and how can the authors better articulate these gaps in their review?