

# 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.

The research paper titled " Exploring the link between Smartphone Use, Violence, and Social Sharing in 50 Case Studies" presents a comprehensive and deeply concerning analysis of the increasing prevalence of violence recorded and shared through smartphones in the digital age. This study addresses a critical issue that has become increasingly prominent in our technologically interconnected world.

The methodology employed in this research, cross-referencing 50 episodes of violence accompanied by smartphone-recorded videos, offers a valuable perspective on the nexus between smartphone usage and the perpetration of violence. The findings indeed reveal a troubling trend where smartphones are used not only to document acts of violence but also to amplify their reach through social media sharing. This insight serves as a wake-up call to society, underlining the pressing need to understand and address this issue.

One of the strengths of this research is its focus on real-life cases in Italy, which helps shed light on a specific regional context while also highlighting the global nature of the problem. The detailed descriptions of incidents involving various forms of violence, such as sexual assault, bullying, and harassment, paint a stark picture of the challenges faced by individuals in today's digital landscape.

Furthermore, the research identifies three primary motivations behind smartphone-mediated violence: disclosure and virality, intimacy or blackmail, and the desire for popularity. These motivations provide crucial insights into the complex dynamics driving these incidents, helping to inform potential interventions and preventive measures.

The implications of this study are profound. It underscores the urgency of addressing smartphone-related violence and the need for collective efforts from society, technology companies, and law enforcement agencies to curb its spread. The call for further research and the development of tools to detect and address violence-related issues in the digital space is particularly pertinent.

## Weaknesses of the Research:

**Limited Scope:** The study focuses solely on Italy, which may limit the generalizability of its findings to a broader global context.

**Lack of Quantitative Data:** While qualitative analysis is valuable, quantitative data could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the prevalence and patterns of smartphone-mediated violence.

**Ethical Considerations:** The research raises ethical concerns regarding the detailed descriptions of violent incidents, potentially re-traumatising victims or glorifying perpetrators.

**Causation vs. Correlation:** The study identifies a link between smartphone usage and violence but does not establish causation, leaving room for alternative explanations for the observed trends.

Overall, while the research sheds light on an important issue, it would benefit from a more extensive and diverse dataset, quantitative analysis, and careful ethical considerations in future studies.