




The Psychosomatic Effects of Childhood Trauma: Insights from Adult Survivors

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the paper mentions the use of purposive and snowball sampling, more detailed information about the specific criteria used to define childhood trauma in the context of this study would enhance clarity. For instance, detailing the types of trauma considered (e.g., physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect) and any thresholds for severity or duration could be helpful.

The discussion would benefit from a more detailed comparison with existing literature, particularly focusing on how the findings align with or diverge from previous studies on psychosomatic effects and coping mechanisms. Highlighting unique insights gained from this study could emphasize its contribution to the field.

Providing more details about the interview guide (e.g., sample questions) and the process of thematic analysis (e.g., coding framework and inter-rater reliability) would increase the study's methodological transparency and reproducibility.

The paper could discuss limitations related to potential biases more thoroughly, including interviewer bias and the impact of participants' current psychological state on their recollections of childhood experiences and their reported psychosomatic effects.

Expanding the suggestions for future research to include studies on intervention effectiveness, particularly those that address the complex interplay between emotional, physical, and psychological well-being in trauma survivors, could be valuable.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The study would benefit significantly from a more robust theoretical framework that integrates existing theories on trauma and psychosomatic effects. This could include discussing how the findings relate to established models of trauma's impact on physical health, such as the biopsychosocial model or the concept of embodiment in trauma studies.

The analysis of coping mechanisms appears somewhat surface-level. A deeper investigation into how these mechanisms are developed, their effectiveness over time, and their interaction with the psychosomatic effects identified would add depth to the study. It could be valuable to differentiate between short-term coping strategies and long-term resilience-building practices.

The study's limitations need a more critical examination. This includes a discussion of the potential impact of recall bias on the findings, the limitations inherent in the qualitative method (e.g., the subjectivity of thematic analysis), and the challenge of generalizing from a small, self-selected sample.

To strengthen the study's contribution, incorporating a comparative analysis with individuals who have not experienced childhood trauma could provide a clearer picture of the unique psychosomatic effects of such trauma. This would require revising the study design to include a control or comparison group, which could significantly enhance the findings' impact.

The paper would benefit from a more detailed discussion regarding the implications of the findings for developing interventions. This should include a discussion on the types of support systems, therapeutic approaches, and healthcare interventions that could address the complex needs of trauma survivors, informed by the specific themes identified in the research.

The introduction and literature review sections could be expanded to provide a more comprehensive overview of the current state of research in the field. This would set a stronger foundation for the study and help situate its contributions within the broader academic discourse on childhood trauma and psychosomatic effects.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.