

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JESBS_128902
Title of the Manuscript:	Lived experiences of urban unmarried adults in online romantic relationships: Their meaning making of intimacy, passion and commitment
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

#### **General guidelines for the Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

<https://r1.reviewerhub.org/general-editorial-policy/>

#### **Important Policies Regarding Peer Review**

Peer review Comments Approval Policy: <https://r1.reviewerhub.org/peer-review-comments-approval-policy/> Benefits for Reviewers: <https://r1.reviewerhub.org/benefits-for-reviewers>

[Review Form 3](#)

**PART 1: Comments**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's Feedback</b> <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b>	<b>The manuscript is based on understanding the components of love among young adults who started their relationships through online platforms. Considering the changing scenarios and technological advancements and increasing usage of social networking sites, such dynamics of relationships do exist in the social structure. A comprehensive exploration of these components as influenced by use of online platforms may provide potential platform to understand the factors affecting love and relationships in contemporary times. Thus, the objective of the study seems to be apt.</b>	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	<b>The title says online romantic relationships but the paper has studied relationships of the people initiated by use of online platforms. The people have been interviewed in physical mode/offline manner.</b>	

**Review Form 3**

<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The word limit of abstract falls within the required word limit as per APA format. However, in abstract, it is mentioned that purposive and snowball sampling methods were employed but how these two non- probability sampling techniques were employed, is not mentioned clearly in the whole research study. The exclusion inclusion criteria have not been specified in the study.</p> <p>Sample size is not mentioned in abstract and the criteria for sample selection to mark its representativeness of population is also not mentioned.</p> <p>Abstract is not written as per IMRAD format. The method (M) explaining details of data collection method has not been specified.</p> <p>As the sample is between 25-49 years of age group, the means age is not mentioned.</p> <p>There are various factors influencing relationships between the age group (25-49 years), which have not been mentioned as to how they were taken care of in the study.</p>	
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p><b><u>Note: The information mentioned withing quotes is taken from the article to explain the point.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Introduction:</u></b> The variables of passion, commitment and intimacy have not been introduced or reviewed in this section. It has been mentioned as part of current study but the review seems to be incomplete regrading how these factors vary or get influenced across age, gender, ethnicity or other related variables.</p> <p>It is mentioned “cultural and individual differences can significantly influence how these components are experienced and prioritised in relationships”. However, these factors do not seem to have been considered while carrying this research.</p> <p><b><u>Methodology:</u></b> In this section, research design of the study has not been mentioned.</p> <p>The sample related discrepancies have already been mentioned in the upper section.</p> <p>Inclusion/ exclusion criteria have not been specified.</p> <p><b><u>Data collection procedures:</u></b></p> <p>“The author adapted semi-structured interview questions”. It is not specified which areas were considered while making questions for carrying out the interviews, how the interviews were carried out. “The interview questions that were posed to the study participants were on a) differences in the meaning of intimacy, passion and commitment between their current online romantic relationships and previous relationships that started offline, b) their beliefs of intimacy, passion and commitment and how they were formed, and c) the meanings they attached to intimacy, passion and commitment based on their current online romantic relationship”. regarding this, there is no information about the statements, pilot study done to check the validity of interview guide, cross interviewer viewpoints regarding data collection procedures. There is no mention about qualitative study from the beginning to the end of the study. As qualitative studies are subjective in nature, there must be some inter-interviewer viewpoints to cross check the validation of statements, their uniformity of meaning across interviewees.</p> <p>The method of interview follows three stages of preparations namely pre-interview (interview guide), during the interview (conduction and recording) and post interview (transcription and analysis). Interview guide has not been attached as appendix and no information is given in the article regarding how it has been prepared. During conduction, there is no mention about interviews being conducted in online/offline manner. Post interview, which method of transcription was adopted, any software was used or not for data analysis is not clearly mentioned.</p>	

**Review Form 3**

	<p><b>Data analysis</b> In the analysis "I transcribed each interview, read the answers to the specific questions, identified keywords based on the research questions which amounted to initial codes, went through the codes to form phrases and sentences that emerge to form themes. This process was repeated multiple times until the overarching final themes were identified. The data were recorded in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and then relevant texts were extracted and documented. In order to provide coherent information for presenting the findings and their implications, emerging themes were delineated and compared with the existing literature." The above information within quotes highlights that no expert opinions have been considered for data analysis procedures.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The results section in qualitative studies is mentioned as findings so this section is labelled incorrectly. Wide age gap has been considered for sample of the study. The dynamics of relationships across these age groups change thus, making the findings of the study unreliable from those angles which might have been confounding variables. The mean age of the participants is not mentioned.</p> <p>The themes that have been mentioned as outcome of the study are based on subjective evaluation of few participated selected based on non-probability sampling techniques. From the selection criteria of participants to data analysis procedures, a lot of subjectivity is getting reflected. A robust screening method, a systematic qualitative data collection and data analysis procedure is not getting reflected in the article.</p> <p>As the author has carried out this research in a specific country, there is no explanation about how these factors exist or have been studied over the globe.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>The references have not been written in APA format. The alphabetical order for writing references has not been followed in the references section.</p>	
<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language of the article is correct.</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p>Gender specifications have not been mentioned in the study. Gilligan proposed that women come to prioritize an "ethics of care" as their sense of morality evolves along with their sense of self while men prioritize an "ethics of justice." Thus, gender differences make a difference while studying love and relationships. However, this aspect has not been discussed or considered in the article.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

**Reviewer Details:**

Name:	Daisy Sharma
Department, University & Country	Keshav Mahavidyalaya, University Of Delhi, India