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| **Comment** | **Response** | **Pg. No where change was made** |
| **Reviewer A:** |  |  |
| Prior to testing the scale among a larger sample, a pilot study with n =14  participants was conducted, as recommended Aday and Cornelis (2006) and  Martinez et al. (2008).  What was the profile of these 14 participants and why was their feedback  taken so seriously? Especially the comment' negative towards men' What was  the language before and what was it changed to? | Thank you for this comment. Of the 14 participants, 9 identified as female and 5 identified as male. In terms of the participant country, 5 were from Canada, 2 from Australia, 5 from the United Kingdom and 2 from Poland. 12 of the 14 participants were Indians, 1 was Pakistani and 1 Maldivian. The religious composition of the participants indicated that 8 practiced Hinduism, 1 practiced Sikhism, 1 Islam and 4 preferred not to answer the question.  These participants were South Asian community members who were selected since they would potentially be similar to the South Asians taking the survey when administered with U.S. only participants. Getting their feedback allowed for the inclusion of questions that made most sense for the participants while sharing their perceptions of domestic violence. Pilot testing the survey questions with this group of participants allowed researchers the opportunity to include language/questions that would be used in the main study and determine which were most helpful (and made most sense) for participants’ in terms of their domestic violence perceptions. By pilot testing the survey, researchers were also able to ensure that the questions were culturally responsive to the South Asian community in regard to domestic violence. Researchers in the past have opined that culturally unresponsive instruments can discourage participation ([White et al., 2013](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11199-012-0237-0); [Agha & Rai, 2020](http://www.profdevjournal.org/articles/231027.pdf)). Therefore, by engaging with the community prior to rolling out the main study, researchers ensured cultural adaptation of the survey questions and instruments.  Based on the main feedback to neutralize the study questions, language that insinuated blame on men was eliminated. For example, the prompt “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ causes a man to use violence on his wife” was changed to “\_\_\_\_\_\_causes an individual to use violence on their spouse/partner” for an entire section of sub questions. Similar changes were made throughout the survey to ensure that neutral language was employed, and blame was not attributed to a specific gender. While sharing feedback, male participants qualitatively shared reflections about the problematic nature of the questions that automatically assumed men as perpetrators without even collecting data. Therefore, to invite all study participants (male and female) in the same way without biases and preconceived notions, neutralizing the survey language was imperative.  We have added some information about the pilot study participants and the process of question(s) modification in the revised manuscript along with the type of feedback received. To adhere to the page limitation guidelines, we added limited information but will be happy to add more in should reviewers find it necessary. We hope this clarifies your comment. | 10-11. |
| While men experience violence/ abuse too, I fail to understand why men  were included in the sample. We know from past research that there is  substantial qualitative difference in the type of abuse that men and women  experience. | Thank you for this comment. While women are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence victimization owing to the cultural values and taboos, men can be impacted by domestic violence as well. Thus far the research with SA immigrants has mainly focused on women, excluding men from DV victimization conversations altogether. Hence, through this study our hope was to examine differences between the perceptions of violence when it comes to in-laws abuse between men and women.  We have included some information about the prevalence of DV among men and women in the introduction section. Further, we have also added information about differences in DV perceptions between men and women. We have linked the importance of conducting DV research with men in the discussion section also. We hope these additions clarify your comment. | 2-4, 16, 20, 21. |
| Did the authors find differences in the nature of abuse between men and  women? it is very important to highlight that. | Thank you for this comment. We have included the prevalence rate of in-laws abuse in the revised manuscript. Prevalence rate for in-laws abuse was calculated for male and female participants using a single question to limit the length of the original study survey questions on victimization experiences. This prevalence rate for South Asian participants has been included by citing a study conducted by authors (utilizing the same dataset as in the current study).  While examining prevalence rates, the authors also found differences across other forms of abuse, in addition to in-laws abuse.  “The most prevalent type of domestic violence victimization was physical violence (48%), followed by emotional (38%), economic (35%), verbal (27%), immigration-related (26%), in-laws related (19%), and ultimately sexual abuse (11%). Prevalence rates were higher for women than for men in each type of violence” ([Rai & Choi, 2021](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/08862605211015262)).  The goal of the present study was to examine the perceptions of in-laws abuse among South Asian participants which is why the prevalence rates were published in a separate study. Given the novelty of in-laws abuse ([Rai & Choi, 2021](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/08862605211015262); [Raj et al., 2006](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077801206292935); [Soglin et al., 2020](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31053043/)) research among South Asian participants as well as immigrants in general, we felt it is important to focus on the construct in this study and delve into prevalence rates separately.  We will be happy to provide a copy of the manuscript should you like to review it. We hope this clarifies your question.  We have added this information briefly in the results and discussion sections. | 14, 17. |
| Also how was the language for the 4 statements of SMILE formulated? | Thank you for this comment. We have added an explanation on the development of the questions in the SMILE. We trust this explanation is responsive to the question. | 8-10. |
| Reviewer B: |  |  |
| **Overall Comments**  This manuscript presented numerous points about domestic abuse by in-laws, considering this type of domestic abuse is common in Asia context. This manuscript is filling a significant research gap in domestic abuse area. | Thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript and for providing us with feedback to strengthen it. Thank you for commending our work. | N/A. |
| **Introduction Section**  The introduction provides an overview from population to multifaceted nature of SA in the community.  Regarding the population data, an updated or latest governmental statistics should be included instead of online source/other parties. For example, “*There are about 1.45 million SAs in the U.K. and close to 2 million SAs in Canada (Minority Rights, n.d.; The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2020*).” | Thank you for this comment. We have now added updated/government sources and replaced it in-text. | 2. |
| Considering that readers may not fully understand the connection on domestic violence by in-laws with SA culture, author can consider listing some sociocultural factors that attribute to domestic violence by in-law. For example, the normative gender role and position in a family between husband, wife and in-laws, the common social practice and expectation of a wife in a marriage, the power dynamic between wife and in-laws as well as the normative stereotypes on divorce. | Thank you for this comment. We have now added some more specific information expanding upon the cultural nuances concerning in-laws abuse among SA immigrants in the introduction section. We have added this new information in addition to some previous information that we already had under the section, “South Asian culture, in-laws abuse and the need for culturally responsive measures.” We hope this addition is responsive to your comment. | 4-5. |
| **Study Overview and Framework**  Author made a good effort in building a framework to frame the research question. Author can consider to add a paragraph to state the operational definition of few key concepts that help to shape the research question to be more specific and concrete. | Thank you for finding value in our work. We have added the operational definition of DV to include in-laws abuse in our work and have also included information about cultural values among SAs that can translate into violence under the section, “South Asian culture, in-laws abuse and the need for culturally responsive measures.” We hope this information helps solidify the research question and aims. | 7. |
| **Development of the SMILE**  Author listed several sources that help to build the SMILE, particularly Power and Control Wheel. Author can highlight how Power and Control Wheel help to contribute in any specific indicators/sub-scale in SMILE. | Thank you for this comment. We have now added additional information about how the Power and Control Wheel was utilized in the development of SMILE. Because of the exploratory nature of the development of SMILE, in addition to utilizing the Power and Control Wheel, we utilized the works of previous scholars and the lived experiences of the first author as a South Asian woman in developing the items. We want to acknowledge that these items may not be exhaustive but are a start toward investigating in-laws abuse among immigrant communities.  We hope this answers your question. | 8-10. |
| Regarding Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence Questionnaire-Revised (PADV-R), author can also consider to provide some statistic on the validity of the scale.  The pilot study is a good piece of work to explain the process of constructing SMILE. Also, consultation of professionals and DV survivors for validation is a good approach and practice. Another area that author may have to address is about language and cultural consideration of the scale. For example, the meanings and cultural discrepancy between English and SA cultural context. Also, considering SA females, especially those originated from SA, may face challenges in language barrier with literacy issues. | Thank you for this comment. We have now included information on the relationships of SMILE as compared to a gender-role attitudes measure used in the main study. Limitations of establishing predictive validity were also stated. Detailed information about the gender-role attitude measure was not included due to space constraints and because the measure was not included in the present study (it was part of the main study). However, we will be happy to provide additional information if needed. Please also see: ([Rai & Choi, 2021](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/08862605211015262)).  Thank you for noting the importance of a pilot study in measurement development work. You bring up an important point concerning linguistic equivalence when developing measures for constructs that may vary across communities. For instance, in-laws abuse may be a collective effect of SA cultural values and complexities and may not be transferable in the same way across other communities or even Western communities. We have highlighted the cultural nuances of the SA culture and reasons why DV, including in-laws abuse can manifest in the SA culture, in the section about the development of SMILE in our paper.  Of note is that the survey was made available in English and Hindi (a commonly spoken SA language) to our participants, but none of the participants responded in Hindi. To ensure cultural equivalence the survey was translated in Hindi utilizing back translation methods by the first author (fluent in English and Hindi), subsequently cross-validated by a Hindi-English bilingual language expert. Further, the DV experts from whom feedback was sought were also able to provide content and language-related feedback to their SA lineage. We have added the information on back translation in the manuscript.  We would like to highlight that based on the [Pew Research Center (2021)](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/29/key-facts-about-asian-americans/) report, Indians who comprise 80% of the South Asian American group, at least 75% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. A breakdown by gender was not available. This could mean that potentially our participants could be equipped to understand the questions in English.  We hope these explanations assist in responding to your comments adequately. | 12-13. |
| **Result and Discussion Section**  The result section is clear and highlighted few interesting findings, particularly the discrepancy of male and female participants. Author should also consider to address the issues on male and female perception of DV in introduction section. | Thank you for this comment and for finding value in our findings. We have now included additional information about the issues of male and female perception of DV in the introduction section. | 3-4. |
| Regarding the limitation, author can also consider the digital gap and language barriers. The three sampling strategies are valid and robust, but authors should also consider the digital gap i.e. digital access and digital literacy regarding recruitment via social media. | Thank you for this comment. We have now added some information regarding the digital gap and collection of data using an online platform and social media along in the limitations section.  However, the report by the [Pew Research Center (2021)](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/29/key-facts-about-asian-americans/) indicates that among Indians who comprise 80% of the South Asian American group, at least 75% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Having this level of education could mean that they can access computers/cellphones to participate in the study. Even in the present study, 70.2% of the study participants were Indians, which is reflective of the portion of Indians among South Asians in the U. S. Therefore, while not true of every South Asian, these data can mean that a good proportion of South Asians may have access to computers/phones given their level of education.  We hope you find this information helpful in responding to your comment. | 18. |
| **Recommendations on Academic Writing**  Regarding citation and referencing style, there are two suggestions. First, some citations are “Author Publications”. Author should consider to properly cite the work instead of mentioning it as own publication. Second, the current referencing style is APA format. Appreciated if author can turn it to be Harvard style. | Thank you for this comment. We have now included author’s actual citations and unblinded the manuscript. We apologize for any confusion. We have also turned in the referencing style to Harvard instead of APA. Further, we have also proofread our entire manuscript again.  All newly added additional references have been highlighted yellow in the references section. | Throughout the manuscript and references section. |