

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 58612

Title: The Evolving Psyche of Women in India: A PRISMA - Guided Qualitative Systematic Review of Psychological, Socio-Cultural, and Gender-Based Transformations (2016-2026)

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity			✓	
Significance	✓			

Reviewer's ID: Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript entitled "The Evolving Psyche of Women in India: A PRISMA-Guided Qualitative Systematic Review of Psychological, Socio-Cultural, and Gender-Based Transformations (2016–2026)" synthesizes empirical and conceptual literature published over a ten-year period. Guided by PRISMA 2020 and PRISMA-S protocols, the authors retrieved 176 records across PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, arriving at a final synthesis corpus of 100 evidence records.

Rather than viewing female empowerment through a simple linear narrative of modernization, the manuscript proposes a framework of "negotiated transformation." Through a reflexive thematic synthesis, the authors organize the evidence into eight distinct themes:

1. Gendered distress and the psychosocial burden of adjustment
2. Violence, suicide, and institutional trust
3. Agency in marriage, kinship, and mobility
4. Education, aspirations, and the "imaginable self"
5. Work, economic identity, and role conflict
6. Bodily and reproductive autonomy
7. Digital visibility and online misogyny
8. Conditions of durable change through gender-transformative programs

The manuscript's key strength lies in its refusal to pathologize individual distress or romanticize empowerment. Instead, it highlights an "aspiration-constraint gap"—where expanding education, digital

REVIEWER'S REPORT

access, and public awareness clash directly with persistent structural barriers, safety concerns, and uneven institutional responsiveness.

Suggestions for Improvement

1. Address Methodological and Procedural Limitations

- Single-Reviewer Audit vs. Dual Screening:** The methodology notes that screening, extraction, and quality appraisals were conducted as a structured single-reviewer audit. Standard PRISMA and Cochrane guidelines recommend independent dual-reviewer screening and risk-of-bias assessments to minimize selection bias. The authors should explicitly acknowledge this limitation in the main text and state whether independent dual verification will be completed prior to final publication.
- Database Export Logs and Timestamping:** The search methodology mentions that original database export timestamps were not retained, relying instead on a frozen library date (July 27, 2026). Providing raw export files or exact search logs in the supplementary files would improve reproducibility.

2. Deepen Qualitative Thematic Analysis

- Strengthen Participant Voices:** Although the review synthesizes qualitative and mixed-methods research, the narrative leans heavily on quantitative associations and macro-level thematic descriptions. Incorporating specific qualitative illustrative extracts or direct conceptual quotes from the primary studies (e.g., regarding "self-silencing" or "negotiated agency") would ground the psychological analysis further.
- Expand Underrepresented Subpopulations:** As acknowledged in the discussion, the synthesis is heavily weighted toward specific geographic regions (e.g., Bihar, UP, Maharashtra) and cisgender, heterosexual populations. Expanding on how structural intersections (such as caste hierarchy, disability, and sexual minority status) alter the psychological trajectory of "negotiated agency" would enhance the paper's analytical depth.

3. Refine Formatting and Structural Consistency

- Table and Reference Alignment:** Ensure all citations in the narrative and thematic summary tables (e.g., Table 5 and Table 6) map directly to the final reference list.
- Clarity in Conceptual Diagrams:** Ensure Figure 2 (Conceptual Model) and the thematic text maintain consistent terminology when describing feedback loops between collective action, institutional trust, and individual psychosocial mechanisms.

Recommendation for the Editor

Decision: Accept with Minor Revision

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT