

We sincerely thank the reviewer for the thoughtful and constructive feedback on our manuscript. The comments were extremely helpful in strengthening the clarity and scholarly contribution of the study. Revisions have been made throughout the manuscript to address the concerns raised. A summary of the changes is provided below.

Comment: The abstract lacks methodological detail, findings, theoretical grounding, and implications.

Response:

The abstract has been revised to provide greater methodological transparency and clarity. It now explicitly describes the qualitative pre-post design, data collection through open-ended questionnaires, and thematic analysis procedures. Key findings have been included, highlighting shifts in participants' understanding of GBV as embedded in patriarchal family power dynamics, increased awareness of trauma impacts, and improved confidence in survivor-centered responses. The theoretical framework (empowerment and systems theories) has also been briefly introduced in the abstract, and the implications of culturally responsive training interventions have been clarified.

Comment: The discussion could more clearly link findings to the research questions and existing literature.

Response:

The discussion section has been strengthened by explicitly linking the thematic findings to the guiding research questions. Additional references to relevant literature have been integrated to situate the findings within existing scholarship on GBV prevention and community-based interventions. Theoretical connections to empowerment theory and systems theory have also been incorporated to clarify the conceptual contribution of the study.

Comment: Nyawo et al. (2020) is cited but missing from the reference list.

Response:

The missing reference has now been added to the reference list to ensure completeness and accuracy.

Comment: The reviewer suggested including comparative context and acknowledging limitations related to the small sample.

Response:

The discussion now includes brief comparative references to similar community-based GBV training initiatives and acknowledges the exploratory nature of the findings due to the small sample size. Suggestions for future research, including larger samples and longitudinal follow-up, have also been added.