ISSLP
Interdisciplinary Studies in Society, Law and Politics

OPEN PEER REVIEW

A Sociological Analysis of Trust and Risk in the Social Lifeworld

Mehrab. Aali[1]*, Shapour. Behyan[2], Seyed Ali. Hashemianfar[3]

[1] PhD Student in Economic Sociology and Development, Department of Sociology, Dehaghan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Dehaghan, Iran
[2] Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Mobarakeh Branch, Islamic Azad University, Mobarakeh, Iran
[3] Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Isfahan University, Isfahan, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: sbehyan@yahoo.com

1.   Round 1

1.1.   Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction briefly mentions the impact of COVID-19 on social trust but does not adequately set the stage for why this is a significant issue. Consider adding more context about how trust dynamics have shifted globally during the pandemic, drawing on recent global studies for a broader perspective.

The paragraph discusses the intertwining of political and security issues with medical decisions. Consider expanding on this by exploring specific examples or decisions that were influenced by these factors, which could provide clearer insights into the participants' distrust.

The statement "everything is in the hands of God" is mentioned as a belief among participants. It would be helpful to explore how this belief influences behavior, particularly in the context of compliance with public health measures.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"The sample size for phenomenological interviews is typically considered to be between five and twenty-five participants." While the sample size of 39 participants is above the typical range, it might benefit the reader to explain why such a large sample was chosen, especially for a phenomenological study, which usually focuses on depth rather than breadth.

The paragraph mentions that interviews were transcribed verbatim. It would be beneficial to provide more detail on the transcription process, such as whether any software was used and how the accuracy of the transcription was ensured.

The discussion around decreased interpersonal trust due to concealment of COVID-19 by some individuals is compelling. However, it would be valuable to include direct quotes from the interviews to strengthen this section and give the participants' experiences a more vivid presence in the findings.

The discussion section draws on previous studies to contextualize findings. However, the connection between the study's findings and the existing literature could be more explicitly stated. Consider integrating specific references to the literature mentioned in the introduction and literature review sections.

This paragraph reviews Vaezi's (2023) work on social learning and trust. It would strengthen your argument to explicitly link this to your study's findings on the role of social networks in building or eroding trust during the pandemic.

The conclusion recommends enhancing religiosity to improve social trust. This recommendation could be controversial; consider addressing potential counterarguments or ethical considerations regarding the promotion of religious beliefs through public policy.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.