

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54302

Date: 13/10/2025

Title: Living the Burden: The Lived Experience of Caregiving Burden among Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 14/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This qualitative study provides valuable insights into the caregiving burden experienced by Saudi parents of children with cerebral palsy, emphasizing the resilience encapsulated in the theme "Never give up." Its strengths lie in its methodological rigor, cultural relevance, and depth of data. However, limitations such as the small, less diverse sample, language issues, and superficial discussion of cultural influences suggest the need for revisions.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- Relevance and Originality:** The study addresses an important and understudied area— the lived experiences of Saudi parents caring for children with CP. It contributes valuable cultural insights that are often overlooked in global research.
- Methodological Rigor:** The use of a descriptive phenomenological approach aligns well with the aim of exploring personal caregiving experiences. The application of Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis framework enhances the clarity and robustness of the analysis process.
- Detailed Data Analysis:** The authors employed systematic coding procedures, including double-checking transcripts, independent coding, and investigator triangulation, which strengthen the credibility of the findings.
- Ethical Considerations:** Ethical approval was appropriately obtained, and procedures for confidentiality and informed consent were clearly described, reflecting adherence to standard research protocols.
- Rich Qualitative Data:** The inclusion of direct quotations and detailed themes such as "Never give up" vividly portray the emotional and physical challenges faced by parents, adding depth to the findings.

Weaknesses:

- Limited Sample Size and Diversity:** The study involves only six participants, which limits the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the sample comprises predominantly mothers with only one father, potentially skewing perspectives.
- Potential Biases:** Reliance on self-reported data can introduce response bias, and the cultural context may influence how participants express their experiences. The study could benefit from triangulating data sources.
- Clarity and Language:** Several typographical and grammatical issues are present throughout the manuscript, which hampers readability. For example, inconsistent use of tense, minor typographical errors, and awkward phrasing.

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4. **Limited Discussion of Cultural Context:** Although cultural aspects are touched upon (traditional medicine usage), a more in-depth discussion of how cultural beliefs influence caregiving experiences and the implications for healthcare providers would enrich the paper.
5. **Insufficient Detail in Methodology Section:** While the overall approach is described, details about participant recruitment, specific interview questions, and reflexivity practices could be expanded for clarity and reproducibility.
6. **References and Citations:** Some references (e.g., "Han et al., 2022") are mentioned without full bibliographic details, which may hinder validation.

Instructions to the Author for Revisions:

1. **Language and Grammar:** Carefully proofread the manuscript to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Consider professional editing for clarity and flow.
2. **Methodological Details:** Expand on participant recruitment procedures, inclusion/exclusion criteria, specific interview questions, and how reflexivity was maintained throughout the research.
3. **Cultural Context:** Add a more comprehensive discussion about how Saudi cultural beliefs and practices influence caregiving experiences and implications for healthcare support.
4. **References:** Complete full citation details for all referenced studies, especially those cited in text (e.g., Han et al., 2022), and ensure consistency in referencing style.
5. **Discussion Enhancement:** Elaborate on how findings compare with international research, and suggest concrete implications for healthcare policy and practice tailored to the Saudi context.