Dear Dr. Anne Farrell,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your comments and your willingness to consider publishing my article with the changes you have suggested.

In this letter, I will address the major changes that were undertaken.

The abstract has been rewritten according to the reviewer’s suggestions, which now uses the term early motherhood.

This term refers to mothers who gave birth between the ages of 17-19. In some cases, this was in violation of the law regarding the minimum age of marriage.

Indeed, this term does not exist in Arabic, which I am seeking to highlight in my research and in using this term. The absence of this term and knowledge about early motherhood in Arab societies can reflect the common perception of and social disregard for this phenomenon and for an experience that exists but is not spoken of among Arab mothers. To clarify this point, I have added a footnote clarifying the issue. Hope these changes address the comments of Reviewer 1.

Following the comments of the first reviewer on the study methods, the entire section has been rewritten according to the instructions of the reviewers. In addition, I added a table of the research sample that includes details of the study participants (age, age at first birth, number of children, age of spouse and occupation).

Reviewer 2

The entire methods section was rewritten, in line with the reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer 3

The introduction and literature review has been rewritten, addressing the comments of all reviewers. It now includes background literature on Arab society and early motherhood, and social-gender status of Arab women seeking higher education in Israel. The references were updated, relying on more recent sources. The theoretical section refers to Chodorow’s feminist theory as the theoretical source on which this article is based.

As for research method, this section has been rewritten in detail, and I have added a table relating to the research sample.

The findings section has also been rewritten, including reorganization and renaming or the research themes.

Additional citations were included in the findings, see pages 12,14,16,18.

As for the research innovation: It is important to note that this is a pioneering study in addressing the issue of early motherhood among young Arab mothers. The impact is on several levels:

1. The unique nature of the research group.

2. The focus on early motherhood in a traditional society.

3. Early motherhood that takes place within the framework of marriage and family, which is not necessarily the case in other societies.

4. The reference to early motherhood as a mechanism of social oversight among educated Arab women.

5. Regarding the education of children, the study notes the conflict many mothers feel. Although they themselves are often inspired by innovative educational theories, which they are exposed to as part of their studies, there is a trend in which grandparents and extended family serve as caregivers, spending long hours with the children, especially due to the mother’s need to devote long hours to her studies. This follows the comments of the first reviewer.

As for the study methods, this section has been rewritten according to the instructions of the reviewers. In addition, I added a table that refers to the research sample and includes the details of the study participants (age, age at first birth, number of children, age of spouse, and occupation).

Regarding your question about the supervisory mechanisms in Arab society, I have addressed this is in the discussion section.

Regarding the use of the term “good motherhood”, I replaced this term with “mature mothers” so as to avoid a value judgement of the mothers.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Maram Masarwi