

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Financial loss and depressive symptoms in university students during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic: comparison between 23 countries

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Adekunle Adedeji

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

The study examined and found a significant strong positive association between financial loss and depressive symptoms. They found that social relationships have a bigger impact on diminishing the strength of the examined association when compared to socioeconomic status.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

The study examined an exciting topic with a cross country analysis of 23 countries. However, the results are limited due to the cross-sectional design. Furthermore, the country measures of covid were not adequately accounted for.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

Introduction:

The article addresses an interesting topic. However, the authors' justification of the research question is not comprehensive enough. I suggest that the author expound further on the differences in Covid response within the countries. Furthermore, the introduction should further develop the conceptual association between mental health and SES. It will add significant value if the author explores further the uniqueness of university students and the possible flexibility the covid pandemic presents to the students.

Methods: The method is detailed and clear to follow

Discussion:

"Our results showed that social relationships have a bigger impact on diminishing the strength of the examined association when compared to socioeconomic status" I will suggest adjusting this sentence; it is too complex and intricate to understand in its current state.

The findings here deserve a more in-depth discussion. The topic is of interest to science and can also have practical implications. I will suggest that the authors also explain why the significant strong positive association between financial loss and depressive symptoms. The authors should also explain how their findings might be implemented to facilitate wellbeing in different countries. Furthermore, an explicit methodological limitation should be added

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality



Q 10 Rigor



Q 11 Significance to the field



Q 12 Interest to a general audience



Q 13 Quality of the writing



Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study



REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.