Peer Review Report

Review Report on Psychological distress, anxiety, depression, and associated factors among Nigerian healthcare workers during COVID-19 pandemic: A cross-sectional study

EVALUATION

Q 1 **Please summarize the main findings of the study.**

In this bicentric study, the authors have measured psychological distress, depression, and anxiety among healthcare workers. A significant proportion of population, has psychological distress.

Q 2 **Please highlight the limitations and strengths.**

Unique data from Nigeria and healthcare professionals.

However, it is lacking novelty. There is error in sampling design.

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.**

Title
The title of the article mentions only psychological distress as the outcome variable, whereas the study also assesses anxiety and depression as outcomes
Abstract:
• Methods:
o Study duration has not been mentioned in the methodology of the abstract
o The abstract needs to mention the study population characteristic.
• Result: Kindly refer to the sentence "Factors associated with significantly lower odds of psychological distress include having a first degree". The meaning is not clear in this sentence. Kindly elaborate.
o Same thing needs to be corrected in the result section of main text
Introduction
• The COVID-19 statistics given in the introduction is of Sept 2021. It needs to be updated.
• Statistical data given in the introduction about China is not relevant in this paper. The introduction should focus on African data and even more specifically on Nigeria. The authors otherwise may discuss about few countries worst affected by COVID-19 (USA, India, Brazil, UK, etc)
Methods
• When the study considers only 2 groups (doctors and nurses) how stratification randomization was done, and how population proportion to size method was applied. It seems more of purposive sampling.
• Why do the authors consider 2 hospitals only, is it due to the authors' accessibility or a limited number of COVID hospitals.
• Exclusion criteria- severe physical and mental illness. How these conditions were assessed (any screening tool was used?)
• There is no mention of the method of interview(online interview/ face-to-face interview/telephonically).
• Time frame of the study has not been mentioned anywhere. This needs to be acknowledged.
Result

• Including COVID-19 positive HCW can be a major potential bias that may significantly influence the outcome and thus COVID positive HCW should be excluded from the study.

• Refer to lines 163-166, the meaning is not clearly understood. Needs to be elaborated in detail.

The limitations should come at the end of the discussion section just before the conclusion.

The references are too many.

The authors need to focus on the novelty of the study rather than discussing general well known things.

The article needs language corrections at a lot of places.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 — Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Title

The title of the article mentions only psychological distress as the outcome variable, whereas the study also assesses anxiety and depression as outcomes

Q 5 — Are the keywords appropriate?

Appropriate

Q 6 — Is the English language of sufficient quality?

The article needs language corrections at a lot of places.

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:

Major revisions.