

Review of: "Motivated Reasoning Leads Climate Change Deniers to Access Unreliable Online Sources of Information: Automated Text Analyses of Multiple Reddit Communities"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The area of the study is interesting; however, the topic does not provoke much significant concern for scientific research. The background information is not adequate to set a ground and stage for subsequent research in this area. Of course, the area of the research is apt but no clear focus is presented and there seem to be an overlap of concepts.

The abstract is not well structured and hence, there is a need for rewriting the abstract using the abstract format: opening sentence, objectives, method, findings (which should reflect the objectives), conclusion and recommendations. Thus, abstract requires restructuring to give it the needed focus.

The problem is neither identified nor articulated. What has been resented as the motivation of the study is a mere situation analysis of the area not an attempt to identify a gap in knowledge. The variables presented in the hypothesis do not operationalized the concepts in the aim, hence cannot be used to measure them. The problem has not been properly articulated to give a convincing reason for the study. Assumption would not suffice.

The empirical literature is crowded and not properly articulated to provide a focus and identify gap in the literature. This affects the articulation of the problem. The literature should have been presented in a clear, logical and chronological order to observe arguments and development in the area.

There is also a major problem of syntax and sentence flow. The background needs to be written to focus on the subject matter and providing a gap to fill or an articulated problem. In some cases too, the study shifted focus on the subject matter. Again, there is an issue of predominantly stand-alone literature where the author failed to interrogate the literature. A mere assembling of literature does not make it literature review.

There are some concerns on the methodology and findings which is the selling point of the study. Some of the instruments have no direct bearing to the study, while the findings have a lot to be desired.

Conclusion is missing in the study where the researcher is expected to summaries by analysing some important points raised in the study. Conclusion is just like an extended abstract, which should reflect the arguments in the study. The conclusion would have addressed the inference, that is, the lesson that can be learned from the findings through the provision of an answer to the general objectives or hypothesis.

