

# Review of: "Nutrition and work efficiency as a strategic variable necessary in a mining environment for high productivity: A case of Filabusi mining community"

Jodi Pelders<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

- In general, this is paper reports on an interesting topic relating to nutrition and productivity in mine employees.
- The paper would benefit from minor language edits throughout.
- The introduction could be improved by the inclusion of more references.
- In the literature review, more recent references, particularly relating to the African context, could be considered.
- The methods section was scant and could be built upon in further detail. The aims and objectives could be clarified (and to ensure alignment with information in the abstract). Additionally, for example, the terms and variables associated with "socio-demographic, socio-economic and work-related factors" could be elaborated. It would also be helpful to get a better description of the context and how the participants were recruited. It would be helpful to get a better understanding of why the particular questions for the participants were chosen, as well as the response categories.
- In the results, it would be good if a description of the participants can be provided (e.g. average ages etc.), and the results of the post-test categorical variables (e.g. as indicated in Table 11). Most of the results section focused on describing information included in the tables, which could have been abbreviated. A better discussion of the findings would be warranted.
- It also wasn't clear whether the employees were provided with food by the mines or not, or if worksite canteens were available. This was something mentioned frequently in the literature review. An additional consideration (although probably not relevant in this context) is that food allowed in some underground mines is rationed (limited) because of illegal mining activities.
- It wasn't clear to me what the effect of COVID-19 was on the employees. For example, the paper could note whether the workplaces were operating at reduced capacity (or pay) due to the pandemic or not, as this would have an impact on the reported productivity of the employees and, potentially, food availability. Could it be possible that the differences in between the treatment and comparison groups in terms of productivity and emotional health could be because they were affected by other matters relating to COVID-19? I don't think that these variables were compared with the nutrition-related questions – so more clarity could be provided in the conclusion.