

Peer Review

Review of: "Google Trends and Trend Analysis of Online Behaviour During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Saudi Arabian Experience"

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Abstract:

- The abstract was written well.

Keywords:

- No keywords. Please add at least five keywords after the abstract.

Introduction:

- Please add the abbreviation of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- After two years, how much have we been affected? Please delete this question and try to start with the following questionable sentence.
- Article from Social Media Statistics. Change article to data.
- "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a total population of 35.59 million". Is this population number being only for Saudi citizens?
- Please cite this sentence (add reference) Google came as the highest-ranked search engine utilized at 96.60% by Saudi netizens spending an average of 4 hours and 35 minutes using the internet on mobile devices.
- Reference No.9 is for the Chinese population and the sentence regarding the Saudi population. Please double-check the proper reference.
- Very complicated and not clear sentence please rewrite it "Whether there can be that positive or negative impact on personal lives, what is clearly

- evident in this situation is that their digital presence (as may be exacerbated by the pandemic restrictions and protocols)
- can be an alternative reflection showing directly or indirectly their general mental health conditions”.
- “Saudi netizens may be reflecting emotions and deep unexpressed concerns especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic time due to seclusions imposed by government-sanctioned health restrictions” please write the Pandemic in small letters.
- The author needs to write the aim of the study at the end of the paragraph of the introduction.

Methods:

- “The study utilized data from two (2) sources. First, actual COVID-19 cases from the first week of March 2020 until the third week of April 2022 from the Ministry of Health-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (MOH-KSA) through its publicly accessible website (<https://covid19.moh.gov.sa>). There were 112 observation points, equivalent to 112 weeks reflecting the actual COVID-19 cases in the entire Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”. The total months of the study are around 25 months, which equal 100 weeks, and you mention 112 weeks, so there is a mistake in the study week period calculation. Please justify that.
- Please correct this “ExcelStat Version 2019” to the correct name XLSTAT.
- Some abbreviations in the descriptive measures need to be defined the first time they are used, then use the abbreviation such as ST, Mn, and f.
- Table 1. Need to write a legend with keywords.
- In figure 1, the date should be written like this 5 Jan 2020, 5 Feb 2020, until 5 April 2022 because the current numbers, which are 1/5/2020, 2/5/2020, until 4/5/2022, make it confusing for the readers. It is like the days of month 5.
- The rest of figure 1 is not clear and needs to increase the resolution for the figure.
- Figure 2. Need to expand the legend because now it is just the title.
- “There shall be two parts to this presentation”. It is not a good sentence to start the section of the results with it. You should try something like (The comparison between COVID-19 and individuals with....).

Discussion:

- Discussed in the next section.

Major Comments:

- The main aim of this study was not explained in more detail in the last paragraph of the introduction.
- The method used in the data collection is fine, but the authors were not comparing the COVID-19 prevalence with the study variables such as mental health, depression, anxiety, and panic.
- In the results figures, there is no figure to show the correlation between COVID-19 and the study variables separately with clear statistical comparison analysis.
- In the discussion part, the authors did not fit their findings properly into the existing literature and then discuss the consistency between their findings and the literature, and discuss these issues scientifically.
- The summary and conclusion should be changed to conclusion and future perspective.

Final Conclusion and Decision:

This paper is accepted for publication after the authors change all the suggestions and comments above within 3 weeks as a maximum time and should send back the revised manuscript highlighted with red color to me to check the corrections and give the final decision.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.