

# Review of: "Perceptions and Experiences of Human Right Violations of People Living with Mental Illness: A multi-centre descriptive cross-sectional study in Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Human rights violation review comments

Topic should be changed to "Perceptions and Experience of Human Rights Violations among People with Mental Illness in Nigeria: A Multi-Centre Study."

"People in Nigeria do not have adequate knowledge regarding mental health disorders and have a variety of misconceptions about their underlying causes, such as drug and alcohol use, possession by evil spirits, traumatic events or shock, stress, and genetic inheritance." This phrase, as used by the authors, is passive and does not show the urgency needed to address the trend of mental health misconceptions in Nigeria. Authors should use "In Nigeria, people do not have adequate knowledge....." This paints a picture of the depth of the problem being highlighted by the authors.

"In a survey published by the World Health Organization in 2019, there were around 900 million people throughout the globe who were coping with some kind of mental illness" should be reframed as such: "It is estimated that 900 million people globally are coping with some kind of mental illness."

"In low- and middle-income countries, a significant proportion of individuals who require mental health services do not receive any form of care due to various factors such as social stigma, isolation, and neglect. As stated by Subu, et al., [8], Andrews [9] found that approximately one-third of these individuals fall under this category," should be reframed as such: "In low- and middle-income countries, approximately one-third of individuals who require mental health services do not receive any form of care due to various factors such as social stigma, isolation, and neglect [8] [9]."

What is the rationale for choosing the four facilities used in the study? Are these the only neuropsychiatric facilities in Nigeria, or were they chosen to represent a particular geographical spread? This was not mentioned by the authors.

Table 4 is not self-explanatory. For example, the table has A, A, D, SD. The keys presented at the bottom are SA, A, D, SD. Is this an omission? If so, it should be corrected.

Table 5, delete the "patient" on items 9 and 10.

In the discussion, the authors reported that PLWMI are insightful about their human rights but failed to give insights. Rather than quote if their results are in agreement with previous studies, the authors should have focused on discussing

the Nigerian view. Was this due to the fact that the majority of the respondents had a tertiary level of education, or there are NGOs involved in sensitization campaigns on human rights in Nigeria? Authors should try and discuss such facts rather than cite previous studies.

Why are family members and close friends discriminating more than business people? Could it be due to the fact that in Nigeria, treatment of mental illness does not involve sensitization of the family as seen in developed countries? Or do family members fear this can be contagious? Why are business people not discriminating at the same level? Could it be because of poverty? Or because people place more value on monetary transactions than on the community network in Nigeria? Authors should try to discuss the study and provide insights, rather than trying to cite or agree with previous documentations.

Is there a mental health policy in Nigeria? Does this policy make provisions for PLWMLs? How is the human rights policy in Nigeria implemented? How are the authors sure that this perception is not shared within the general population of Nigerians? These are the areas the authors should bring to the discussion segment rather than just citing previous documentations.

The conclusion is vague. This may be due to the fact that the authors did not provide an in-depth discussion on the subject. The conclusion should be reframed to capture the findings of the study.

Ethical approval numbers should be properly cited for reference. What does XXXX 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 mean? Studies involving human samples in Nigeria pass through the Ministry of Health, and also the ethics committee of the university in cases where such is a school project. Authors should provide accurate details of the ethical approval and cite it as appropriate.