

Review of: "Prevalence of Common Mental Illness and Its Associated Factors among Hawassa City High School Students in Hawassa, Sidama Region, Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your paper. The topic is of high important and relevant for targeted preventative strategies. Overall, a very well written paper with high ease of readability. I however have some minor comments for revision as follows:

1. In the abstract, you state "Institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted between 30th October and 1st December 2020", whereas in the Methods and Materials you state "Institution-based cross-sectional study design was conducted from November to December 2020". These should be consistent throughout the paper.
2. I suggest you remove the statement "Sample size for objective one", as the sample size is for the whole study and not just the "prevalence portion of your study". Associated factors will still be calculated from that base population.
3. In the discussion, please include a reference for the USA studies here: "This finding is supported by studies conducted in Indian high schools[39] and high schools in the USA", as some studies in the USA contradict this statement.
4. In the conclusion section, you state that "The present study showed a statistically significant association between age, sex, grade level, currently chew khat, social support, chronic medical illness and common mental illness". This is not quite true in its entirety for social support and grade level. I however understand that you meant to speak to the specific sub-categories that were significantly associated with your outcome. Suggest re-phrasing to the following: "The present study showed a statistically significant association between age, sex, grades 9 and 10 levels, currently chew khat, poor social support, chronic medical illness and common mental illness.
5. Were the "other references" used in writing the manuscript? If yes, then they should be embedded in the reference list and referenced in the specific areas they were used, as required of academic or research papers.