

Review of: "Forecasting suicide rates in India: An empirical exposition"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Thank you.

My review are stated as follow;

Abstract

Based on section Findings, there are less or no statements regarding results or statistics. All are interpretation. For example, The statement "ARIMA (4,1,0) model is found to be the best fit model for forecasting the data." should be put in the Findings instead.

"The forecast indicates a continuance of rising suicide cases for an upcoming couple of years in India with a limited decline in the following years."

But the results in Table 5 showed a stable trend (slightly decreasing) in the next 10 years.

The conclusion is not direct explaining or elaborating the results. For example;

- i. On the other hand, more extensive exploration of sample cases may provide important information for suicide prevention.
- ii. Availability of detailed and more inclusive data will be highly useful for analysis and suicide preventive policies.
- iii. Investment in public health care and other welfare activities like education and employment generation will yield visible positive results in suicide control.

"Which results or findings that the authors are referring when to make such conclusions." If results are available, it should be described and stated in the Findings section.

Result in Table 1 is good to be highlighted in the abstract.

Main text

Materials and Methods - statistical analysis

The statistical analysis emphasized only on forecasting. How about statistical analysis presented in Table

1. What statistical test was used?

Findings

Some of the statements should be put under results section. For example;

“It can be observed ([Fig 3](#)) that trend of suicide in India experienced a decline from the year 1970 to 1980 with a slight rise in the year 1974; however, the rate of suicide continued to rise from 1981 through 1990 and reported the highest number of suicide in the year 2000- the maximum in number till date; from the year 2000 onwards the rate of suicide marginally declined, with a further rise from 2006 onwards with the pick in the number of cases of suicide during the years 2010. The trends of suicide post-2011 though showed a pattern indicating a fall, it again took a rise towards the end of the decade i.e the year 2018.”...

If the trend had been discussed in the earlier section, then no need to repeat.

Overall

The flow of analysis and presentation are impressive. The clinical paper or journal in medical field might not need to present the methods too detail. But it is up to the editor. The paper is good to describe the historical data (i.e main cause for suicide) and understand the trend of suicide in India. However, the forecast might not contribute to significant meaning due to COVID 19. Definitely the trend will be disrupted tremendously. Since, forecast may not give huge impact for the discussion, but the contributing factors are good to discuss (as presented in Table 1). suggest to add one special sub-heading (put it as first sub-heading) to discuss Table 1.

Thank you