

Review of: "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?"

Akbar Zamanzadeh¹

¹ University of South Australia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I have reviewed the paper titled "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?" This study examined the relationship between a country's IQ and the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on a cross-national level. I provide some comments to improve its quality:

1. The term "Corona" is not representative of COVID-19 and may confuse readers. It is recommended to consistently use reliable terms such as COVID-19, the COVID-19 pandemic, or SARS-CoV-2 throughout the paper.
2. The paper investigates the linkages between various socio-economic and health factors, as well as government interventions. However, it fails to reference recent comprehensive research, such as Nader et al. (2021) and Zamanzadeh and Cavoli (2022), which extensively analyzed the impact of these factors. It would be beneficial to compare the findings of this study with previous research to enhance the interpretation of results.
3. The literature review does not comprehensively address previous studies and factors influencing COVID-19 outcomes. However, existing literature highlights several potential political and socio-economic variables, such as school closures, stay-at-home restrictions, contact tracing, business closures, income inequality, tourist arrivals, and governance quality, that impact infection and death rates (Nader et al., 2021; Perone, 2021; Zamanzadeh and Cavoli, 2022). It is worth discussing these factors, even if they are not included in the regression analysis.
4. The paper lacks figures illustrating the associations between variables and COVID-19 outcomes. It would be valuable to include at least one figure to enhance the visual representation of the relationships.
5. The paper includes several estimates. It is recommended to apply multiple testing to determine whether these estimates are jointly significant or not.

Overall, the paper is well-written, but addressing these comments would enhance its quality and provide a more comprehensive analysis.

References

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