

# 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.

## My Comments

First and foremost, please let me congratulate you for your very nice study. My suggestions are as follows:

### 1. Abstract – OK

2. Introduction – In second paragraph, you explained various mental illness including psychosomatic disorders. But you frequently mentioned somatoform disorder that was not included in that paragraph. If psychosomatic disorder is equivalent to somatoform disorder, you better include it or mention it. Otherwise, readers will confuse.

### 3. Methods and Materials

- Under study setting, your description of adolescents' proportion was based on 2007 census. Now is 2023. Don't you have any latest information/census?
- Under Sampling technique and sampling procedure, you used "stratified multi-staged random sampling" and explained four stages. But I think only 3 stages, stage 2 and 3 were the same; isn't it? Stage 1 – Random selection of schools; Stage 2 & 3 – Three sections from grades 9-12 using stratified random sampling; Finally, students were selected using SRS! (Please check and rephrase!)

### 4. Results

All Tables – redraw yourself; don't copy and past directly from SPSS output!

Just above the Figure 1, at page 12, you used both CMD and CMI; should be used one and be consistent!

You already defined the presence of CMI if the score is 7 and above whereas in your graph 1, the categories are <5, 5-9, 10-14, >15 (should be ≥15). Why don't you obliterate cut-off score 7. It makes the readers confused! Simply two groups It will make sense! <7; ≥7 (or), <7, 7-??, ??-???! So also you failed to reveal the cut-off point for mild, moderate and severe categories!

### 5. Conclusions

Why conclusions in Abstract and in the body/text (that after discussion) were different. I prefer conclusion included in the Abstract.

#### 6. references

Why you used the term “Other References” and “References”. What is/are the difference(s) between other references and references? We use only references; not Bibliography