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

Getachew Adela Kasa[1]

1 St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College

Reviewer Comments:

Dear Editor of Qeios Journal:

Thank you for your invitation to review the manuscript titled "Prevalence of Common Mental Illness and Its Associated Factors Among Hawassa City High School Students in Hawassa, Sidama Region, Ethiopia". The manuscript is well written, and the title is also a public health problem. It tried to address an important issue related to the prevalence of common mental illnesses and their associated factors. The authors highlighted important results. It is critical to consider the following points to improve this work further.

Comments to the authors

1. Title and Abstract

The title and abstract effectively summarize the key points of the study. You stated in the abstract part that guidance and counseling for high graders and females, strengthening student clubs (anti-drug), and improving communication between students, parents, and teachers were recommended. This recommendation must be included in the body of the article because the abstract is a brief description of the text's main body. I didn't see this.

2. Introduction

2.1. The introduction is effectively written, but several crucial background details for the investigation were omitted. It is preferable to state the updated prevalence of CMI in a coherent manner from a global to a local level. When discussing the notions of mental illness in communities, the authors should note that the magnitude and type will vary depending on the environment, including urban, rural, educated, and the difference in severity between LIMCs and HICs.

2.2. Factors linked to CMI are one of the study's objectives. What are the main factors associated with CMI that have been documented in the literature? In the introduction, they are not explicitly mentioned.

3. Method

3.2. A good data collection tool. 398 (64.9%) of the participants in the study, which was conducted in the Sidama region,

were Sidama ethnic people. Why then do you restrict yourselves to Amharic? What steps did you take to prevent bias in selection? A self-reported questionnaire was utilized. Do you believe that all of the students who were chosen at random can speak Amharic?

3.3. Throughout the paper, the study period should be consistently indicated. The method and abstract sections differ a little bit depending on the study period.

4. Result

The result is well written.

5. Discussion

It would be better to combine the first paragraph's single statement, which is broken out into a paragraph, with the second paragraph. The first sentence in the third paragraph is very long and uses similar words repeatedly, like "in line with" and "found consistent". It would be preferable to omit repeated sentences from the discussion section.

Strength and limitation of the study

What are the strengths and limitations of this study?

6. Conclusion and recommendations

The conclusions correlate with the results found. What do you recommend based on the findings of this study? How can interventions be tailored to address these factors effectively?

Abbreviations

When abbreviations appear in the text for the first time, they should be written in full, for instance. Some of the abbreviations were not correctly stated, and others were missed (DDS, HIV/AIDS, SRQ, UK, USA/US, or YLD).

Ethical issue

It would be better to include that your study complies with the Declaration of Helsinki and that the participant's informed consent included the publication of anonymized responses.

Availability of data and materials

Are the datasets used and analyzed during the current study available upon reasonable request?

References

References are relevant to the study and in the correct style.

Additional comments

I would recommend requesting a person with strong English skills to review the language piece or use grammar or another English tool.