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.

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

General comments

I am pleased to review this manuscript because mental illness among young people is a major problem. Make sure that you have cited an each statement throughout your manuscript.

Abstract:

Introduction: You mentioned that ''there are limited school-based studies on adolescent mental health in developing countries''…Actually, in your study, not only adolescent segment of population was included but also early adulthood -20-24. It would be better if you replace adolescent by young people or youth.Otherwise you should omit the term.

Objective: In fact, your objective must be in line with your title despite high school includes secondary and preparatory students. I recommend your title should be used directly without adding terms. Also you can use this in your method section for a further clarification.

Introduction:

Please summarize your statements rather than simply making them long and less attractive.

Methods and Materials:

Study setting: You did not cite population figure. Please use a reference.

Study design and period: make sure it is aligned with abstract section.

Study population: To me, your selected schools students are study population but what you mentioned under study is a sample population. Thus, make sure that has a broad scientific acceptance in a scientific community.

Exclusion Criteria: How the students who were absent become excluded since there were automatically excluded by their absence. Please include other appropriate exclusion criteria for your study. This cannot be exclusion criteria.

Sample size determination: No need of saying objective one since you have no sample size calculation for your second objective. Besides, taking p value of 50% gives the maximum sample size. Thus, sample size calculation for the second objective certainly gives a lower sample size.

Sampling technique and sampling procedure: why only 5 schools---can those schools become representative of 29

schools in the city. Besides, it would be better if you stratify as a government vs non-government--then take a representative sample from each category. We know that a wealth status of students who register in government schools and non-government is different---this may affect the finding.

Data collection tools: Make sure that all your data collection tools are validated in the context of Ethiopia.

Results:

Please reduce the repetition of information on a table and text---mention only few major findings by texts and leave the further details for the tables.

Socio-demographic table: Other accounts 81 (13.2%): This is high % to categorize as "other " it should be specified.

Illiterate is an obsolete word it would be better if you replace it with ''no formal education''

Discussion:

You compared a previous systematic finding which was focused on a general population with this segment of the population. If that is the case, why did you take a prevalence of 50% which is not acceptable for CMI? Besides, since there is a systematic review and meta-analysis, is it important to conduct other a pocket study? What your study adds other than the previous studies?

Please revise your comparison magnitude such as higher, lower.....

Conclusion: Please include recommendations for the problems/findings and future direction.

Thanks in advance!