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.

Thanks for this valuable opportunity to review this paper. I have numerous points and I will highly appreciate it if the author revises the below points or provides a meaningful clarification.

Introduction:

1. Depression is considered the most common mental disorder due to a combination of factors; try to add a paragraph talking about the prevalence of depression, particularly in East Africa in the introduction section; I will highly appreciate it if you specifically focus on different populations (HIV people, youth, old age, or general population) in East Africa particularly Ethiopia and Somalia to enhance literature of East Africa. Try to review my below paper and support your introduction or even your discussion. *Mohamud AK, Ahmed OA, Mohamud AA, Dirie NI. Prevalence of and factors associated with depression among adult patients living with HIV/AIDs undergoing ART unit in Banadir hospital, Mogadishu Somalia. BMC psychiatry. 2023 Dec;23(1):1-8.*

Method

1. I have statistical concerns; when you're doing the Multivariable logistic regression try to change the category of some variables that you take as a reference. That is why you find protective factors instead of risk factors. Please note if the AOR and upper and lower of the 95%CI is less than 1 it means this variable is a protective factor, not a risk factor. So, you have so many protective factors while you are reporting the finding and conclusion that is a risk factor which is vice versa; For Example, age 15-19 years [AOR=0.51, 95% CI: (0.27, 0.97)], grade 9 [AOR=0.41, 95% CI: (0.22, 0.76)], and grade 10 [AOR=0.46, 95% CI: (0.23, 0.82)]. In addition, your finding and conclusion must be inline; for example, you mentioned in your finding that young age 15-19 years [AOR=0.51, 95% CI: (0.27, 0.97)] at the same time you mentioned that old age is a risk factor. To fix these issues change the reference category, Example; change the reference category of age from the 20-24 age group to the 15-19 age group then the 20-24 age group will become a risk factor and your finding and conclusion will be inline. All other protective factors do it like that. I hope you understand and fix that case.

2. What about the Questionnaire validity and reliability test? Try to add a statement talking about how you used Item objective concrete method and Cronbach's alpha.

3. **Conclusion:** Ty to revise the conclusion section, when writing a conclusion don't write age is a risk factor, only write

the subcategory of the variable example ''age group between 20-24 is a greater risk of having Common Mental Illness than the age group of 15-19. Read how I write my above paper.

Good luck, you did outstanding work, Hope to address my suggestions.