

Review of: "Knowledge among Health care workers (HCWs) regarding biomedical waste management (BMW) during COVID-19 Pandemic"

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The paper "Knowledge among Health care workers (HCWs) regarding biomedical waste management (BMW) during COVID-19 Pandemic" discusses an interesting and relevant topic.

However, it is a very limited and simple study, which only reports the level of knowledge about biomedical waste management without any consideration about the real impact of this kind of wastes (and of their huge amount during the pandemic) on the environment as well as on health and social systems.

Beyond the need to revise the language and in particular the use of verbs, the article has quite a lot of flaws, which require a thorough revision and improvement before the paper can be published.

About the study tool, in the Abstract the Authors declare that "A semi-structured questionnaire was adapted from different research papers was used as a study tool" but in the Methods section it is said that "the researcher developed a semi-structured questionnaire". It is unclear if the tool used is a novel one, designed by the research team authoring this study, or if it is an adaptation of other existing tools.

In any case, it is unclear how the tool is structured. In the Methods section the Authors affirm that the "Annexure I is divided into three parts", but then reference is made to two parts only (demographic profile and knowledge assessment) throughout the study.

In table 5 the header of column 2 is wrong. It says "Gender" while it should read Experience (or, even better, Years of experience). Also, it would be preferable to use the word "Gender" instead of "Sex" in all parts of the paper.

The discussion is only a comparison with other studies that have considered the issue of biomedical wastes management while the discussion around the differences emerged by designation, by gender or by years of experience is totally missing, as well as a proposal about how to improve awareness and knowledge among those subjects with lower scores.

Finally, references are really poor, it could be said less than the essential. All the references but one are earlier than the Covid-19 pandemic and insofar useless to frame the issue of medical and biological wastes during the pandemic. Overmore, there are no international references, which is really inconsistent with the global impact of the pandemic that affected all countries.

My suggestion is that at this stage the paper is not suitable for publication.

It requires deep revision of the language and thorough reading to complete sentences with missing words; a proper framing of the issue at global level (including also international references, such as the WHO report “Global analysis of health care waste in the context of COVID-19”); a revision of the methods with broader and more precise description of the tool (including sources, references and clear description of the structure); broader discussion around the results of the survey and possible actions to increase awareness and improve knowledge among the population considered.