Review of: "Assessing students' attitudes and perceptions towards statistical literacy in a university system in a developing African country"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

ASSESSING STUDENTS' ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS STATISTICAL LITERACY IN A UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN A DEVELOPING AFRICAN COUNTRY

The work seeks to determine the attitudes of students toward statistics education, factors influencing these attitudes, and develop a possible framework for improved modes of delivery in statistics education at a university in Zimbabwe, with the hope of generalization to other universities in the African setting. Quantitative and qualitative methods are employed.

Relevance

This is a highly relevant work in the African context where phobia for numbers and calculations is well known.

Title

Appropriate and sufficiently captures the essence of the work.

Introduction/justification

Satisfactory.

Methods

This is fairly well written, but there are a couple of major problems:

i. The number of students in the different faculties is obviously not the same. How was proportionality ensured? This is not indicated in the data collection section as it should be. But there is an attempt to explain it away lightly when the problem shows up in the results section as a matter of "skewedness of enrollment." Also, how was proportionality between the undergraduate and the graduate students ensured for each faculty/school?

ii. What sampling technique was used for the quantitative part of the work to ensure that each unit had an equal chance of being included?

The methodology section needs therefore to be re-written and expanded to capture these. If these were not ensured, it would drastically reduce the reliability of the data generated and must, at the least, be acknowledged as limitations of the work.

Statistical Analysis

This is well handled, but please note that when we give a p-value, we assume that each unit had an equal or near-equal chance of being recruited.

Discussion

This is satisfactory and cites relevant literature. But, please, can a few more recent literature pieces be cited? The latest literature cited is 2018.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Appropriate and derived from the work.

General

A very few typographical corrections will need to be made, e.g., educational and not education institutions, mathematics not maths.

Recommendation

The author should please strengthen the methodology section and re-submit.