

Review of: "Medical students' disease status of COVID-19: A multicenter study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for inviting me to review the article titled: Medical students' disease status of COVID-19: A multicenter study.

My comments are as follows:

The study is an interesting one and provides vital information on Covid-19 among medical and dental colleges in Pakistan.

The title may need to be revised to reflect the country of study: This is a suggestion: "Status of COVID-19 Disease among Medical and Dental Students in Pakistan: A Multicenter Study".

Abstract:

Background

Efforts have been made to scale its incidence and prevalence...(Kindly clarify if the efforts are to scale its incidence downwards)

Introduction

From this statement in the article, "The projected hospital admissions in Pakistan will be 52,930 on 23rd Feb 2022 as reported on 8th Jan 2022", it appears that the data was collected about 20 months ago. The authors are advised to kindly update some of the information provided to support the study findings to help the audience to better interpret the information and discussion and contextualize it.

Methodology

The authors should please provide an estimate of the total student population in all the colleges, the sampling strategy was used to select the colleges, and how the sample size was determined.

The period of data collection(June 2021 to March 2022) should be specified in the methodology section and not in the result alone, as this would help the audience to interpret the information properly and the study setting during that period.

The authors should please describe census sampling and make the description of the statistical analysis to be more robust.

Results

This number of medical colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (private and public) and number of different regions/districts that participated in our survey should be included in the methodology and not the result section.

The term “Domicile” in Figure 1 should be explained and its duplication removed. Also the term covid-19 should replace covid.

Discussion

The statement “During the pandemic, not only the curriculum was formatted to be delivered in a virtual manner but also the examinations were delayed” should be rephrased.

Hani et al should be referenced intext properly by including the year.

In the concluding statement, the authors could begin with the prevalence of Covid-19 infection among the students, then the RR and common symptoms among the study participants.

Thank you and all the best.