

# Review of: "Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Cross-national associations of IQ and infectious diseases: Is the prevalence of Corona an exceptional case?

- The introduction may be improved by including a concise, well-structured background that highlights the specific research gap and clearly states the study's objectives and hypotheses.
- The study will benefit if a clear rationale for variable selection is provided, and potential confounding factors are addressed. Ethical implications of the study may also be included. Additionally, accounting for regional variations and providing a detailed treatment of missing data can enhance the study's validity.
- To improve the analysis, the authors may consider the use of factor analysis
- The discussion section of the paper may improve by presenting clear and consistent interpretation of the findings, robust theoretical framework, and adequately exploration of alternative explanations. The overgeneralization of results and the absence of external validation can weaken the discussion's section.
- The conclusion may focus more on explaining the mediators adequately, and provide practical implications or future research directions. To improve the conclusion, it should present specific findings, elaborate on the mechanisms of mediation, and discuss the implications of the results in relation to previous research.
- The limitations of the study may be made more comprehensive by including more details such as the lack of real-time data, the absence of longitudinal analysis, the potential influence of genetic factors, the lack of control for interventions, and potential data quality issues. To address these limitations, future research should consider using real-time data, conducting longitudinal analyses, exploring genetic factors, analyzing data at regional levels, controlling for interventions, etc.