

# 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.

Prevalence of Common Mental Illness and Its Associated Factors among Hawassa City High School Students in Hawassa, Sidama Region, Ethiopia

The paper focuses on an important issue in an understudied population, it is well designed with good sampling. My recommendation would be to publish with minor revisions.

## Comments

Common Mental Illness – the definition needs to be reconsidered – a more recent reference may be used. CMI is much wider than how they define it.

During the adolescence period, a fast-growing child will consistently seek to learn new things, engage in self-experimentation, and initiate an autonomous lifestyle. Maybe reworded as

‘During adolescence, a growing child will consistently seek to learn new things, engage in self-experimentation, and initiate an autonomous lifestyle.’

Many longitudinal studies have shown that mental disorders become more prevalent from childhood to adolescence<sup>[9]</sup>. One in 5 adolescents aged 13-18 already have or will have a serious mental illness. – These two sentences may be deleted.

In the literature review, where studies are referring to developing countries or Asian countries – this can be explicitly stated. Those studies that were conducted in Ethiopia need to be stated explicitly ‘in Ethiopia’ as this sets up the a cultural reference. Manifesting somatic symptoms for depression is very well documented all over Asia. This is also probably true for all developing countries or non-western societies. Thus by mentioning these references – the way CMI are perceived and experienced in non-western societies is contrasted with western societies.

## Methods

It needs to be mentioned if the study went through IRB review or some similar scrutiny.

If informed consent was taken – needs to be mentioned.

A reference may be added for the Sample size formula .

Results -

Regarding the family history of mental illness among the respondents, 56(9.1%) of them reported that they had members of their family suffered. – may be reworded as

reported family members with a history.

Discussion

Is well written. A little context about Havassa city could be added – socio-cultural context could be briefly described. Culture among young people, what their general aims, concerns