

# Review of: "Covid-19 vaccine uptake and its associated factors among rural households in The Gambia: a community-based cross-sectional study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Overall:

The research assesses the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among rural dwellers in The Gambia's North Bank Region, identifying gender and education as positive influencers on vaccination rates, while ethnicity and lower income levels are among the deterrents, suggesting the need for targeted communication strategies to improve vaccination coverage. Despite the potential contributions, several areas require further clarification and refinement, as detailed below:

### 1. Introduction:

The introduction provides rich information on the pandemic, containment approaches, and The Gambia; however, the focus of the article, vaccine uptake or hesitancy, was only briefly mentioned in one sentence. It would be better if the authors could further discuss vaccine hesitancy in both general contexts and the specific context of The Gambia, as well as previous studies on the factors associated with vaccine hesitancy.

### 2. Methodology

2.1. Study setting. The survey was conducted in October 2021. How about the expansion of vaccination programs in The Gambia? It would be better if the authors could justify this time selection and suggest if the period allowed vaccines to reach the residents in the region.

2.2. Sampling. The selection of two respondents within one household might generate significant bias, as people within the same household might have a similar vaccine attitude. It might be better to address this issue.

2.3. There is a difference between the willingness of vaccine uptake and the ability to access available vaccines. The current variables might not capture this nuanced difference.

### 3. Results

3.1. The distribution of some variables is highly skewed. For example, the sample collects many young respondents (18-33). How about the overall age/gender distribution in the region?

3.2. I would suggest adding a table to present descriptive statistics.

3.3. The age group should be further justified. Why was age not analyzed as a continuous variable? Is there any justification behind this age grouping?

#### **4. Conclusion**

It might be better to highlight the characteristics of the sample as they were rural households.