

# Review of: "Identifying Psychological Distress Patterns during the COVID-19 Pandemic using an Intersectional Lens"

Arup Chakraborty<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Medical College Kolkata

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Review of the paper

I would first like to congratulate the authors on completing research which is unique in design and from the point of analysis. The study used nationally representative data and applied conditional inference trees and random forests as analytical methods to evaluate how psychological distress presented for different intersecting social identities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The view of the authors were clear regarding the interaction to influence psychological distress levels.

However, I think some issues need to be mentioned to strengthen the impact of this research.

2. Title: place of study needs to be mentioned
3. Inclusion and exclusion criteria: should be mentioned properly
4. Clarity regarding sample size calculation as well sampling technique need to be taken care of
5. Justification for analysis used. The authors provide a good overview of the process involved in, and benefit of, analyzing data using conditional inference trees and random forests. However, it is not clear to the reader why these data needed to be analyzed using such methods rather than traditional methods of linear or quadratic regression.
6. More thorough discussion of study limitations, practical implications, and recommendations for future research. As noted in my first comment, I believe this paper would be strengthened by organizing findings based on hypothesized effects.

I thank you for the opportunity to review this work and it is my belief that addressing the above aspects will strengthen this important research.