

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Healthcare Professionals Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Sudan: A Cross-sectional Survey Assessing Quality of life, Mental Health and Work-life-Balance.

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Juan Gómez-Salgado

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

One-third of the HCPs in Sudan reported HRQoL

Most of the study participants (80%) reported eating poorly balanced, while three-quarters suffered sleep difficulty.

The results indicate that an increase in the Anxiety scores (GAD-7) by one unit is associated with a decrease in HRQoL by ($\beta = 0.831$, $p < 0.05$).

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

It seems the first national study to assess the experiences of HCPs in Sudan

The introduction and Material and Methods sections should be revised in detail.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this very interesting paper. The paper has many strengths that should be of interest to the journal audience. Thus, the following suggestions are around enhancing the presentation for publication and clarifying aspects of the data and reporting.

I will go by line number for the most part. If not, I will try to be as specific as possible in noting the area I am speaking about.

Abstract

[L.9, p.1] Health Care Healthcare Professionals or Healthcare Professionals?

[L.10, p.1] When was the peak of COVID-19 pandemic?

[L.12, p.1] Authors must specify the type of study design. A cross-sectional study was carried out with a sample...

Please provide the expansion of the abbreviations. In the Results section, HRQoL needs to be spelt out (this is now the first instance of this acronym)

[L.21-24, p.1] "The main objective of this research was to investigate the Work-life balance (WLB), mental health, and quality of life..." so you investigate 3 variables, in conclusion section you provide information only for 2 variables.

[L.26, p.1] Keywords. Healthcare Professions and HRQoL are not MeSH Terms. COVID-19 should be included

1. Introduction

[L.33-38, p.2] You provide the information but don't use a reference.

Please, summarize clearly the current state of the topic and address the limitations of current knowledge in this field. Why the study was necessary? Authors must speak more about gender and professionals healthcare, about the adverse working conditions affecting the mental health, which are the consequences of high levels

of psychological distress (professionals and patients), etc. Are there in these environments a high presence of symptomatology related to work stress (physical and emotional fatigue, overload, tension, and anxiety) that may pose a risk of impaired mental health? Why? Are there any theory that includes the 3 variables (WLB, mental health and QoL)? It seems that you provide information but there aren't relations between paragraphs. [L.62, p.2] Please provide the expansion of the abbreviations: WHO.

The prevalence and incidence of COVID-19 in the area of study during the period of study should be discussed.

2. Materials and Methods

[L.88, p.2] When you said to "other departments", please, define it.

[L.89, p.2] The main inclusion criteria > The inclusion criteria

Why do you include "those working for at least three months"?

How was the sample chosen? Which is the total population? Authors must specify it.

Do the authors have a study protocol? The study protocol should be described in detail.

Which is the ID number? (ID number.....:2020). Interventionary studies involving animals or humans, and other studies require ethical approval must list the authority that provided approval and the corresponding ethical approval code. Please include the date and code register number of the ethics committee.

[L.118, p.4] Don't you ask about gender or sex in sociodemographic information?

Are the scales adapted to the Sudanese population? Authors must justify their response. Which are the items, scales (Likert), scores, breakpoint and Cronbach alphas?

Data management and statistical analysis. It is convenient to run, and describe, the analysis of normality in the distribution of scores of the validated questionnaires they have used, in order to justify the use of parametric or non-parametric contrast statistics.

[L.150, p.5] Please, provide the version used for SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software.

3. Results

The results are presented clearly and accurately

Table 1. What is the meaning of *? Other profession*

At last, but not least, I recommend you to make available your data in an open repository. I think it will make this scientific process more transparent, and it allows other researchers to replicate your results.

4. Discussion

The authors logically explain the findings and compare the findings with current findings in the research field.

The fact of having a convenience sample should be included in the limitations of the study.

I wish you all the best.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality

Q 10 Rigor

Q 11 Significance to the field

Q 12 Interest to a general audience

Q 13 Quality of the writing

Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Major revisions.