

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52421

Date: 21/06/2025

Title: Preferences of undergraduate medical students for choosing a career specialty and their interest in community medicine

Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 21/06/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This research provides valuable insights into the career preferences of future doctors in India, highlighting the challenges in promoting community medicine and rural health services. Despite some limitations, it emphasizes the importance of strategic interventions to balance medical workforce distribution and align interests with national health priorities.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths

- Clear Research Objective:** The study explicitly aims to evaluate perceptions and preferences, making its focus well-defined.
- Sample Size & Diversity:** Inclusion of students from different years enhances the representativeness of the findings.
- Use of Structured Questionnaire:** Ensures consistency and reliability of data collection.
- Statistical Analysis:** Appropriate use of chi-square tests for analyzing categorical variables strengthens validity.
- Contextual Relevance:** Addresses a significant issue in Indian medical education—diversity in specialty preference and rural health workforce challenges.
- Combination of Quantitative Data & Insights:** The findings shed light on the gaps between preferences and healthcare system needs.

Weaknesses

- Limited Scope & Generalizability:** The study is confined to a single institution, limiting broader applicability across different regions or institutions.
- Cross-Sectional Design:** Cannot establish causation beyond associations; longitudinal trends or reasons behind preferences are not deeply explored.
- Potential Response Bias:** Students' expressed preferences may not translate into actual career choices, especially in a highly competitive system.
- Lack of Qualitative Insights:** No in-depth understanding of why students have certain preferences beyond surface-level responses.
- Insufficient Focus on Community Medicine:** While it is discussed, the study does not explore detailed reasons for its low attractiveness or strategies for improvement.
- Limited Discussion on Policy Implications:** The paper could benefit from more actionable recommendations based on findings.