

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No: IJAR-53050

Date: 30.07.2025

Title: The comorbidity of depression and anxiety among Saudi Board Residents in different health training programs in Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia, 2024,

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision – Kindly resend for review after revision to decide

| Rating | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality | | | Fair | |
| Techn. Quality | | | Fair | |
| Clarity | | | | Poor |
| Significance | | Good | | |

Reviewer Name: Dr. Divyaparvathy J

Reviewer's Comment for Publication: Will be provided once resent for review.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The journal submission guidelines states that the original articles are limited to 20 pages. The current article is 40 pages including references.

Abstract:

1. The abstract covers key components: background, aim, methods, results, and conclusion.
2. Provides specific statistics on prevalence and severity levels of depression and anxiety among participants.

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

3. Highlights important specialties with higher prevalence, which is useful for targeted interventions.

Introduction:

1. The article provides a detailed overview of depression and anxiety disorders, including causes, risk factors, prevalence, symptoms, diagnostic criteria, screening tools, and treatments.
2. However, several sentences are broken or overly long. Consider trimming and simplifying for clarity. The text lacks **clear paragraph breaks**.
3. Consider adding words like, additionally, furthermore or in contrast to guide the readers through author's thoughts.
4. The introduction part alone consists of nearly 4500 words. Consider shortening the sentences and resend it for consideration. Ensure your article complies with the journal's submission guidelines. These guidelines are essential to maintain consistency, streamline the review process, and ensure that all submissions meet our editorial standards.

Literature Review:

This part is not mandatory according to the journal standards, but if the author wants to retain this part, consider the following:

- a. Simplify and clarify complex or wordy sentences
- b. Use active voice where possible.
- c. Organize the review thematically
- d. Avoid repeating phrases
- e. Cite references, naturally into the sentence rather than stacking them at the end.

Materials and Methods:

REVIEWER'S REPORT

1. In study design and setting: Specify the full official name of the Ministry of Health and clarify the exact location if possible.
2. Make clear how random sampling was conducted (e.g., simple random sampling, stratified sampling).
3. Clarify that the questionnaire was validated or based on previously validated tools. Provide citations for PHQ-9 and GAD-7 validation if available.
4. In ethical consideration, replace question marks with the actual name of the ethics committee and reference number.

Results:

1. Very detailed demographic breakdown (age, gender, income, specialty, etc.). Prevalence of depression and anxiety stratified by meaningful subgroups (gender, year of residency, specialty, lifestyle factors).
2. Some tables are too dense and overwhelming – difficult to quickly interpret. No confidence intervals or effect sizes are provided.
3. Some p-values are given without corresponding statistical test names.
4. Descriptive results repeat large portions of data already presented in tables (e.g., “49 (40%) showed no depression” is clear from the table – less need to restate verbatim).
5. Summarize key trends rather than repeating every data point in the text.
6. Improve clarity and coherence.