

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53349

Date: 16/08/2025

Title: *Knowledge about autism spectrum disorder among final year medical students in Bangladesh – a cross-sectional study*

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: 16/08/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The study concludes that final-year MBBS students in Bangladesh possess a reasonable understanding of the social and communication aspects of ASD but exhibit significant misconceptions regarding behavioral patterns and comorbidities, notably confusing autism with childhood schizophrenia. These findings underscore the necessity for enhanced and targeted medical education regarding ASD, particularly emphasizing behavioral manifestations and associated health conditions, to better prepare future physicians for early detection and management of autism.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths of the Study

- Addressing a Critical Gap:** It fills an important gap by assessing the knowledge of future healthcare providers in Bangladesh regarding ASD.
- Use of a Validated Tool:** The KCAHW questionnaire was adapted and validated locally, enhancing the relevance and reliability of the data.
- Sample Size & Diversity:** Adequate enrollment of 300 students from both government and private colleges provides a broader perspective.
- Comprehensive Analysis:** The study evaluates multiple domains of knowledge, providing detailed insights into specific areas of strength and weakness.
- Highlights Educational Needs:** Identifies specific misconceptions and knowledge gaps that can inform curriculum development.

Weaknesses of the Study

- Cross-sectional Design:** Cannot assess changes over time or the impact of specific educational interventions.
- Limited Cultural Depth:** The questionnaire focused mainly on factual knowledge and did not explore cultural beliefs, etiological understanding, or attitudes towards ASD.
- Potential Response Bias:** Self-administered questionnaires may be influenced by social desirability or respondents' misinterpretation of questions.
- Limited Exploration of Sources of Knowledge:** Although it reports where students got their information, the study does not explore the depth or accuracy of this knowledge.
- Lack of Qualitative Data:** No exploration of students' perceptions, attitudes, or confidence levels in managing ASD.
- Generalizability Limitations:** Conducted only within Dhaka University-affiliated colleges; may not fully represent all regions of Bangladesh.