

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54040

Date: 25/09/2025

Title: **Epidemiological and Clinical Patterns of Suicidal Burn Injuries: A Cross-Sectional Analysis with a Focus on Gender-Based Outcomes in Burns**

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: 25/09/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The study offers valuable insights into the epidemiology of suicidal burn injuries with a focus on gender disparities in Kerala, India. The findings underscore the urgent need for gender-sensitive mental health interventions and sociocultural reforms. Addressing the identified methodological and structural shortcomings would significantly improve the clarity, scientific rigor, and impact of the manuscript.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths

- Timely and Relevant Topic:** The study addresses a significant public health concern suicidal burn injuries, especially among women in Kerala, India. The focus on gender differences and sociocultural factors enhances the relevance.
- Robust Sample Size and Duration:** Analyzing 648 cases over four years provides a substantial data set that supports meaningful analysis and conclusions.
- Focus on Gender and Sociocultural Factors:** The paper emphasizes disparities based on gender, exploring underlying societal issues such as gender inequality and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, which add depth to the epidemiological analysis.
- Use of Statistical Analysis:** The application of appropriate statistical tests (e.g., p-values, odds ratios) strengthens the credibility of the findings.
- Highlight of Geographic Hotspots:** Identifying Wayanad as a hotspot for suicidal burns adds valuable regional insights for targeted interventions.

Weaknesses

- Lack of Clear Structural Organization:** The manuscript would benefit from a distinct and standardized structure specifically, clear sections for Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion to improve readability.
- Methodological Details are Insufficient:** The criteria for defining burns as suicides or accidents require clarification. Details about how data on burn intent was obtained (e.g., from medical records or interviews) are limited. Information about ethical approvals, consent, and data handling procedures should be explicitly mentioned.
- Data Presentation & Analysis:** The distribution of TBSA, burn depth, and socioeconomic variables needs more detailed presentation with tables or graphs. Stratified mortality rates by age, gender, and burn severity would improve the depth of analysis.
- Language and Grammar Issues:** Minor grammatical errors, typographical mistakes, and inconsistent tense usage are present, affecting clarity. For example, "most often Burns is reported" instead of "most often, burns are reported."

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5. **Inconsistent Referencing:** References are numbered but lack proper formatting and contextual discussion; unifying and expanding references would enhance credibility.
6. **Discussion and Conclusion Could Be Deeper:** The discussion should connect findings more comprehensively with existing literature and explore underlying causative factors. Limitations such as potential biases and generalizability should be explicitly acknowledged.
7. **Ethical Aspects:** The statement about ethics approval is brief; details on confidentiality, consent, and ethical standards are essential.

Instructions for the Authors

Structural and Content Modifications:

- **Organize the manuscript into clear sections:** Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References.
- **Detail the methodology:** Clarify definitions of suicidal vs. accidental burns, data collection processes, and criteria for inclusion/exclusion.
- **Present data systematically:** Use tables and figures to depict demographic variables, burn characteristics, outcomes, and statistical tests.
- **Deepen the discussion:** Compare results with relevant literature; elaborate on causative and sociocultural factors; discuss implications for policy and intervention.
- **Expand on limitations:** Acknowledge potential biases, underreporting issues, and generalizability constraints.

Language and Style:

- Proofread thoroughly for grammatical errors, typos, and inconsistent tense (prefer past tense for methods and results).
- Ensure clear sentence construction and avoid run-on sentences.
- Use consistent referencing style and complete all references according to journal standards.

Ethical and Confidentiality Aspects:

- Explicitly state the ethical approval obtained, including the name of the ethics committee.
- Clarify steps taken to ensure patient confidentiality and data privacy.

Additional Suggestions:

- Consider including a section on recommendations for policy and practice based on findings.
- Highlight regional intervention strategies, especially targeting high-risk groups identified.