

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No: IJAR-54524

Date: 2025.10.25

Title: SOCIAL REPRESENTATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL UNHAPPINESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT OF THE CITY OF PORTO-NOVO

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision but need to incorporate the suggestions.

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

Reviewer's Name: Dr. Gaudy C. Ortizo

This study offers valuable insights into the social representations and stigma surrounding psychological distress among university students in Porto-Novo, addressing a critical gap in understanding mental health in the Beninese context. The findings highlight the importance of socio-educational and recreational activities as effective interventions, informing policy and practical strategies to promote mental well-being and reduce stigma in university environments.

Abstract

Suggestions:

Summarize the research purpose, methodology, key findings, and implications clearly and concisely within 150-200 words.

Ensure it reflects the primary focus on social representations, stigma, and socio-educational interventions related to psychological distress among students.

Highlight the significance of findings for policy and practice in university mental health programs.

Introduction

Suggestions:

Clearly define mental health and psychological distress, emphasizing their importance in the university context.

Articulate the global and local relevance, citing recent statistics or studies on youth mental health in Benin or similar settings.

Introduce the concept of social representations and stigma early to set the conceptual framework.

End with a clear research gap or rationale, stating why this study is necessary.

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Statement of the Problem

Suggestions:

Frame the problem as a clear, specific question, emphasizing the prevalence, awareness, and stigma surrounding psychological distress in the university setting. Incorporate recent data to justify the need for intervention, highlighting barriers to help-seeking. Link the problem to wider social, cultural, and educational factors influencing mental health in Porto-Novo.

Objectives

Suggestions:

Distinguish between general and specific objectives for clarity. For example: *General objective*: To analyze social representations and stigma associated with psychological distress among students. *Specific objectives*: To determine levels of awareness, identify social barriers, and evaluate the role of socio-educational activities.

Hypotheses

Suggestions:

Formulate clear, testable hypotheses aligned with research questions and objectives. For example: "Students' limited knowledge of mental health is significantly influenced by social stigma," and "Participation in socio-educational activities improves attitudes and understanding of psychological distress."

Methodology

Suggestions:

Elaborate on sampling techniques, ensuring they are representative and justified. Describe data collection tools (questionnaires, interview guides) with details on validity and reliability. Clarify data analysis procedures—statistical tests for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data. Connect methods explicitly to theoretical frameworks, such as Goffman's stigma theory.

Results

Suggestions:

Present findings systematically, starting with perceptions of psychological distress, then social factors influencing stigma, and the impact of socio-educational activities. Use tables, figures, and direct quotes to illustrate key points. Highlight statistically significant relationships and patterns in the data.

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Discussion

Suggestions:

Interpret findings in relation to existing literature, confirming or contrasting prior studies.

Discuss implications for policy, practice, and future research, emphasizing potential interventions and necessary policy changes.

Address limitations (e.g., sample size, generalizability) and suggest ways to improve future studies.

Conclusion

Suggestions:

Summarize key findings concisely.

Reiterate the importance of addressing stigma and increasing awareness through socio-educational activities.

Offer clear recommendations for stakeholders—universities, policymakers, mental health professionals.

Propose avenues for further research.

References

Suggestions:

Follow a consistent, appropriate citation style (APA 7th edition), ensuring all sources cited in the text are included.

Include recent and relevant literature to support theoretical frameworks and contextualize findings.

General Comment:

The study is not a mixed methods design, since there was no integration of quanti and quali data as part of analysis.