Reviewer's report

Title: Establishing the reliability and validity of the Zagazig Depression Scale in a UK student population: a pilot study

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2010

Reviewer: Sanjay Jaju

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory revisions:

Title:
# Should mention: an online pilot study.

Abstract:

Methods:
# Instead of highlighting that “……of 275 undergraduate students……” would it not be better to state that “of the 275 students invited to participate in the survey, only 133(48.36%) completed the survey”?
# The corrections suggested below should also reflect in the abstract.

Procedure:
# Please clarify the basis of inviting 275 students?

Results:
# The number of participating females is 57.75% as compared to males who comprise 42.42%. This must be taken into consideration in discussion section when you are trying to interpret the study results for gender.

Discussion:
# 1st para: Your study sample is an opportunistic invited sample. Should the findings of depression in your study be discussed as a rate?
# 3rd para: refer to comment in results section above.
# The non-response (51.63%) needs to be taken into account in the interpretation of the study findings in the discussion section.

Conclusion:
# Will your main study also be an online study?

Minor Essential revisions:
Discussion:

Since 84.4% of your participants were also rated as having high family affluence on the FAS (Table 1), would it not be appropriate to describe your interpretation about reliability of ZDS as applicable mainly to this socio-economic category of the sampled UK students?

Discretionary Revisions:

Conclusion:

Please rephrase “The main study will build on my work…….” Instead of my, please use the term current study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests