Reviewer's report

Title: The assessment of depression awareness and help-seeking behaviour: experiences with the International Depression Literacy Survey.

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2007

Reviewer: Uriel Halbreich

Reviewer's report:

General
In many countries and cultures, awareness of diagnosis of depression is unsatisfactory. Cultural differences in perceptions of and attitudes towards depression and other mental disorders have been demonstrated. The current interesting report emphasizes differences among various student groups even within same country and same universities.

It reports responses to a ‘self-report questionnaire – The International Depression Literacy Survey – IDLS.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Despite 3 full pages of description of the IDLS, this reviewer developed only a general impression of the questionnaire. In order for the general reader to gain a better understanding of the IDLS, the simplest and mandatory approach would be to append to actual questionnaire to the paper, and focus on brief rationales for inclusion of the various items. This will also lend the article for replication and expansion of the survey in different populations – a future direction recommended by the authors.

2. The discussion would benefit from more details on the broader context of cross-cultural attitudes and concepts of depression, as well as noting the limitation of the current survey. The main limitation is what appears to be a convenience sample of students.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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