Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of posttraumatic stress disorder among adult in flood district

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Reviewer: Cengiz Kiliç

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1. First, this is a study with a very big sample. We are told to believe that 25000 subjects were each phoned for appointments, all 25000 questionnaires were checked by one study supervisor (who ordered a re-interview when data were missing), each one of 25.000 survivors were seen in a separate room; all the assessment of demographics, other predictor variables and PTSD took 20 minutes. Add to this the fact that all interviews were done by 40 data collectors (650 interviews each). The authors also donot give any exclusion criteria. Were everyone in chosen household included? What about those who couldn't be interviewed? Or those who did not experience the floods?

2. PTSD diagnosis cannot be made using questionnaires. The measure they have used is not an interview, but a questionnaire. You can only mention "probable PTSD rate" when using a questionnaire.

3. The authors have excluded some potential predictors on the basis that they did not relate to PTSD in the initial univariate analyses. This is not appropriate. They should have based their decision on the existing literature. Almost all studies point to subjective experience (i.e fear) during trauma as one of the strongest predictors of PTSD, the authors have not assessed that.