Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and Factors Determining Psychoactive Substance (PAS) use among Hawassa University (HU) Undergraduate Students, Hawassa Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Part One: Response to Marie-Pierre Tavolacci

Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Factors Determining Psychoactive Substance (PAS) use among Hawassa University (HU) Undergraduate Students, Hawassa Ethiopia

Version: 7 Date: 22 August 2014

Reviewer: Marie-Pierre Tavolacci

Reviewer's report:

Comments in Yellow Square in the pdf

Answer By Author:

I would like to thank you for your valuable comments given so far. We have tried to review and refine our work so far by incorporating your comment. Based on the comments we have again made the following improvements. Under here are our responses in line with your 2nd round comment

Introduction:

1. Line # 48 & 49: The topics of these references are alcohol and tobacco. It should be have reference about the other PAS

Comment Accepted: Additional references added (see lie#48, 49, 50 and 51)

Methods

1. Line # 93: this 5% is alpha, necessary in the comparison of two percentages but which precision of the prevalence did you choose?

Answer:

Yes our alpha is 5% and as well our margin of error (precision) is also 5% at 95%CI. Hence to make it more clearly we used the term precision on the body of the article (see line # 93)

2. Line # 93: Indicate it in the article

Comment Accepted: now it is indicated in the article as "past 12 month PAS use prevalence" (see line # 90)
Tables
1. Table 1: There are still mistake in the table 1: Example 81.7% of male or 81.4%?? in the column "total" the sum of the row is not equal to 100 (18.1+79.9+2.1)

Comment Accepted: Arithmetic error corrected (see table-1)

2. Table 4: Put all the results in Bivariate in table 4 even those are not significantly associated

Comment accepted: Those factors which their P-value less than 0.2 and analyzed the multiple logistic regression analysis are now presented in the table as commented. (See Table -4)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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' below
Part Two: Response to Stefanie Helmer

Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Factors Determining Psychoactive Substance (PAS) use among Hawassa University (HU) Undergraduate Students, Hawassa Ethiopia

Version: 7 Date: 11 August 2014

Reviewer: Stefanie Helmer

Reviewer's report:
The article has been improved but there is still a lack of clarity concerning some issues.

Answer By Author:

I would like to thank you for your valuable comments given so far. We have tried to review and refine our work so far by incorporating your comment. Based on the comments we have again made the following improvements. Under here are our responses in line with your 2nd round comment

Minor essential revisions:

Comments

Abstract
1. Page 1, Line 21: The word ‘Use’ is mentioned twice in this sentence. Please delete use after (PAS).
   Comment Accepted: The word “use” deleted (see line #21)

Results:
1. Page 4, Line 143, 144: Please use spaces after numbers (i.e. line 143, after 479)
   Comment Accepted: done see (see line #145)

2. Page 5, Line 163-169: Throughout this paragraph there are many small mistakes. For instance, ‘by 90(29.6%) and 62(19.7%) respondants respectively.’ Please delete numbers of participants and replace respondants by respondents. Furthermore, please delete one space and the dot after respectively. Please revise the whole section.
   Comment Accepted: numbers of participants deleted, ‘respondants’ replaced by ‘respondents’ one space and a dot after respectively deleted. The whole section revised (see line # 164-171)
Discussion:

   Comment Accepted: “life-time” replaced by “lifetime” (see line # 198)

2. Page 6, Line 202: ‘In contrast to the results of other studies conducted in Ethiopian Universities, these are the most commonly used PASs.’ Please cite the studies you are referring to. Furthermore, please indicate what is meant by ‘In contrast’ and give a short impression about the results of the other studies.

   Comment Accepted: The word “in contrast” is changed with a word “As compared to” and also four(4) articles are cited (see line #204 & # 205)

3. Page 7, Line 241: Unlike other similar studies [11, 12, 27, 28], this study never reported use of illicit or un-prescribed psycho active medications (NPS). This sentence is not easy to understand. Please rephrase. Furthermore, replace psycho active by psycho active.

   Comment Accepted: To make it more clear, the sentence is rephrased, Psycho active replaced by psychoactive

   Comment regarding references strongly considered and we did further rechecking the appropriateness of the document. Though the previous references are titled with other substances, they still contain Reports about other NPS and illicit drugs. However, additional we have tried to in reach it with additional and more specific (line #247) references.   (see line # 243 -# 252)

4. Page 7, Line 248: That no student reported the use of Relevin is no faultless argument for a non-existing bias as all participants indicated to use none of the drugs at all. Please clarify this statement.

   • Comment accepted: the term “indicates” replaced by “may indicate” .Also, “hadn’t lied” is substituted with “didn’t over estimate”. (see line # 249)
   • The whole sentence is restated to clarify. (See line # 250- # 252)

Tables:
1. Table 2: Please replace abuse by use.

   Comment accepted: Corrected, ‘abuse’ replaced by ‘use’ (see table 2 Title and as well column one)

2. Table 3: Please revise table 3 (Pear= peer; Sleep= sleep) and add use to the heading (PAS use).

   Comment accepted: corrected as indicated in your comment (see table three)
Discretionary Revisions:

Abstract:
1. Page 1, Line 29: The abbreviation ‘PAS’ is already explained in the introduction of the abstract. Please use the abbreviation in the methods section and not repeat the explanation.

Comment accepted and corrected

Introduction:
1. Page 2, Line 63: ‘There are also other survey reports depicting the use of other illicit drugs and NPS’ – According to the previous sentences could you show the illicit drug use and NPS prevalence of the cited study here?

Comment accepted: in addition to reference # 14, #15, #16, #17, and #18 are added (see line # 64- 66)

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.