Reviewer's report

Title: Levels of stigma among community mental health staff in Guangzhou, China

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Reviewer: Jyrki Korkeila

Reviewer's report:

In general the paper is interesting and deals with an important topic, stigma among mental health care workers. There is not enough study on the issue. The introduction leads to aims with a clear rationale. The instruments used and statistical methods are adequate.

Major compulsory revisions:
Firstly, some data on the validity and reliability of RIBS should be added to the first paragraph of instruments. Is there any corresponding data on MAKS? Table 3 describes responses to 5 items in MAKS. However, it is not clear what the statements are that the responder either disagrees or agrees. Please, elaborate.

On page 6, 1st paragraph in results: there was no difference, obviously there was not significant difference?

Discussion: This section should begin with stating the main result of the study and continue to commenting the previous research and moving the "limitations" toward the end of discussion.

In the introduction stigma is grouped into three categories: 1) ignorance, 2) attitudes and 3) discrimination. It might clarify the discussion, if the results would be discussed in this order. I did not find adequate discussion on ignorance, just a mention of women possibly having better knowledge.

The authors make a reference to implicit attitudes. There is research on this issue indicating that implicit attitude may have more predictive validity than explicit.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests