Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychological distress among medical students in conflicts: a cross-sectional study from Syria

Version: 1 Date: 28 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Ajay Risal

Reviewer's report:

This a very interesting paper to assess conflict-related distress among the medical students. It is however worthwhile to deal with the following essential comments before it is acceptable for publication:

1. In page 8, para 2, line 8, you have quoted 'Stress is the second most common disorder'; can stress be considered to be the disorder? Please explain.

2. It is regarding the statement you have made in Page 9, para 3, line 15-16: This sentence is not clear; please explain.

3. It is regarding the statement you have made in Page 9, para 4, line 19-20: Somewhere you explain depression, anxiety, and stress as 'disorders', while somewhere you regard them as 'distress'. I think you should have clearly distinguished these two aspects in the Introduction section. Keeping these two different aspects as synonyms needs further explanation.

4. It is regarding the statement you have made in Page 10, para 1, line 2-3: Your references 19 and 20 gives estimates of depression, anxiety, and stress among medical students in Canada, US, etc.... but you tend to explain that distress among medical students seems to be higher in medical students than general population through these references. How can you validate this claim?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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