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OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Effect of Oral and Dental Health Status on the Self-Esteem Levels of Turkish University Youth

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

3 comments · 3 Mar 2024 – 19 Mar 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 3 Mar 2024

The review comments have been uploaded as a file.

Narges Farhad-Mollashahi Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 8 Mar 2024

The text should be corrected grammatically. It must be edited using a commonly used term.

• Subject
Is the article within the scope of the journal? What is the real age of adolescence? Is a 25-year-old an adolescent?
The article does not have novelty. Reference 17 did exactly the same study.
• Abstract
The abstract does not provide an informative and balanced summary of what was found.
- In the methods, add statistical analysis.

• Introduction
Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported.
• Results
The tables are ambiguous. They do not give the main findings.
In table 4, the sum of the numbers in the first column is not 962!!
• Discussion
Discuss limitations of the study.
This section must be rewritten. Discuss the impact of Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level (low, moderate, high). What behaviors were observed in adolescents with higher self-esteem compared with adolescents with lower self-esteem in terms of oral health? What correlation was found between oral behaviors and status and the level of self-esteem?
Is the conclusion not justified & substantiated? It does not support the analysis.

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 19 Mar 2024

Hi dear editor in chief
The review process for the manuscript entitled “The Effect of Turkish Adolescent Students' Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level, (144530)” has now been completed. The comments are as follows:
Reviewer 1
The text should be corrected grammatically. It must be edited with a commonly used term.
• Subject
Is the article within the scope of the journal? What is the actual age range of adolescence? Is a 25-year-old an adolescent?
The article lacks novelty. Reference 17 reported exactly the same study.
• Abstract
The abstract does not provide an informative and balanced summary of what was found.
-In the method section, add statistical analysis.

• Introduction
Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported.
• Results
The tables are ambiguous. They do not give the main findings.
In table 4, the sum of the numbers in the first column is not 962!!
• Discussion
Discuss limitations of the study.
This section must be rewritten. Discuss the impact of Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level (low, moderate, high). What behaviors were observed in adolescents with higher self-esteem compared with adolescents with lower self-esteem in terms of oral health? What correlation was found between oral behaviors and status and the level of self-esteem?
The conclusion is not justified & substantiated? It does not support the analysis.

Reviewer 2
In this review, the article has been evaluated, and suggestions for improving the study have been provided:
-Please specify the exact p-value in line 13 of the abstract.
-In sentence 59, the method of using random sampling and the selection of sample individuals should be further explained. Additionally, information about the population of students, the method of collecting the list of students, and the reasons for not selecting dental students should be mentioned here.
- In sentence 61, the method of calculating the sample size and the use of a margin of error less than 5% with a 95% confidence level should be further explained.
- In sentence 65, it is mentioned that a questionnaire developed by researchers was used to collect the data. However, it is not clear whether the validity and reliability of the questionnaire were assessed by the researchers.
- In sentence 68, more details about the interview method, the distribution and collection of questionnaires, privacy protection measures, the location of questionnaire distribution, the time required to complete the questionnaire, and other relevant information should be provided.
- In general, to improve the study's implementation method, more details should be provided in the study text regarding the questionnaire, its administration method, the data collection process, and the measures taken to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.
- The discussion requires further completion. More details regarding specific results and findings that align with previous studies have not been presented, and it is necessary to provide more results from previous and similar studies. Additionally, more detailed information about the findings of the current study should be provided to enhance the overall discussion.
- In sentence 188, there is no need to present a table or figure, and the figure should be included in the Results section.
- Strengths and limitations of the study should be addressed.

Reviewer 3
1- The p-value should be mentioned in the abstract.
2- The random selection of groups should be described in detail.
3- The type of study should be added in the method section.
4- Please explain the inclusion/exclusion criteria.
5- Below the tables, indicate the exact type of statistical test used for each variable with * and **.
6- Revise this sentence: “Further analysis showed that the difference was due to those who did not use dental floss, and those who did not use dental floss had low self-esteem”.
7- In the discussion section, refer to more similar studies and discuss them more widely.

8- Please add new and updated articles and use them in the discussion section.
9- Please mention the strengths and weaknesses of the study.

Best Regards

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your constructive feedback on our manuscript titled **"The Effect of Turkish University Youth' Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level"** We highly appreciate the valuable comments and suggestions provided by the three esteemed reviewers. In response, we have carefully revised our manuscript, taking into consideration all the points raised.

We believe that these revisions, which are indicated in red text in the main text, have significantly improved the quality of our manuscript. We hope that it is now suitable for publication in IJ Pediatrics. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to enhance our work based on the insightful feedback provided.

Below, we present a summary of the main revisions made, as well as our responses to each of the reviewer's comments:

Reviewer 1:		
	Subject	
1	What is the real age of adolescence? Is a 25 year old an adolescent?	The relevant part in the title of the study was changed to *university youth.*
2	the article Does not have novelty. Reference 17 did exactly the same study.	The study examined the extent to which oral health status and behaviors affect self-esteem. In addition, the study will have an important place in literature in terms of being up-to-date.
	Abstract	
3	Abstract does not provide an informative and balanced summary of what was found. -In method, add statistical analysis.	Which statistical analysis was performed has been added to the method section.
	Introduction	
4	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported.	The introduction section has also been expanded in this context.
	Results	
5	The Tables are ambiguous. It does not give main findings. In table 4, the sum of the numbers in the first column is not 962!!	The table column has been recalculated and updated.
	Discussion	
6	Discuss limitations of the study. This section must be rewrite. Discuss about the impact of Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level (low, moderate ,high) . What behaviors were observed in adolescents with higher self esteem compared than adolescent with lower self esteem in terms of oral health? What correlation was found between oral behaviors and status with level of self esteem?	The discussion section has been revised again.

	Conclusion	
7	Conclusion does not justified & substantiated? It does not support analysis.	The conclusion section has been revised again

Reviewer 2:		
1	Please specify the exact p-value in line 13 of the abstract.	p values are added to the abstract section in line 13 of the abstract.
2	In sentence 59, the method of using random sampling and the selection of sample individuals should be further explained. Additionally, information about the population of students, the method of collecting the list of students, and the reasons for not selecting dental students should be mentioned here.	it is mentioned details about in the design section.
3	In sentence 61, the method of calculating the sample size and the use of a margin of error less than 5% with a 95% confidence level should be further explained.	The sample calculation is restated in the method section.
4	In sentence 65, it is mentioned that a questionnaire developed by researchers was used to collect the data. However, it is not clear whether the validity and reliability of the questionnaire were assessed by the researchers.	The questions developed by the researchers were based on the literature. The literature was specified in the “Data Collection” section.
5	In sentence 68, more details about the interview method, the distribution and collection of questionnaires, privacy protection measures, the location of questionnaire distribution, the time required to complete the questionnaire, and other relevant information should be provided.	In sentence 68, it is mentioned more details about the interview method,
6	In general, to improve the study's implementation method, more details should be provided in the study text regarding the questionnaire, its administration method, the data collection process, and the measures taken to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.	it is mentioned more details in the data collection section.
7	The discussion requires further completion. More details regarding specific results and findings that align with previous studies have not been presented, and it is necessary to provide more results from previous and similar studies. Additionally, more detailed information about the findings of the current study should be provided to enhance the overall discussion.	The discussion section has been revised again.
8	- In sentence 188, there is no need to present a table or figure, and the figure should be included in the Results section.	In sentence 188, table and figure representation have been removed and added results section.
	Strengths and limitations of the study should be	The strengths and limitations of the study

	addressed.	are added to after discussion section

Reviewer 3		
1	The amount of P-value should be mentioned in the abstract.	p values are added to the abstract section
2	should be written how to randomly select groups in detail.	it is mentioned details about in the design section.
3	The type of study should be added in the method section.	The type of study added in the method section
4	Please explain the Inclusion/Exclusion citeria.	The Inclusion criteria are added in the method section of the article.
5	below the tables, indicate the exact type of statistical test used for each variable with * and **	* Added for the type of statistical test
6	Revise this sentence: “Further analysis showed that the difference was due to those who did not use dental floss, and those who did not use dental floss had low self-esteem”.	The sentence has been revised again.
7	In the discussion section, refer to more similar studies and discuss more widely.	The discussion section has been revised again.
8	Please add new and updated articles and use them in the discussion section.	new and updated articles has been used in the discussion section.
9	Please mention the strengths and weaknesses of the study.	The strengths and limitations of the study are added to after discussion section.

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 2 May 2024

Forough Amirabadi Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 2 May 2024

Abstract:
- Start the abstract with a clear statement of the purpose of the study. For example: "This study aimed to examine the effects of oral and dental health status on the self-esteem levels of Turkish university youth."
- In the methods section, provide more details about the study design and sampling process. Specify the age range or criteria for selecting the sample of 962 participants during the 2020-2021 academic year.

- In the first line of the method, add the word students or Turkish university youth after 962.

- Clarify the statistical analyses performed. Instead of mentioning "pairwise comparisons" and "multiple comparisons," specify that t-tests were used for pairwise comparisons and one-way ANOVA was used for multiple comparisons.

- In the results section, provide more specific information about the findings. Instead of saying "statistically significant differences were found," mention the specific relationships or associations that were found to be statistically significant.

- Specify the direction of the relationships or associations found in the study. For example, instead of saying "the self-esteem of students with dental crookedness had lower self-esteem," mention that dental crookedness was negatively associated with self-esteem.

- Ensure that the keywords accurately reflect the main themes of the study, such as "oral health" instead of "dental health."

Introduction:
- In sentence 3, instead of saying "American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)," consider using "According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)."

- When stating statistics or findings from previous studies, provide the source or reference in brackets immediately after the statement. For example, instead of saying "compared to those with good oral health [3]," mention the specific study or source that supports this statement.

- In the last sentence of the introduction, consider briefly mentioning the significance of the present study and how its findings can contribute to the existing literature on oral and dental health in Turkish university youth.

Method:
- The word "study" is repeated twice in the first sentence of the method.

- Clarify the rationale for the chosen sample size. Explain why the calculated sample size of N=391 was initially determined, and provide a brief justification for increasing the sample size to 962 participants.
- Specify the number and qualifications of the experts who reviewed and finalized the questionnaire. Instead of saying "5 experts in the field of 3 pediatric health and diseases nursing and 2 dentists," mention "The questionnaire was reviewed and finalized by a panel of five experts, including three experts in pediatric health and diseases nursing and two dentists."

- Provide more information about the face-to-face interview method used to collect data. Describe who conducted the interviews and whether any training or standardization was implemented to ensure consistency in data collection.

- Specify the range of response options for the questions in the questionnaire. For example, instead of saying "a four-point scale, including options between strongly agree and strongly disagree," mention "a four-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree."

- The exclusion criteria should be mentioned in addition to the inclusion criteria.
Result:
- Clarify the direction of the differences. For example, instead of saying "students who had rotten teeth, had bad breath and had dark yellow teeth had lower self-esteem," mention "students who had rotten teeth, bad breath, and dark yellow teeth had significantly lower self-esteem scores compared to those without these oral health issues."

- Use more precise language when describing the statistical tests. Instead of saying "Decayed teeth, presence of bad breath, tooth color and RSES scores were found to show statistically significant difference," mention "There was a statistically significant difference in self-esteem scores based on the presence of decayed teeth, bad breath, and tooth color, as assessed by the RSES."
-

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Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

03.06.2024

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your constructive feedback on our manuscript titled **"The Effect of Turkish University Youth' Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level"** We highly appreciate the valuable comments and suggestions provided by the two esteemed reviewers. In response, we have carefully revised our manuscript, taking into consideration all the points raised.

We believe that these revisions, which are indicated in red text in the main text, have significantly improved the quality of our manuscript. We hope that it is now suitable for publication in IJ Pediatrics. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to enhance our work based on the insightful feedback provided.

Best regard

Below, we present a summary of the main revisions made, as well as our responses to each of the reviewer's comments:

Reviewer 1:		
	Discussion	
1	*There is no need to mention P value in the discussion section, please remove it.*	P values removed from the discussion section
2	*Figure 1 is not in the article, only the figure legend is mentioned at the end of the discussion.*	A repost of figüre-1 has been provided
Reviewer 2:		
	Abstract	
1	*-Start the abstract with a clear statement of the purpose of the study. For example: "This study aimed to examine the effects of oral and dental health status on the self-esteem levels of Turkish university youth."*	The purpose of the study has been added to the abstract section as follows. "This study aimed to examine the effects of oral and dental health status on the self-esteem levels of Turkish university youth."
2	*- In the methods section, provide more details about the study design and sampling process. Specify the age range or criteria for selecting the sample of 962 participants during the 2020-2021 academic year.*	The sentence has been corrected and added to the method section.
3	*-In the first line of the method, add the word students or Turkish university youth after 962.*	The expression "Turkish University Youth" was added in 962.
4	*- Clarify the statistical analyses performed. Instead of mentioning "pairwise comparisons" and "multiple comparisons," specify that t-tests were used for pairwise comparisons and One-way ANOVA was used for multiple*	Statistical analysis in this way "t-tests were used for pairwise comparisons and One-way ANOVA was used for multiple comparisons"

	comparisons.	
5	*-In the results section, provide more specific information about the findings. Instead of saying "statistically significant differences were found," mention the specific relationships or associations that were found to be statistically significant.*	The desired correction has been indicated in red in the result section.
6	*- Specify the direction of the relationships or associations found in the study. For example, instead of saying "the self-esteem of students with dental crookedness had lower self-esteem," mention that dental crookedness was negatively associated with self-esteem.*	The sentence has been corrected again.
7	*- Ensure that the keywords accurately reflect the main themes of the study, such as "oral health" instead of "dental health."*	The keyword has been changed to “oral health”.
	Introduction	
1	*-In sentence 3, instead of saying "American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)," consider using "According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)."*	The sentence has been corrected.
2	*- When stating statistics or findings from previous studies, provide the source or reference in brackets immediately after the statement. For example, instead of saying "compared to those with good oral health [3]," mention the specific study or source that supports this statement.*	References related to the study have been added.
3	*-In the last sentence of the introduction, consider briefly mentioning the significance of the present study and how its findings can contribute to the existing literature on oral and dental health in Turkish university youth.*	Contribution was made to the last sentence of the introduction according to your suggestion.
	Method	
1	*-The word "study" is repeated twice in the first sentence of the method.*	The repeated word “study” in the method section has been removed.
2	*- Clarify the rationale for the chosen sample size. Explain why the calculated sample size of N=391 was initially determined, and provide a brief justification for increasing the sample size to 962 participants.*	The reason for the sample size is explained in the design and sample section.
3	*- Specify the number and qualifications of the experts who reviewed and finalized the questionnaire. Instead of saying "5 experts in the field of 3 pediatric health and diseases nursing and 2 dentists," mention "The*	The sentence was corrected again in the data collection section.

	questionnaire was reviewed and finalized by a panel of five experts, including three experts in pediatric health and diseases nursing and two dentists."	
4	*-. Provide more information about the face-to-face interview method used to collect data. Describe who conducted the interviews and whether any training or standardization was implemented to ensure consistency in data collection*	The sentence has been corrected
5	*- Specify the range of response options for the questions in the questionnaire. For example, instead of saying "a four-point scale, including options between strongly agree and strongly disagree," mention "a four-point Likert scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree."*	The sentence has been corrected according to your suggestion.
6	*- The exclusion criteria should be mentioned in addition to the inclusion criteria*	The exclusion criteria have been added
	Results	
1	*- Clarify the direction of the differences. For example, instead of saying "students who had rotten teeth, had bad breath and had dark yellow teeth had lower self-esteem," mention "students who had rotten teeth, bad breath, and dark yellow teeth had significantly lower self-esteem scores compared to those without these oral health issues."*	The sentence has been corrected according to your suggestion in the result section.
2	*-. Use more precise language when describing the statistical tests. Instead of saying "Decayed teeth, presence of bad breath, tooth color and RSES scores were found to show statistically significant difference," mention "There was a statistically significant difference in self-esteem scores based on the presence of decayed teeth, bad breath, and tooth color, as assessed by the RSES."*	The sentence has been corrected according to your suggestion in the result section.

3 Revision 2

0 comments

No public comments in this round.

4

Revision 3

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

26.06.2024

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your constructive feedback on our manuscript titled "The Effect of Turkish University Youth' Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level"

We believe that this revision, which are indicated in red text in the main text, have significantly improved the quality of our manuscript. We hope that it is now suitable for publication in IJ Pediatrics. Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to enhance our work based on the insightful feedback provided.

Best regard,

Below, we present a summary of the main revisions made, as well as our responses to Associate Editor comments:

Associate Editor 1:		
1	In the last sentence of the introduction, consider briefly mentioning the significance of the present study and how its findings can contribute to the existing literature on oral and dental health in Turkish university youth. The necessity and purpose of the plan at the end of the introduction is not well explained (The reviewer's answer was not given correctly).	In the last sentence of the introduction, the importance of this study was re-mentioned and corrected.
2	There is still no information about the face-to-face interview method. Please clarify it by details. (The reviewer's answer was not given correctly. Describe who conducted the interviews and whether any training or standardization was implemented to ensure consistency in data	Details about face-to-face interviews were added to the data collection section.
3	Enter the inclusion criteria in such a way that it is not simply the inverse of the exclusion criteria. Rather, refer to an exclusion criterion different from the entry criteria.	Exclusion Criteria has been rewritten and added to the relevant section

4 Revision 3

1 comment · 5 Jul 2024

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 5 Jul 2024

Hi dear editor in chief
There are still some problems.
1. Why did the authors put the result at the end of the introduction ("In this study, it was determined that students' impaired dental health and inappropriate oral health behaviors directly affected their self-esteem")?
2. There is still no information about the face-to-face interview method. The answer is not convincing. Please clarify it in
detail. Describe who conducted the
interviews and whether any training or
standardization was implemented to ensure
consistency in the data. Clues may act as confounders. In what place and under what conditions was the interview conducted?

5

Revision 4

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

08.07.2024

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your constructive feedback on our manuscript titled **"The Effect of Turkish University Youth's Oral and Dental Health Status on Self-Esteem Level."**

We highly appreciate the valuable insights provided and have made significant revisions in response to the comments received. Below, we present a summary of the main revisions made, as well as our detailed responses to each point raised by the reviewers.

Best regards,

Associate Editor comments:

Associate Editor 1:		
1	Why did authors put the result at the end of the introduction (In this study, it was determined that students' impaired dental health and inappropriate oral health behaviors directly affected their self-esteem)?	The result has been removed from the introduction section.
2	There is still no information about the face-to face interview method. The answer is not convincing. Please clarify it by details. Describe who conducted the interviews and whether any training or standardization was implemented to ensure consistency in data. clues may act as con founder. In what place and under what conditions was the interview conducted?.	Detailed explanations regarding the face-to-face interview method have been included in the data collection section. The surveys were distributed and collected by the researcher, who is proficiently trained in data collection techniques, in the students' faculty/college classes. This controlled classroom environment was selected to ensure uniform conditions across all interviews. To standardize the process and reduce interviewer bias, clear instructions were provided within the survey itself. The researcher did not provide any additional verbal instructions to participants to maintain consistency and objectivity during the interviews. This method ensures that all participants received the same guidance, thereby enhancing the reliability of the collected data.

5 Revision 4

0 comments

No public comments in this round.