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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Dental Academics and the Future of Dental Education Across India

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1 Original submission

1 comment · 10 Mar 2021

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 10 Mar 2021

Dear author/Authors

Major revision is needed. You can see the comments and required corrections in the attached file.

2

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.

Answer to Reviewers' comments:

I am extremely grateful to the reviewer's for their time and efforts in making the manuscript a better version.

My reply to comments:

Abstract:

1. Abstract's word count should be 250-350 words- Increased to 300 words
2. Aim of study?- added
3. Please rewrite study method. Study design Setting Participants (number and the sources and methods of selection of participants) Tool and with validity & reliability Statistical methods and software- Added
4. Please mention this points: Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study Give characteristics of study participants Outcome data Main results: Added
5. 3-10 keywords selected from MESH: added

Introduction:

1. Explain the scientific background and rationale for the study State specific objectives clearly Introduction should be included of "What we know", "What we don't know" and "Aims": Introduction reframed
2. Write reference number in the parenthesis, before full stop: Done
3. What's the aim of study?: added

Materials & Methods:

1. Explain the process of instrument development in detail Expert panel? Validity and reliability? Questionnaire planning? Questionnaire writing? Piloting?: added
2. Explain in detail: Done; but it will make the article exceed the word-count
3. Which statistical software did you use? Which statistical test? The selection of participants is not adequately described Study design is not described sufficiently Procedures are not identified in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria is not Explained Explain Ethical Considerations

   Since descriptive statistics was used, use of software was not required

   Qualitative analysis is described herewith in last paragraph of M&M

   The selection of participants is not adequately described: . Questionnaires were dispensed to the Principals, Deans, or faculty at the administrative level of dental schools

   Since we sent the survey to most of the dental schools across India, to Deans, Principals or heads of Medical education, selection as such was not possible.

   Study design is not described sufficiently

   Added mixed methods (quantitative + qualitative) study

   This is a questionnaire based survey. Permission to use the same tool would be required by other workers to carry out similar research. Basic information on questions has been added now.

Exclusion criteria added

The questionnaire mentioned that submitting of response would be considered as participant's willingness to participate. So ethical consideration of informed consent was done.

Results:

1. Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders

   Since, the questionnaire was answered on behalf of the dental school, we did not gather demographic data of respondents as such. Data related to dental school distribution is depicted in Figure1.

Discussion:

1. Summarise key results with reference to study objectives Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results: Done
2.

4.

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 14 Aug 2021

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 14 Aug 2021

Accept