

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56710

Title: "A Study to Assess Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Substance Abuse among College Students at Selected Colleges in Bengaluru"

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ **Accept after minor revision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- The research addresses a significant public health issue among young adults, notably college students, which is highly relevant and timely.
- Utilizes validated tools, including structured questionnaires and Likert scales, for assessing knowledge and attitudes.
- The study demonstrates a clear intervention and evaluates its effectiveness, with pre- and post-assessment measures.
- Data analysis includes appropriate use of inferential statistics, with significant findings indicating the impact of educational interventions.
- The work contributes valuable insights into the knowledge gaps and attitudinal barriers regarding substance abuse within the specific regional context of Bengaluru.

Weaknesses of the Study

- The sample size is very small ($n=30$), limiting generalizability and statistical power.
- The use of purposive sampling introduces potential selection bias, affecting the representativeness of the findings.
- No detailed description of ethical approval, informed consent procedures, or confidentiality considerations is provided.
- The reliability coefficient of the research tool (0.67) is marginal; more robust validation is desirable.
- Some statistical analyses (e.g., correlation analysis) are mentioned but not detailed; more comprehensive statistical reporting would strengthen the manuscript.
- The presentation of demographic data could be expanded for clarity.
- The manuscript has minor grammatical and typographical errors that affect readability.
- The references are not provided; referencing standard literature and previous studies would increase academic rigor.

Reviewer Comments

- Title and Abstract Clarity** The title accurately reflects the study focus but could be more concise. The abstract covers objectives, methodology, and findings but lacks clarity on specific statistical outcomes and implications. Including key data points and p-values would enhance clarity.

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- **Introduction and Objectives** The introduction contextualizes the importance of substance abuse awareness; however, it could improve by explicitly citing previous studies and clarifying the gaps this study addresses. The objectives are clearly stated but could benefit from more precise operational definitions.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis** The methodology is appropriate for the research aim, employing descriptive and inferential statistics. Nonetheless, details on ethical clearance, participant consent, and confidentiality are missing. Statistical analysis approaches are appropriate but lacks detail, especially regarding correlation analysis and how demographic variables were statistically tested.
- **Results and Discussion** Results are presented systematically, showing significant pre- and post-intervention changes. The discussion appropriately interprets findings but does not sufficiently connect results with existing literature. The small sample size and sampling approach limit the strength of conclusions.
- **Conclusion and Implications** The conclusion summarizes the study effectively but should elaborate on practical implications, future research directions, and limitations.
- **Ethical Clearance** The manuscript does not mention ethical approval, which is necessary for research involving human participants. Clarification of approval from an institutional review board and informed consent procedures is essential.
- **Language and Presentation** Overall, the language is understandable but contains minor grammatical issues. Figures and tables are generally clear but could be better formatted for consistency.
- **References** References are absent. Proper citations of relevant literature are required to substantiate claims and contextualize findings.